

---

## Annex 6

### Different Methodologies Used by Commonwealth Countries in their National Consultation Processes

*Listed below are methodologies used by Commonwealth countries that were subject to the UPR process in 2008. The following information is taken from the national report that was presented to the UPR working group session in Geneva.*

#### United Kingdom

All the major Departments of State in the United Kingdom, and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the UK Crown Dependencies and the UK Overseas Territories have been involved in the drafting of the report. In the process of producing the report, the United Kingdom Government has formally consulted the two established national human rights institutions, a range of non-governmental organisations active in the promotion of human rights, and members of civil society who are experts in human rights. Consultation took place at an early stage of drafting, and again before the report was finalised.

#### India

All concerned Ministries and Departments of the Government of India contributed in the preparation of the report, along with other stakeholders, including the national and state human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations working in the field of human rights and related aspects. Several meetings were held involving the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Several consultations were held with the National Human Rights Commission.

A broad consultation process was also held with the stakeholders consisting of several non-governmental organisations involved in human rights related activities along with Ministries in the Government of India. A liberal exchange of views, suggestions and information regarding protection and implementation of human

---

rights took place, which helped in evolving the contours of the national report.

The information collated, subsequent to rigorous and long process of consultations between the Ministries, the national human rights institutions and the non-governmental organisations were used to draft the national report. The report thus evolved, reflects the broad consultative process that was undertaken.

## **Ghana**

In drafting the report, Ministries, Departments, and Agencies of Government, which deal directly or indirectly with human rights, were actively involved in the consultative process. Independent professional associations and bodies, as well as independent human rights institutions were also consulted. These institutions and bodies include, National African Peer Review Mechanism Governing Council, the Ghana Bar Association (GBA), the Ghana Journalist Association (GJA), and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). The consultative process also involved several civil society organizations such as Ark Foundation, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and Amnesty International. The Report was drafted following the UN guidelines and was based on information collated during the entire consultative process.

## **Pakistan**

The report was compiled after extensive inter-Ministerial consultations at federal and provincial levels. The Minister for Human Rights held consultations on the draft with noted national NGOs including Save the Children, SEHER, CARITAS, Global Welfare Trust, Research Society of International Law (RSIL) and Ansar Burney Trust.

## **Zambia**

The National Report on the Universal Periodic Review was prepared by the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Justice. Gazette Notice No. 543 of 2003 mandates the Ministry of Justice to deal with matters related to human rights and governance. The Ministry appointed an inter-ministerial committee on human rights comprising relevant ministries and departments, the Judiciary, and Human Rights Commission whose mandate was to coordinate the preparation of the report. Among its tasks the Committee ensured that national consultation was undertaken and input from stakeholders including Civil Society were incorporated into the draft report and thereafter validated through the same process.

In line with the guidelines of the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted

---

at its Sixth Session in September, 2007, Government held nine consultative workshops in all the nine provinces of Zambia. The purpose of the workshops was to, firstly, familiarise the participants with Zambia's obligations under international human rights law and the Universal Periodic Review and, secondly, to gather information on the situation of human rights for inclusion in the national report. Participants in the provincial workshops were drawn from Government institutions, Civil Society Organisations and the Human Rights Commission. The UPR process was highly publicised in order to raise awareness and assure public participation in the country.

## **Sri Lanka**

The Sri Lanka National Report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was prepared by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) following the General Guidelines for the Preparation of Information under the Universal Periodic Review after broad based consultation and discussion with a wide-range of stakeholders.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights (MDM and HR) of the GoSL, the lead government agency tasked with the promotion of and coordination of activities connected with human rights, was responsible for organizing meetings/discussions and maintained a continuous dialogue with government ministries and departments, state agencies including the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), police and armed services and with various civil society actors – including individuals and non-governmental organizations. The national report was drafted based on the seven core human rights treaties to which Sri Lanka is state party. The concluding observations of treaty bodies and the reports of the United Nations special procedures mechanisms were studied by relevant government institutions in order to ascertain the areas where the GoSL has made progress in protecting and promoting human rights and to identify shortcomings.

