National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)

Key capacities and UN support to strengthen them

OHCHR Capacity Building Programme
Karin Friedrich
1. Presentation of key features and capacities of National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up and findings from across the world

2. Brief introduction to the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) and the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD)
Why a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mandate</th>
<th>Main Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Universal Periodic Review</td>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>Reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special procedures</td>
<td>Independent experts</td>
<td>Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
<td>Individual complaints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty Bodies</td>
<td>Independent experts</td>
<td>Reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Rights treaties</td>
<td>Individual complaints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Visits (by 1 TB - SPT)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 on NMRFs.
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

E-learning tool on Reporting to the Treaty Bodies

See 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

Fact Sheets on certain rights, e.g. right to health, right to adequate food, right to water, forced evictions, right to development
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/
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
- For more information please see video
For more information please contact

nrtdsupport@ohchr.org

Thank you for your attention!