

National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

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National Challenges

- **Ongoing growth** in human rights mechanisms (int'l and regional), reporting requirements, and number of human rights recommendations addressed to States
- **Timely and quality reporting** demand sustainable technical expertise
- Quality reporting requires **effective follow-up and implementation** of recommendations by many Ministries and at the local level

Ad-hoc arrangements **are not viable** anymore!



What is a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)?

A standing permanent Government structure with a mandate to:

- **Coordinate and prepare reports to and engage with** the international and regional human rights mechanisms (including treaty bodies, the universal periodic review and special procedures)
- **Coordinate and track national follow-up and implementation** of the treaty obligations and recommendations/ decisions emanating from these mechanisms.

The national mechanism performs these functions in **coordination** with ministries, specialized State bodies (such as the national statistics office), SDG implementation focal point (agency/Ministry), Parliament and the Judiciary, as well as in **consultation** with the national human rights institution(s) and civil society.



What are the main types of NMRFs?

Based within
a ministry

Inter-
ministerial

Separate
institution

Key features

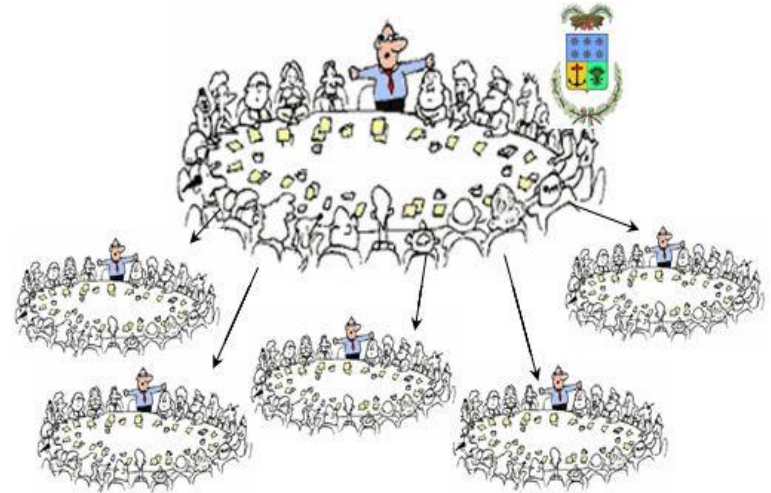
- A Governmental structure
- Comprehensive (covers all human rights mechanisms -UPR, TBs, Special Procedures- all human rights- all outcomes: recommendations, decisions, and views)
- Standing/ permanent
- Comprehensive formal legislative or policy mandate ensuring political ownership (empower within Ministries)
 - Legislation (passed through Parliament);
 - Formal regulation (by the Executive, but not through Parliament);
 - Policy mandate (formed after the adoption of an Executive/Ministerial policy provision)
- Budget (forward planning within each Ministries budgets)
- Continuity and technical expertise of staff (train staff, institutional memory, gender sensitivity and gender parity)
- **And four key capacities**



Four key capacities

An effective NMRF should have the following **four key capacities**:

- Engagement capacity
- Coordination capacity
- Consultation capacity
- Information management capacity



Engagement capacity

The capacity to engage and liaise with international and regional human rights bodies and organize and centrally facilitate the preparation of reports and responses to international and regional human rights mechanisms

This may include:

- a dedicated capacity and knowledge (e.g. through the establishment of a permanent Executive Secretariat for such purposes with trained staff knowing about each international human rights mechanism);
- Ministerial focal points;
- the establishment of standardized internal reporting guidelines and procedures or checklists to organize Special Procedures visits.



Coordination capacity

The capacity and authority to disseminate information, and to organize and coordinate information gathering and data collection from government entities, but also other State actors such as the national office for statistics, SDG implementation focal point “agency/Ministry”, parliament and the judiciary, for reporting and follow-up to recommendations

This may include:

- a solid mandate, terms of reference, and annual work plans engaging all relevant Ministries, the National Statistics Office and SDG focal point (lead agency/Ministry);
- Email lists and regular coordination meetings;
- Use of templates for collecting information;
- Standing procedures for coordination with parliament.

Consultation capacity

The capacity to foster and lead consultations with the country's NHRI(s) and civil society

This may include:

- a dedicated focal point for liaising with other stakeholders;
- Establishing a mailing list;
- regular consultations with different stakeholders;
- Participation of stakeholders in selected meetings (observer).

Information management capacity

The capacity to:

- track the issuance of recommendations and decisions by the international and regional human rights mechanisms;
- systematically capture and thematically cluster (including against SDGs) these recommendations and decisions in a user-friendly spread sheet or database;
- identify responsible Government ministries and/or agencies for their implementation;
- develop HRM recommendations implementation plans, including time-lines, with relevant ministries to facilitate such implementation; and
- manage information regarding the implementation of treaty provisions and recommendations, including with a view to preparing the next periodic report.



Leveraging synergies – Recommendations implementation plans

- Focused tool for use of Government entities
- Contains all HRM recommendations, thematically clustered
- Development largely an internal Government process, coordinated by the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)
- Content reflects listings of clustered and prioritized recommendations
- Open-ended time frame (new recommendations to be integrated)
- Tracking its implementation will facilitate the periodic reporting to the HRMs
- Clustered recommendations can easily be cross-linked to SDGs to build synergies and linkages between the different follow-up and reporting for SDGs and human rights
- Useful tool for UNCTs to inform their CCA/UNDAF and interactions with the Government counterparts



THANK YOU

