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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 during UPR WG 43 (1-12 May 2023) and UPR WG 44 (6-18 November 2023). The briefing is organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Thursday, 23 March 2023

9 - 10.45 a.m. CEST (Geneva time)

BACKGROUND

The Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR) was established when the Human Rights Council (HRC) was created on 15 March 2006 by the UN General Assembly. It is an intergovernmental and UN Member-driven process through which the human rights record of all UN Member States is examined every 4.5 years (42 countries are reviewed per year in three sessions of the UPR working group). The review procedure is based on information from various sources, including the State under review, the UN system, National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organisations and regional intergovernmental organisations.

The review of each Member State results in specific recommendations for action to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights at the domestic level.

During the first three cycles, the IPU, in collaboration with the OHCHR, encouraged parliaments to contribute to the UPR process, bearing in mind that the majority of the UPR recommendations require parliamentary action.

The fourth UPR cycle, which started in November 2022, provides for an important opportunity to look at past parliamentary engagement in the UPR process, identify lessons learned and good practices and discuss ways to further strengthen their involvement at all stages of the UPR process, i.e. preparation, review and follow up to recommendations.

The online preparatory briefing aims to explore these aspects with parliamentarians and parliamentary staff of the countries scheduled to be reviewed during UPR WG 43 (1-12 May 2023) and UPR WG 44 (6-18 November 2023).

The briefing will be delivered online, in English with interpretation in French and Spanish.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 23 March 2023

09:00	Welcome remarks
09:10	<p>Session I: Overview of the UPR and opportunities for parliamentary engagement during the 4th cycle</p> <p>This session provides a brief overview of the different stages of the UPR cycle and the opportunities of parliamentary engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Jeroen Klok, Human Rights Officer, UPR Branch, OHCHR
09:40	<p>Session II: IPU and OHCHR support to enhance parliaments' contribution to the UPR</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Akiyo Afouda, Programme Officer, Human Rights Programme (IPU)• Mr. Francesco Notti, Human Rights Officer, UPR Branch, OHCHR
10:10	<p>Session III: Interactive discussion</p> <p>In this session, participants will be asked to share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Experiences of previous engagement in the UPR process- Challenges and opportunities of such engagement- Suggestions on how parliament can become (even) more engaged- Suggestions on how IPU and OHCHR could further support such engagement
10:45	<p>End of the briefing ■</p>



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Thursday, 23 March 2023

15 – 16:45 p.m. CEST (Geneva time)

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