## **Tonga**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Prime Minister's Office was responsible for preparing and coordinating Tonga's national report submitted for periodic review by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. This national report considers basic human rights and fundamental freedoms and the vulnerable sectors of Tongan Society such as children and women.

Consultation took place within capacity constraints. Briefings and preparatory work were undertaken with government ministries and agencies, including the Tonga Police and the Tonga Defence Services.

Almost all of the 49 civil society organisations that are members of the Civil Society

---

Forum of Tonga (CSFT), which is funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), were unaware of the UPR process. In recognition of its ongoing commitment to dialogue with civil society the Government met with CSFT and has considered their concerns. The Government has also taken into account a report by the one Tongan civil society organisation contributing to this UPR. The General Secretary of the Tonga Church Leaders Forum and the senior staff of the Life-Line Counselling Service were consulted. Discussions were held with the Chief Justice, the Minister for Justice and Attorney General, the Solicitor-General and the Vice President of the Tongan Law Society. In addition the Tonga Chamber of Commerce was consulted as was the President of the Tonga Media Council Inc.

## **Botswana**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation was responsible for coordinating an inter ministerial effort towards the preparation of the national report submitted for periodic review by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. The report was prepared jointly with the Office of the President/Ministry of Justice, Defence and Security and the Attorney General's Office (which comprised the Drafting Committee). Once a draft had been prepared the draft was shared with stakeholder government departments and ministries.

A working draft was then prepared by the Drafting Committee and was shared with stakeholder Government Ministries and Departments with a view that they provide further contribution and feedback. A stakeholder workshop was then convened on 5–6 August 2008 that brought together all stakeholders including the civil society and non-government organizations (NGOs) to go through the initial draft and make comments, suggestions and recommendations to improve the document.

## **The Bahamas**

The Government of The Bahamas has fulfilled its pledge to involve civil society in aspects of human rights promotion. This draft report was forwarded to recognized human rights organizations in The Bahamas prior to its submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council. Regrettably, time constraints have not permitted for the feedback received from human rights organizations to be integrated into this report.

The Government of The Bahamas realizes the imperative of civil society's participation in the development of an amicable human rights environment in The Bahamas. Hence, the Government, by way of its Ministries and agencies, has consulted with various civil society groups in relation to the status of the human rights environment in The Bahamas. With respect to this State report, consultations are ongoing.

---

## **Barbados**

The national report of Barbados for the Universal Periodic Review was prepared in accordance with the General Guidelines for the Preparation of Information under the Universal Periodic Review.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was responsible for coordinating meetings with relevant Government Ministries, NGO's and civil society and the production of the final report. An initial meeting was convened with the principal ministries and government departments responsible for the implementation of the various human rights conventions along with the Office of the Ombudsman. Written submissions were received from those ministries as well as from the National Organization of Women (NOW) and the Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (BANGO). The submissions and other relevant information were collated into a draft report which was circulated. Further meetings were convened to allow representatives of all the participating agencies as well as NGO's to undertake a thorough review of the draft document. The final report takes into account the results of that review.

## **Tuvalu**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Labour in consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister and under the guidance of the Government appointed UPR National Task Force, was charged with the responsibility of initiating and coordinating consultations among government stakeholders and the civil society for the Tuvalu national report for the Universal Periodic Review. This national report was written based on the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 5/1 on 18 June 2006. The report considers basic human rights and fundamental freedoms and the vulnerable sectors of the Tuvalu society, and also reviews the human rights implications of the adverse impacts of climate change in particular sea level rise.

Consultations took place within severe capacity constraints. With the assistance from the United Nations Human Rights Office for the Pacific Region based in Fiji Islands, and close consultations with the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Labour was able to initiate consultations and prepare the national report.

There are more than 45 non-governmental organizations in Tuvalu and not all are aware of the Universal Periodic Review. Consultations were carried out between government stakeholders and the civil society in order to brief them on what the UPR is all about and what human rights issues are for Tuvalu. Briefings and consultations were also done and undertaken within government ministries and departments.