National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

Key capacities and UN support to strengthen them

OHCHR Capacity Building Programme
Astrid Melchnner
Proposed Agenda

1. Presentation of key features and capacities of National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up and findings from across the world

2. Presentation of key features of National Recommendations Tracking Database

3. Q&A and closing
Why a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mandate</th>
<th>Main Functions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UPR</strong></td>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
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<td><strong>SPs</strong></td>
<td>Independent experts</td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
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<td><strong>TBs</strong></td>
<td>Independent experts</td>
<td>Human Rights treaties</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

- The HC’s 2012 report to the GA on Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System
- 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
What is a 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.
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?

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. 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

- **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)

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

The 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 of a NMRF 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
- manage information regarding the implementation of treaty provisions and recommendations, including with a view to preparing the next periodic report
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/
Recommendations Implementation Plans

- Focused tool for use of Government entities
- Development largely an internal Government process, coordinated by the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)
- Contains all human rights mechanisms recommendations, thematically clustered, with assigned responsibilities for implementation and indicators to measure implementation
- Open-ended time frame (new recommendations to be integrated)
- Tracking its implementation will facilitate the periodic reporting and responding to the human rights mechanisms
- Clustered recommendations can easily be cross-linked to SDGs to build synergies and linkages between the different follow-up and reporting processes for SDGs and human rights
- Useful tool to inform CCA/UNDAF between Government and United Nations Country Team
What is the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD)?
- A generic database, consolidating the good practices from similar databases in, for example, Paraguay, Samoa or Uganda,

- offered by OHCHR to States for their individual customization

- to enhance States’ reporting and data collection capacity and to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations deriving from the UN human rights mechanisms, the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures and the Treaty Bodies.
What are some features and the benefits of a National Recommendation Tracking Database?
Features of NRTD

- Automatic downloading of new recommendations received from all UN human rights mechanisms (from OHCHR’s Universal Human Rights Index database)
- Possibility to add recommendations from regional or national bodies
- Tagged automatically against human rights themes and SDG targets
- Available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian and with possibility of adaptation to local languages
- Data entry points at different levels of the recording process (e.g. with possibility to merge similar recommendations, record on implementation of similar recommendations),
- Entry of data by different users (with different user rights corresponding to their responsibilities
- Integration of indicators to assist with the follow-up of recommendations to measure progress in implementation or realization of human rights
- Possibility to add other national level reference documents and action plans
Benefits of NRTD

- Strengthened State capacity and commitment in follow-up and monitoring
- Information is periodically updated on progress made and challenges faced
- Evaluation, review and/or development of legislation, public policies, plans and programs in accordance with the international commitments on human rights made by the State
- Increased transparency and accountability and thereby facilitates national dialogue
- Facilitates preparation of national reports to international human rights mechanisms and others, e.g. for Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)
- Once made public- Strengthened culture of human rights in the State, academia, civil society and the media
How to use the National Recommendations Tracking Database?
States can change the name and logo of the database and customize it to the State’s own language and its country-specific needs and national coordination processes.

Welcome to NRTD

The National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) is an information management tool to facilitate the recording, tracking and reporting on the implementation of human rights recommendations emanating from international, regional and national human rights mechanisms at the national level. The NRTD allows searches of recommendations, related actions and reporting thereon through several categories, including human rights themes, SDGs, human rights mechanisms and responsible institutions.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has supported the development of the tool but is not responsible for its content.

For technical support please contact nrtdsupport@ohchr.org
Step 1- Assess recommendations
Step 2- Implementation of recommendations
Step 2a- Formulating activity

The State party should:

- Use restraints and solitary confinement as a measure of last resort, for the shortest possible time and under strict conditions.
- Introduce an integral registration system and appropriate safeguards for administering electroshock therapy;
- Ensure effective monitoring of the conditions in psychiatric institutions;
- Provide training to medical and non-medical staff on methods of non-violent and non-coercive care.

### Lead Institution

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<tr>
<th>Ministry of Justice</th>
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<th>Budget</th>
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<td>70000</td>
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### Implementing Partners

- OHCHR
- Ministry of Justice
- Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

### Activities

- Training of prison officials on Seclusion and Restraint Regulations
- Introduce an integral registration system and appropriate safeguards to administer electroshock therapy
Step 2b - Reporting at level of activities

22 Activities

- 223: Campagne de sensibilisation sur le racisme
  - Campagne de sensibilisation sur le racisme
Step 2c - Reporting at level of recommendations

27 Recommendations

Search Results filters

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - Select ...

- HR Mechanisms
  - Select ...

- Lead institution
  - Select ...

- Themes
  - Select ...

- Number of the recommendation

- Implementation Status
  - Select ...

- Text Search

Search Results

- Recommending Body
  - Ascending

Showing 27 results

Committee against Torture (CAT)

- 5097 CAT/C/SWE/CO/6 (06/2008)
The information produced by the database can assist in producing the State reports to (UN) Human Rights Mechanisms.
### Summaries - dashboards

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<tr>
<th>Recommending Body</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Committee against Torture</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<td>5</td>
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