National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

Implementation of recommendations

OHCHR Capacity Building Programme
How can NMRFs facilitate implementation of recommendations?

An effective NMRF should have the following four key capacities:

- Engagement capacity
- Coordination capacity
- Consultation capacity

The Information management capacity is key to ensure implementation of human rights recommendations!
Information management capacity

The capacity to (1) track issuance of recommendations/decisions by the HRMs, (2) organize them and identify responsible entities for implementation; (3) develop follow-up plans with activities, time frames, budget allocations and indicators, and (4) coordinate and track information regarding the implementation of treaty provisions and recommendations.

This may include:
- clustering (incl against SDG) and prioritizing recommendations;
- the use of databases;
- the designing of HRM recommendations implementation plans including indicators;
- a dedicated website and/or social media presence.
Information management capacity-CHECKLIST

- Cluster recommendations by human rights theme and SDG, analyse and prioritize them, and circulate clustered and prioritized recommendations among members and focal points
- Keep those lists up to date
- Develop, based on these clustered and prioritized lists, a HRM recommendations implementation plan (word-processing file, spreadsheet or database) or a national human rights action plan, feed into SDG implementation or any other national action plan (as relevant) and track implementation
- If a database is used, keep it up to date, recording progress in the implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanisms, and make it public (e.g., Paraguay)
- During the regular plenary meetings ask members to report back at the end of the year on how their respective ministries have implemented recommendations addressed to them in the implementation plan or national human rights action plan, and what they have done to implement their pledges under the universal periodic review
- Issue an annual report and make it public
- Create a website and/or social media presence
- If institutionally separate, include a separate directorate within the national mechanism responsible for tracking progress in the implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanisms
Who is tracking and what is being tracked?

- **Who?**
  - Government bodies
  - National human rights institution
  - Parliamentary human rights committees
  - Civil society organizations

- **What?**
  - International human rights system
  - Regional human rights system
  - National recommendations
  - UN human rights field presences
Sources for «what is being tracked»

The Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI)
A user-friendly search engine to find recommendations by Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review:
http://uhri.ohchr.org

Jurisprudence Database
A single source of the human rights recommendations and findings issued by Treaty Bodies in their work on individual cases:
http://juris.ohchr.org/

Special Procedures communications database
https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/
Planning and tracking tools

- National Human Rights Action Plans
- HRM Recommendations Implementation Plans
- Sectoral / thematic National Action Plans including SDG implementation plans/ road maps
National Human Rights Action Plans
National Human Rights Action Plans

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that each State consider the desirability of drawing up a national action plan identifying steps whereby that State would improve the promotion and protection of human rights. (part II, para 71)

(1993 World Conference on Human Rights)
National Human Rights Action Plans

NHRAPs serve to:

- Provide a human rights realization roadmap;
- Initiate a comprehensive, realistic and coordinated response;
- Facilitate stakeholder cooperation and ownership from all parts of society;
- Identify the vulnerable and marginalized and develop targeted programmes;
- Place human rights improvements, as practical goals, in the context of public policy;
- Link human rights to existing planning processes, including development;
- Implement international commitments;
National Human Rights Action Plans

PROCESS …

- Uses **baseline study**: stock-taking that identifies gaps, priorities and benchmarks
- Ensures **consultation** and coordination within Government and among Government, national institutions, civil society and private sector
- Builds **partnerships**
- Establishes **systems** for **monitoring** and **evaluation** including adequate systems for **data collection** and analysis

… AND PRODUCT

- A **strategic plan** with priorities
- Based on a **needs assessment** with benchmarks
- With input and **linkages** to development plans
National Human Rights Action Plans
Key principals

- **Comprehensive** and **focus on gaps** in human rights protection system, including vulnerable groups
- **Participatory** - It should be an all inclusive process so as to ensure a broad ownership including **civil society** and excluded parts of society
- **Reinforce** specific human rights action plans, developments plans etc
- **Not a one-off but a continuous process** followed by successive plans
- **Process** and **outcome** oriented
- **Ensure** **political** and **public ownership**
National Human Rights Action Plans

- To develop a NHRAP is a signal of commitment to human rights
- To have real impact, coordinated efforts should ensure that
  - authorities have a rights-based approach to their work
  - citizens understand their human rights and have access to effective remedies when they are violated
  - political processes – including budgetary – take due consideration of international standards in their decision-making
  - the judiciary is independent and functions well
  - civil society can scrutinize and criticize decision-makers in a safe and enabling environment
  - NHRIs can monitor independently how national legislation, policies and administrative practices comply with international obligations
HRM Recommendations Implementation Plans
HRM Recommendations Implementation Plans

- An implementation plan lists clustered and prioritized recommendations, indicating:
  - Responsible implementing agency
  - Action
  - Time frame
  - Resources
  - Indicators of implementation

- Fundamentally different from NHRAPs in
  - Process
  - Coverage
  - Flexibility
  - Political intent
Clustering

Clustering recommendations facilitates implementation and tracking!

Clustering can be done by:

- Individual right
- Categories of rights
- SDG
- Theme
- Affected groups and individuals
- Type of measure needed
Prioritization

Some recommendations, when clustered might need to be prioritized:

- Has the issue been emphasized in the UPR and by Special Procedures and the Treaty Bodies?
- Has the issue been identified by a Treaty Body as in need of urgent follow-up?
- How is the issue prioritized at the national level (by the general public, media, civil society)?
- Does the issue concern disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and individuals?
- Can it be done without budget implications?
### Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Implementation Period</th>
<th>Sources of financing</th>
<th>Responsible persons</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Progress Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Ensuring the right to education</td>
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</tbody>
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General indicators of the implementation level:
1) access of all children to quality educational services in rural/urban areas is assured;
2) distance learning is ensured, the training mechanisms and methods are developed;
3) children left without parental care, abandoned children as a result of migration are identified;
4) programs are developed and implemented;
5) draft document to amend the normative framework is developed and adopted;
6) the study is developed and recommendations are formulated;
7) training and professional training conducted.

| 41. | Ensuring the access of all children to quality educational services | 1) Development of the network of preschool institutions and establishment of alternative centers for pre-school education | 2014 | Within the limits of the budgetary allocations | Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family; National Bureau of Statistics | NGO | Number of pre-school institutions; number of alternative centers for pre-school education in rural/urban area; enrollment rate of children in institutions (compared with 2011) |
## Leveraging synergies

### National Human Rights Action Plans
- Comprehensive, nationally owned, plan
- Based on comprehensive base-line study
- Development involves wide consultations (national and local Government, NHRI, civil society, general public)
- Content reflects narratives on status quo, challenges, priority thematic areas, planned programs and monitoring framework
- Limited time-frame (usually 4-5 years)
- HRM recommendations may inform priority issues and the formulation of actions in the NHRAP (or any other national action plan including on SDG implementation), although its scope is wider and themes and actions are nationally formulated
- Methodology applied in elaborating a NHRAP should be applied to development of other national action plans, e.g. for plans for SDG implementation

### 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