National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

OHCHR Capacity Building Programme
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Outline

1. Key features and capacities of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

2. Follow-up to the regional consultations on NMIRFs- HRC Resolution 42/30
Why a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF/NMIRF)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mandate</th>
<th>Main Functions</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Universal Periodic Review</td>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>- Reporting</td>
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<td>Special procedures</td>
<td>Independent experts</td>
<td>- Visits</td>
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<td>- Individual complaints</td>
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<td>Treaty Bodies</td>
<td>Independent experts</td>
<td>- Reporting</td>
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<td>Human Rights treaties</td>
<td>- Individual complaints</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Visits (by 1 TB- SPT)</td>
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**ALL THREE MECHANISMS ISSUE RECOMMENDATIONS**
Rationale for institutionalizing State engagement with HRMs

- **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!
Calls at the international level for NMRFs

- UN GA resolution 68/268 on Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system
- Recommendations by States during the UPR and TB reviews
- Group of Friends at HRC and latest HRC resolution mandating OHCHR to organize five regional meetings to share good practices on NMRFs (HRC Resolution 42/30)
What is an NMRF?

A 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.
What are the main types of NMRFs?

- Based within a ministry
- Inter-ministerial
- Separate institution
What are the key features and capacities of a NMRF?

See OHCHR Guide and Study at
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf
and
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_Study.pdf
How can NMRFs function well?

Effective NMRFs seem to have the following four key capacities:

- Coordination capacity
- Information management capacity
- Consultation capacity
- Engagement capacity
Common practical challenges in the coordination of follow-up planning and reporting

- **Processing a large number** of complex recommendations and interlinked follow-up activities
- **Assigning responsibility** and **generating ownership** for implementation and status tracking
- Agreeing on **standard operating procedures** for developing follow-up action plans and drafting reports
- **Gathering information** on the **implementation status** of follow-up activities to prepare reports
- Loss of **institutional memory** due to **staff turnover**
Introducing the National Recommendations Tracking Database

- A shared digital application for the members of the NMRF to manage information and facilitate coordination in a central place
- Developed, hosted and maintained by OHCHR for Member States, with customisable elements adjusted to national needs (incl. support for local languages)
- A central repository for recommendations from human rights mechanisms and related follow-up plans and activities
- Reflecting existing planning frameworks, institutional roles and responsibilities and standard operating procedures
Follow-up to regional consultations on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up

Background

In September 2019, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 42/30 on "Promoting international cooperation to support national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up" requesting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (hereafter OHCHR) "to organize five regional consultations to exchange experiences and good practices relating to the establishment and development of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and their impact on effective implementation of human rights obligations and commitments, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders."

With the increasing requirements for implementing treaty obligations, States have established these national mechanisms to ensure comprehensive, more efficient and sustainable approaches to reporting, engagement and follow-up. OHCHR has developed a Practical Guide and an accompanying Study of State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms to guide States in their efforts to establish or strengthen national mechanisms. States' experiences, contexts and results have varied. While some sub-regional meetings have
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Thank you for your attention!