



NATIONAL
COALITION OF
HUMAN
RIGHTS
DEFENDERS
UGANDA

UPR FOCUS

■ ORGANISATION

■ SHADOW
REPORTS: VOICES
FROM FOOT
SOLDIERS

■ CSO GOVERNMENT
ENGAGEMENT ON
UPR 2022

■ EVENTS COMING
UP

■ A SUMMARY OF
GENEVA SESSION
PROGRAMME

■ CONTACTS2.
SHADOW
REPORTS: VOICES
FROM THE FOOT
SOLDIERS

ADVANCE ISSUE

UPR'22- THE CSO JOURNEY SO FAR

This brief on UPR from the CSOs wing is an update to various stakeholders on where we are from, where we are and where we are going as CSOs under the National Stakeholders' Forum on the UPR.

INTRODUCTION

In November 2016, Uganda underwent its 2nd cycle review wherein it accepted 143 recommendations, deferred 18 and rejected 765 which encompass various human rights and freedoms. On 27th January/ February 2022, Uganda shall undertake its third cycle review before the UN Human Rights Council. The stakeholders' reports are expected to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council on 15th July 2021; While the state report is due on or before 21st October 2021 all being tentative planned dates by the UN Human Rights Council. Uganda is expected to be reviewed along with Togo, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Timor-Leste, Republic of Moldova, Haiti, South Sudan all in the 40th session tentatively scheduled for Jan/Feb 2022. The deadline for the addendum reports to the UN Human Rights council working group is April/June 2022.

PURPOSE FOR THE CSO NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON THE UPR

The Stakeholders' Forum on the Universal Periodic Review, made of over 130-member organizations has come up with various initiatives to lobby and advocate for influential recommendations that could speak to the progress of human rights promotion and protection in Uganda.

The initiatives contained herein the roadmap to

Uganda's Cycle UPR 2022 are categorized into four main pillars:

- A) Information, Education and Communication Materials – that shall carry the lobbying and advocacy products both locally and during the sessions in Geneva to the power/influence centers to be identified as well as products on the aftermath of the session;
- B) UPR Knowledge Enhancement Workshops - that shall aim at enhancing the members of the Stakeholders' Forum on new working modalities of the UPR as well as the general international human rights mechanisms of human rights enforcement (within which the UPR is situated);
- C) Civil Society Organizations' Regional Consultative Meetings on the UPR - that will be used to collect emerging human rights issues in the different regions; and also for feedback in the aftermath of the review in 2022;
- D) Outreach and popularization of the UPR process - aiming at awareness raising amongst members of the public about the essence of the UPR and how they can follow closely the progress.

UPR'22: ORGANISATION OF CSOS FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE	COMMENT
1.Emergency Strategic Steering Committee Meetings	October/2020 (6th Oct/8th Oct)	NATIONAL LEVEL	This was very necessary to rejuvenate the Stakeholders' forum after a long time in sleeper mode. Appointed NCHRD-U and tasked it to come up with a CSO Roadmap
Steering Committee	30th October 2020	National Level	In partnership with LWF, the meeting was held to re-constitute the forum clusters and discuss a draft roadmap from NCHRD-U. Also set the date for the FORUM
CSO Stakeholders forum	26th-28th February 2021	National level	This WAS necessary to strengthen the Coalition, ratify the decisions of the cluster heads in creation of new and merger of existing clusters; review and adoption of the UPR 3 CSO roadmap and any other matters arising.
Strategic Round table	31st March 2021	National level	Share the CSO Roadmap and seek collaboration and issues of mutual interest
UPR Stakeholders Forum Outreach	April-May 2021	Spread over across MOCJA/MOFA UPDF/UPF	These WERE a couple of activities aimed at reaching out to various government entities key in the process of UPR to strengthen collaboration between them and the Coalition now hosting the FORUM. Focus was on MOFA & MOJICA
Cluster Constitution and ConsolidationM	March 2021	All through	-Notify New cluster conveners [Letters to all Convenors written] -Interest Organisations with particular interest to join clusters -Confirmed and expanded clusters from 16 to 22. [Refer to attached roadmap]
Training of Clustersand select members of the forum			Defend Defenders supported Three days' Trainings on Advocacy and the UPR Mechanisms to enhance the Skills of CSOs platform and increase knowledge on the UPR for 12 clusters. To some it was a refresher course while for the new members of the cluster, It spelt new knowledge.
Cluster Coordination Meetings	May-June 2021	Hybrid- Virtual 422 organisations participated.	Held 18 Consultative coordination meetings to generate consensus on thematic issues at cluster level.
Regional Consultative meetings on the UPR	June - July	Virtual 243 HRD were engaged in these meetings	Held 5 Regional Consultative Meetings on the UPR with particular focus on regional specific emerging issues to be undertaken with CSOs in these regions and also share the road Map to UPR 2021/2022

422

Current Number of NGOs spread across the country makes up the membership of the National stakeholders forum on UPR. Other Continue to join.

