



**EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES
RELATING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF
ASIA AND PACIFIC PARLIAMENTS IN THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW PROCESS**

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18 IPU member States already examined during the second UPR cycle (May 2012 to Sept 2014/Jan 2015)

24 Countries covered by the Asia-Pacific unit in OHCHR, Geneva, and its

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Brunei Darussalam (not IPU member)
- Cambodia
- Canada (IPU member for Asia and Pacific)
- China, including Hong Kong & Macau
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Fiji (not IPU member)
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)

SE Asia Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand and Pacific RO in Suva, Fiji

- Japan
- Kiribati (not IPU member)
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- The Philippines
- Republic of Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Tonga (not IPU member)
- Tuvalu (not IPU member)
- Vanuatu (not IPU member)
- Viet Nam

12 IPU member States that will be examined between April 2015 and October 2016

15 Countries covered by the Asia-Pacific unit in OHCHR, Geneva, and its

- **Australia**
- **Maldives**
- **Marshall Islands (not IPU member)**
- **Micronesia**
- **Mongolia**
- **Myanmar**
- **Nauru (not IPU member)**
- **Nepal**

SE Asia Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand and Pacific RO in Suva, Fiji

- **Palau**
- **Papua New Guinea**
- **Samoa**
- **Singapore**
- **Solomon Islands (not IPU member)**
- **Thailand**
- **Timor Leste**

LATEST NEWS...

**Fiji and Iran (Islamic Republic of)
will have their final UPR outcome considered for
adoption at the 28th session of the
Human Rights Council in March 2015.**

The role of National Parliaments

2010 and 2012: GA recognized that the Human Rights Council's important work would benefit from the support of Parliaments.

2013: the Human Rights Council itself considered that Parliaments and the Council stand to gain considerably from exploring possible synergies to ensure that the universal periodic review has the greatest impact at the national level.

29 May 2013: Panel discussion on the «Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review».*

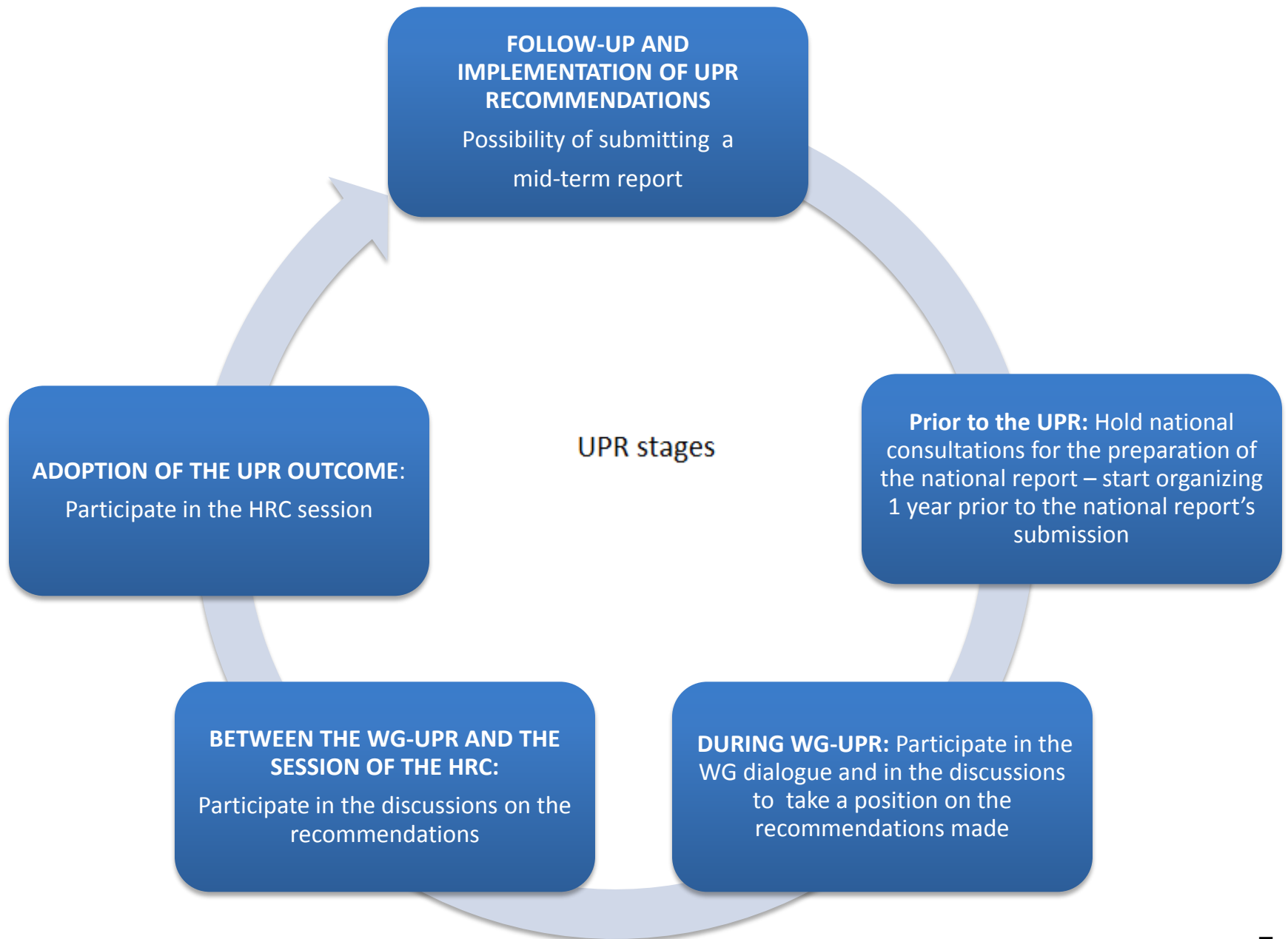
27 June 2014: HRC adopts resolution 26/29 on the Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review.

