National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

OHCHR Capacity Building Programme
Marie-Eve Boyer-Friedrich
1. Key features and capacities of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

2. 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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<tr>
<td><strong>Universal Periodic Review</strong></td>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>- Reporting</td>
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<td>Human Rights Council</td>
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<td><strong>Special procedures</strong></td>
<td>Independent experts</td>
<td>- Visits</td>
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<td>Human Rights Council</td>
<td>- Individual complaints</td>
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<td><strong>Treaty Bodies</strong></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>- 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
Coordination capacity

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 Statistics Office, SDG implementation focal point “agency/Ministry”, Parliament and the Judiciary, for reporting and follow-up to recommendations.

This may include:

- 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

Capacity to foster and lead meaningful consultations with the country’s NHRI(s) and civil society including with marginalized groups.

This may include:
- Dedicated focal point for liaising with other stakeholders
- Establishing a mailing list
- Regular consultations with different stakeholders
- Participation of stakeholders in selected meetings (observer)
Coordination and consultation capacity
OHCHR tools

Webcasting of sessions (TBs/UPR), e.g. “public viewing” combined with possibly a panel discussion between State and civil society

Human Rights: Handbook for Parliamentarians - published jointly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union


How to Follow Up on United Nations Human Rights Recommendations

Civil Society Space and the United Nations Human Rights System
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, which can feed into any other national action plan or roadmap, including time-lines, with relevant Ministries to facilitate such implementation, and indicators
Information Management Capacity - OHCHR tools

Key databases for development of Recommendations Implementation Plan

**UN Human Rights Index (UHRI)**
A database that compiles all HR recommendations, allows for export of tables of thematically clustered recommendations including clustered against SDGs
http://uhri.ohchr.org/en

**National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD)** serves as a tool to assist States in preparing an implementation plan and prepare for the next periodic report to human rights mechanisms and can be used to also record related SDG implementation (under finalization)

**Other relevant human rights mechanisms specific databases:**
- Treaty bodies jurisprudence database: http://juris.ohchr.org/
- Special Procedures communications database: https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/
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. Different parts in Government need different level of technical expertise in that regard.

This may include:

- Dedicated **capacity and knowledge** (e.g. through the establishment of a permanent executive secretariat for such purposes with trained staff knowing about each int’l human rights mechanism)
- Ministerial **focal points**
- Establishment of standardized internal reporting **guidelines and procedures** or **checklists** to organize Special Procedures visits
Engagement capacity - OHCHR tools

Practical Guide and Study on National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

Manual and Facilitators Guide on Reporting to the Treaty Bodies

E-learning tool on Human Rights Council designed for Government officials from LDCs and SIDS

E-learning tool on Reporting to the Treaty Bodies

Treaty Specific Trainers Guides, e.g. on CRPD and OPCAT - Preventing Torture - The role of National Preventive Mechanisms

Fact Sheets on certain rights, e.g. right to health, right to adequate food, right to water, forced evictions, right to development

See [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/CyclesUPR.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/CyclesUPR.aspx)
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 been convened in the past years for States to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned, these five regional consultations will be the first to seek the participation of all Member States.

Agenda

The regional consultations will be held over two days, consisting of two sessions of 2 hours per day, and will be

1. assessment of current national mechanisms
2. lessons learned and best practices from those mechanisms
3. gaps and recommendations for improvement
4. impact of these national mechanisms on the capacities of an effective national mechanism: engagement capacity,
Information Management Capacity

OHCHR tools

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  https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsDaL3TiGF4&feature=youtu.be
For more information please contact Ohchr-tbcbp@un.org

Thank you for your attention!