50

Number of NGOs that form the steering committee of the National stakeholders forum for the UPR CSO wing. These organisations are conveners and co-conveners of the 23 thematic Clusters.

SHADOW REPORTS: VOICES FROM THE FOOT SOLDIERS

22

Number of shadow reports submitted to the UN from the different thematic clusters of the National Stakeholders' Forum on UPR from CSOs. All reports were submitted on or before 15th July 2021 beating the deadline set by the UN for the receipt of stakeholders' reports.

23

Number of clusters organized around humanrights themes that formed the basis for the reports' generation and the National Stakeholders' Forum for the UPR.

CSO GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT ON UPR 2022: FROM CONFRONTATION TO COOPERATION UPR NATIONAL (GOVERNMENT) REPORT VALIDATION.

The Inter ministerial meeting took place on the 15th September 2021. NCHRD-U represented the CSO National Stakeholders' forum since it is a member of the IMC. This meeting was aimed at validating the gov't report on the state of implementation of the 2011 and 2016 recommendations. The CSOs are represented by the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders are the Inter Ministerial Committee.

4.EVENTS COMING UP

UPR STUDY REPORTS' VALIDATION MEETING UPR PROGRESS REPORT:

A Comprehensive study was undertaken to assess the State of progress in implementation of the 2011 and 2016 recommendations to Uganda under the UPR process. The draft report shall be subjected to a validation meeting.

CLUSTER MEETINGS TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT PHOTOGRAPHIC & STATISTICAL UPR REPORTS

In consonance with the CSO Road Map to UPR'22, phase two is currently on going. This phase involves revisiting the word reports submitted in July, 2021 to the UN with the aim of reducing them into precise issue based precise fact sheets aided by 'talking photos' and 'speaking figures' to elicit further understanding and eventually support from the diplomats for

favorable recommendations to promote human rights in Uganda.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

In an effort to enlist as many CSOs as possible to follow the UPR process, regional sensitization and capacity strengthening activities were convened. This was aimed at responding to the Need to Have Cohesion and More Actors Rejuvenating the National Stakeholders' Forum After A Long Time in Abeyance. These sensitization activities were majorly conducted virtually on zoom and some session on raising awareness about the UPR were conducted on TV with support from Partner. These meetings have been conducted virtually with specificities on thematic clusters and regional consultative meetings.

UGANDA UPR PRE-SESSION: "CITIZEN CENTERED UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW" AT SILVER SPRINGS HOTEL, KAMPALA, UGANDA, 23RD -25TH NOVEMBER, 2021.

DAY I: Tuesday, 23rd November, 2022 focused on equipping CSOs with information and TIPS to support CSOs' interventions with the Media, and explain the format of the media brief as well as the importance to trigger journalists' attention with powerful interventions. Additionally, it provided the necessary

information and TIPS to support CSOs' interventions with diplomats, and which helped to explain the format of the diplomatic dialogue as well as the importance of short, concise and impactful interventions; Lobbying Rules & Target countries; Format of the Diplomatic Dialogue; Guidelines for Interventions: short, concise, impactful & providing solutions.

DAY II: Wednesday ,24th November, 2021 revolved around the necessary information and TIPS to support CSOs'on how to formulate effective recommendations they want to give to diplomats, and helped to explain the importance of focused, clear, concise and impactful recommendations.

DAY III: Thursday, 25th November 2021 revolved around an inclusive dialogue with diplomats which gave the opportunity to local human defenders to present on the human rights situation in Uganda. Civil society representatives were able to provide diplomats with the necessary evidence-based information and recommendations that they would need leading up to Uganda's 3rd UPR Cycle, in order to improve the human rights situation on the ground.

5. A SUMMARY OF GENEVA SESSION PROGRAMME

When is the ACTUAL Session?

During the 26th Session of the UPR Working Group

What DATE will it be?

What TIME will it be?

When is DISTRIBUTION of the Ugandan Review Proceedings Report?

Which COUNTRIES will lead the Review of Uganda?

MONGOLIA, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO. This is what is technically called the TROIKA-3 countries that lead/ chair the review of their peer State.

When will the ADOPTION of Uganda's report take place?

Adoption of the reports on Uganda, Timor Leste and the Republic of Moldova

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