



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Engaging parliaments on the fourth cycle of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Online preparatory briefing for parliaments of countries which will be examined by the UN Human Rights Council from 23 January to 7 February 2023. The briefing is organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Monday, 12 September 2022, 15:00 – 16:45 CEST (Geneva time)

BACKGROUND

Under its Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) examines the human rights situation of each UN Member State every four and a half years. As part of the process, each State that has been reviewed receives specific recommendations for action to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights at the domestic level.

The HRC will start the fourth UPR cycle in November this year. During the first three cycles, the IPU, in collaboration with the OHCHR, encouraged parliaments to contribute to the UPR process, bearing in mind that some 80 per cent of the UPR recommendations require parliamentary action.

In anticipation of the beginning of the fourth UPR cycle, and drawing on the lessons learned during the previous cycles, several suggestions have been made so as to take greater advantage of the contribution of the different stakeholders, including parliament, to ensure more robust implementation of the UPR recommendations.

The online preparatory briefing aims to explore with parliamentarians and parliamentary staff of the 14 countries scheduled to be reviewed in January-February 2023 avenues to better support their parliamentary contribution to this new round of reviews and to the work of the HCR in general.

At the briefing, interpretation will be provided from and into English and French. Upon demand, interpretation can also be organized from and into Spanish.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday, 12 September 2022

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| 15:00 | Welcome remarks |
| 15:10 | Session I: Brief overview of the UPR and the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) This session provides a brief explanation of how the UPR and the HRC work. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Gianni Magazzeni, Chief UPR Branch, OHCHR |
| 15:20 | Session II: IPU and OHCHR support to enhance parliaments' contribution to the UPR During this session, participants will be informed of the efforts which the IPU and OHCHR have made over the years to promote stronger involvement from parliaments and their members in the different stages of the UPR process. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Rogier Huizenga, Manager, IPU Human Rights Programme |
| 15:30 | Session III: Lessons learnt from previous UPR cycles and new opportunities for parliamentary engagement during the fourth UPR cycle This session provides an overview of the lessons learnt during the previous UPR cycles and looks at new opportunities for parliaments to become more involved during the fourth UPR cycle. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Jeroen Klok, Human Rights Officer, UPR Branch, OHCHR |
| 15:40 | Interactive discussion This session will be organized as follows: In the first round of discussion, each delegation will be requested to share briefly its parliament's previous experience of engagement with the UPR. Delegations will be asked to elaborate concretely on the specific contribution made by their parliaments during previous UPR cycles or, in the absence of such a contribution, on why the parliament was unable to become (fully) involved. In the second part of the discussion, each delegation will be invited to share its expectations on how its parliament may consider to contribute to the fourth UPR cycle. Finally, in the last round of discussion, participants will be invited to specify if they see any role for the IPU and OHCHR to assist them in their efforts to enhance their involvement in the UPR process, in particular to help implement the UPR recommendations. |
| 16:45 | End of the briefing |



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Tuesday, 13 September 2022, 09:00 – 10:45 CEST (Geneva time)

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