*A summary of the 2013 panel discussion may be accessed at:
www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session26/Pages/ListReports.aspx.

HRC resolution 26/29

On the “Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review”

- **promotes the involvement of parliaments in all stages of the universal periodic review reporting process,**
 - **particularly as a relevant stakeholder in the consultation process of the national report and**
 - **in the implementation of recommendations, and**
 - **to report on such involvement in their national report and**
 - **voluntary mid-term reports or**
 - **during the interactive dialogue session of the universal periodic review;**
- **welcomes the growing practice by States under review of including parliamentarians in their national delegations to the universal periodic review, and encourages States, as appropriate, to continue this practice;**



INVOLVEMENT of PARLIAMENTS at different stages

- At national level - before the review
- In Geneva - during the review by the Working Group
- At national level - after the review and before the adoption of the outcome by the Council
- In Geneva - during the adoption of the outcome by the HRC
- At national level - in the follow-up phase

Relevant contributor in the consultation process of preparing the UPR national report

✓ Bhutan

Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the Bhutan National Assembly was a member of the preparatory committee drafting the national UPR report

ASEAN contributor to the UPR stakeholder's summary

- ❖ Additionally, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights submitted information as a regional mechanism for input to the SH Summary for Lao People's Democratic Republic
- ☐ ASEAN as a regional mechanism has submitted information.
- ✓ ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) has submitted information to the UPR process, which like other regional mechanisms' information is for use in the Stakeholders' Summary.
- ✓ APHR information was submitted for the UPR of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Parliamentarians as members of the delegation at the WG-UPR

- ✓ **Islamic Republic of Iran**
- ✓ **Cambodia**

Parliamentarians as part of a national delegation at the adoption of the UPR outcome in the HRC

✓ Indonesia

“The Government conducted a series of meetings and consultations on UPR with relevant Government ministries/agencies, civil society and Parliament . The presence of some members of the Indonesian Parliament are with us today, as part of our delegation, and this is reflective of the existence of such sense of ownership from this important stakeholder.”

Source: Statement of SuR at adoption of the outcome of the UPR at 21st session of the HRC.

