

TRAINING ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW AND THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM: RAISING THE BAR ON ACCOUNTABILITY

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The emergence of the United Nations (UN) Universal Periodic Review (UPR) has brought new life into the measures taken at the international and national levels to hold states accountable to their international human rights and humanitarian law obligations.

The UPR has also generated a number of initiatives at national levels at a scale previously unrealised in the attempts to translate international human rights commitments into practice at the policy and field levels including improved inter-ministerial coordination; robust national civil society alliances; more rigorous work by UN agencies; new reporting and monitoring steps by national human rights institutions (NHRIs); more comprehensive training opportunities and human rights education; a better understanding of the links between human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This training course will explore the origin and evolution of the UPR and its functioning in Geneva. It will focus on the nature of implementation of the UPR recommendations at the national level. Using examples of different stages of implementation, it will provide hands-on exercises to demonstrate the new pathways the UPR is opening for the realization of human rights.

PROGRAMME

The course will cover the following issues:

- Locating the UPR within the UN human rights system including the UN treaty bodies (TBs), the work of the UN Special Procedures and the thematic and country-based work of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

- The critical importance of the reporting process in the UPR – examples of national report, compilations from UN sources and the compilation of the stakeholder's reports (NHRIs and civil society reports)
- Politicization of the HRC: Is there an impact on the content and functioning of the UPR?
- The critical advocacy role of national governments, NHRIs, civil society, UN agencies, academic bodies, national parliaments, diplomats and the media.
- The inextricable link between the UPR and the SDGs: what tools are available at the international and national levels to make this link; is a common reporting mechanism achievable; can there be synergy in the implementation of both these sets of obligations on the ground?
- Economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights: has a balance been struck with the UPR? Do the implementation strategies at national levels redress the balance?
- The development of tools and research methodologies, including data collection for the UPR
- Examples of good practices, at the policy and field level: these examples will be used throughout the course to highlight the tremendous possibilities the UPR offers practitioners on the ground to play their part in implementing human rights obligations.
- Visits to the UPR-Info Pre-Sessions at the Palais de Nations and a UN TB session to understand the synergy between TB work and the UPR.

METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted in a participatory training mode with a combination of illustrated lectures (using power points and short videos) and group exercises aimed at evolving practical documents to be used in the UPR process.

**GENEVA ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

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AUDIENCE

The training course is designed for staff of NGOs, research institutes, UN agencies (especially members with experience of fieldwork) and other national and international organizations, members of NHRIs and representatives of governments and academia.

PROFESSORS AND LECTURERS

The training course will be led by Miloon Kothari, a renowned expert on human rights and social policy, with extensive teaching and training experience on the UN human rights system and the UPR.

The course will include specific sessions by guest lecturers drawn from OHCHR, UN agencies, ambassadors from Permanent Missions in Geneva and Geneva-based NGOs.

This training is organized in collaboration with UPR Info.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for individual courses must be submitted via the online form available on our website.

DEADLINES AND TUITION FEE

Fee: **CHF 1,530 Swiss Francs (30 percent discount for PhD and master students)**

Deadlines:

- Application end with visa: 15 August 2019
- Application end: 16 September 2019