



The Journey to the First Joint UPR Submission

Brief Overview of UPR

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council. It was established on 3rd of April 2006 and periodically examines the human rights performance of all 194 United Nations Member States. This mechanism was created to complement other human rights treaties and achieves this by encouraging coordination, collaboration and communication among multiple stakeholders. The UPR's main objective is to enhance cooperation within the government, between the government and donors as well as between United Nations agencies. Some other objectives of the UPR are:

- Promote the universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights.
- Improve the human rights situation on the ground.
- Enhance the sharing of best practices among States and other stakeholders.
- Support cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Ensure the fulfillment of the States human rights obligations and commitments as well as its positive developments and challenges faced during implementation.

States coalition of stakeholders and individual stakeholders are each allowed to submit documentation upon which country reviews are based. States can submit a 20-page national document. A coalition of stakeholders (NHRIs, NGOs and other civil society actors) is allowed to submit a 10- page (5,630 words) document while individual stakeholders can submit a 5- page (2,815 words) document.

The UPR process takes place every 5 years. The first two cycles of the UPR had 100% participation from UN member states. 50% of all UPR recommendations were implemented in the first two years and 20% of the ones noted were also implemented within the five-year period. In Kenya, the launch of the National Policy and Action Plan for Human Rights in 2016 marked the implementation of a key recommendation made in the 2nd Cycle of the UPR which happened in 2015.



Partnership

Stop the Traffik- Kenya (STT-Ke) worked with its members and other organizations working in the Anti Human Trafficking (AHT) space to prepare and submit the first joint UPR report on human trafficking. **This report was written by Ms. Michelle Koinange (STT-Ke), Ms. Stacey Alugo (HAART) and Ms. Juliane Nduta (Love Justice International).** The writing was also supported by Terre des Hommes Netherlands through Ms. Joyce Karimi and a few experts from their organization's global pool. Some of the issues highlighted in the report include:

- Lack of consolidated and credible data and Information on Trafficking in Kenya
- Delayed implementation of Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTiP) Activities due to the Secretariat Anchorage in Department of Children Services Under the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Services
- Delay in the Operationalization of the Trust Fund
- Inadequate Protection Services for Victims of Trafficking
- Limited capacity of Criminal Justice Practitioners
- Limited Implementation of Legal and Policy Frameworks
- Limited State Focus in Addressing the Root Causes of Trafficking

Along with the issues highlighted, we also gave a list of recommendations we hope the government will implement in the next four and a half years.

Support

- UPR. Info African office provided training on the UPR process and continues to keep us up to date with key deadlines we need to meet as we go along the process. They also guided us in writing the country report which features 25 different thematic human rights areas.
- HAART Kenya hosted the first writing workshop where UPR. Info provided the tools needed while writing the report.
- GiZ allowed us to use their boardroom to host the final writing workshop.
- Terre Des Hommes- Netherlands sourced experts from their global pool. These experts assisted us in the drafting process to ensure that our document is accurate as well as in understanding the lobby and implementation process for UPR.
- We acknowledge the German Embassy for introducing HAART Kenya to the UPR process that kick started the writing of anti- human trafficking report for this cycle.



Conclusion

After successfully submitting our report and the country report, our focus is now on lobbying of countries to ensure support of the recommendations that will be presented during the Review on January 23rd, 2020. This period of lobbying is a precursor to the Pre-Session in December 2019 which happens before the Review. The aim of the pre-sessions is to ensure that the recommendations that will be made at the Review are specific and well-targeted. Pre-sessions also offer civil societies an international platform to directly advocate to State delegations to ascertain the human rights situation.