Reporting on Parliament involvement at adoption in the Human Rights Council

Other Examples

- ✓ Thailand – 19th session of the HRC in March 2012**
- ✓ Philippines - 21st session of the HRC in September 2012**

Importance of Parliament involvement in the implementation of recommendations

- **Ratification of international instruments;**
- **Legislative and institutional action to**
 - **integrate the recommendations of different human rights mechanisms including through legal reforms;**
 - **Support for the establishment of NHRIs or national mechanisms for the prevention of torture, etc**
- **Adoption of public policies and necessary budgetary allocations;**
- **Support for the adoption of national human rights action plans**

Parliamentary Human Rights Mechanisms

✓ Australia

In its national report, Australia indicated that the Government introduced legislation to establish a new Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, which will provide greater scrutiny of legislation for compliance with Australia's international human rights obligations under the seven core United Nations (UN) human rights treaties to which Australia is a party. This was established.

In mid term follow up information – the NHRI of Australia reported that the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (PJCHR) has quickly established itself as an important mechanism to implement Australia's international human rights obligations at the domestic level and has continued its role to: scrutinise all bills and legislative instruments for compliance with human rights

Existing Parliamentary Human Rights Mechanisms

✓ **Afghanistan**

In its national report, Afghanistan reported on the work of the Parliamentary Committee on Women, Human Rights and Civil Society

✓ **Bhutan**

In its national report, Bhutan reported on the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights

✓ **Cambodia**

In its national report, Cambodia reported that both the National Assembly and the Senate have a Human Rights and Complaints Reception Committee

✓ **Pakistan**

In its national UPR report stated that the National Assembly and the Senate have standing committees on human rights

Existing Parliamentary Human Rights Mechanisms

✓ Mongolia

In its national report Mongolia stated that one of the public institutions/mechanism responsible for human rights was the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Human Rights

Proposed Parliamentary Human Rights Mechanisms

- **Sri Lanka**

In its statement to the WG, Sri Lanka proposed the establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee

- **New Zealand**

Received a UPR recommendation requesting the establishment of a parliamentary human rights select committee

- **Malaysia**

SUKHAM (the NHRI) in the Stakeholder's Summary stated that it looked forward to the establishment of the proposed Parliamentary Select Committee on Human Rights

Training for Parliamentarians

- ✓ **Tonga – in its national report stated that training was provided for Parliamentarians on child rights**
- ✓ **Tuvalu - in its national report stated that training was provided for Parliamentarians on women's rights**
- ✓ **Bhutan – in its national report stated that trainings on CRC, CEDAW, gender and development were provided, inter alia, for Parliamentarians**

Training for Parliamentarians

- **Vanuatu - received a UPR recommendation to engage and involve the national parliament in the follow-up process and implementation of the accepted recommendations in the second UPR report of Vanuatu, and as an example, by hosting a briefing on the role of Parliament on the UPR process and implementation**
- **Bangladesh – in its national report to the UPR pledged to strengthen human rights training and awareness programmes for Parliamentarians**
- **Sri Lanka - in its national report to the UPR stated that a regional seminar for parliamentarians on human rights related themes was in the process of implementation and that discussions were held with the Inter Parliamentary Union and local seminars were conducted for MPs in 2010 and 2012**

Parliamentary role in appointment of NHRI commissioners

- **New Zealand received a recommendation requesting that Parliament be involved in the appointment of national human rights commissioners, possibly as one responsibility of a Parliamentary Select Committee for Human Rights;**

NHRIs in Asia and Pacific

The newest NHRI from Asia Pacific established and given status by the International Coordinating Committee is:

- ✓ **the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh which was accorded «B» status in May 2011.**

11 - A Status NHRIs: Afghanistan, Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste.

3 - B Status NHRIs: Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka.

2 - C Status NHRIs: Equal Opportunities Commission - Hong Kong, China, Iranian Islamic Human Rights Commission - Islamic Republic of Iran.

This information may be accessed at:

<http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Contact/NHRIs/Pages/Asia-Pacific.aspx>

Information on UPR

Web site of the Office of the High
Commissioner for Human Rights:

[http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/
Pages/Documentation.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx)

Thank you.