



## “UPR PRE-SESSIONS ”

Bringing States and civil society together  
before the 16<sup>th</sup> Working Group session

**25 - 28 March 2013**

17, rue Varembé – CICG  
Geneva, Switzerland

UPR Info is organising “[Pre-Sessions](#)” for the [16th UPR Working Group session](#) (to be held from 22 April to 3 May 2013) from **25 to 28th of March** at the Centre International de Conférence de Genève (CICG), 17 rue de Varembé, **Geneva**.

### OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the “Pre-sessions” is to **save time to permanent delegations** and offer them the **opportunity to be briefed by CSOs** about the human rights situation in the State under Review (SuR). These “Pre-sessions” enable States to meet CSOs **without having to organise individual meetings** and be contacted by high number of stakeholders.

If States made recommendations during the first cycle, the “Pre-sessions” are opportunities to receive information from the civil society whether these recommendations were implemented and if further measures are required to reach the aim of these recommendations.

### FORMAT

“Pre-sessions” are meetings organised between one and two months prior to a UPR Working Group session bringing together Permanent Missions and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to discuss the human rights situation in the forthcoming States under Review (SuR). The “Pre-session” for each SuR **lasts one hour**. CSOs - the National human rights institution and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - are given the floor **between 5 and 10 minutes each**, to share their assessment of the human rights situation in the country since the previous review and the progress accomplished by the SuR to implement the recommendations.

With the **transparency and universality principles** in mind, all Permanent Missions are invited, including the State under Review. **No personal preparation is required**, as diplomats are not expected to take the floor. The following “Pre-sessions” will be organised in March 2013: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, Cuba, Djibouti, Germany, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, and Uzbekistan.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Expected outcome of the “Pre-sessions” is an exchange of information on the human rights situations of the forthcoming SuR.



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States will receive **up-to-date information, precise questions and recommendations to make at the 16<sup>th</sup> session**. The information given will reflect the reality and will represent the concerns of the people on the ground.

### PREVIOUS PRE-SESSIONS

The first “Pre-sessions” were held three times in 2012 for States to be reviewed at the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group. 35 “Pre-Session” meetings were organised for the following States: Bahrain, Ecuador, Tunisia, Morocco, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, India, Brazil, Philippines, Algeria, Poland, the Netherlands, South Africa, Argentina, Benin, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Ukraine, Zambia, France, Romania, Mali, Botswana, Burundi, Luxembourg, Montenegro, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Serbia. Approximately 250 NGOs participated, of which more than half were national organisations. On average, 20 to 25 state delegations were present at each session.

UPR Info received extensive positive feedback from the Missions, highlighting the importance of the UPR “Pre-Sessions” as a **forum for collaboration and information exchange** which convinced *UPR Info* to pursue the “Pre-Sessions”. “Pre-Sessions” filled the expressed need from both State delegations and NGOs to meet prior to the Working Group Session to identify, discuss, and further develop recommendations to ensure focused attention to the most relevant human rights issues at the upcoming Working Group Session.

### WHO IS UPR INFO

*UPR Info* is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organisation aims to both raise awareness and provide capacity-building tools to the different actors of the UPR process, such as United Nations (UN) Member States, NGOs, National Human Rights Institutions and civil society in general. *UPR Info* is the first NGO entirely dedicated to the UPR.

Since the inception of the UPR mechanism in April 2008, the organisation has developed a unique expertise on the process itself. This knowledge is widely recognised by several actors, and notably the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. *UPR Info* is regularly invited to participate in numerous conferences and trainings on the UPR, and manages several programmes in order to strengthen the UPR mechanism.

The website [www.upr-info.org](http://www.upr-info.org) is the first source of information on the UPR for various stakeholders, for most of the Geneva-based missions to the UN and other international organisations, providing them with useful tools for their participation.

Created in February 2008, *UPR Info's* current president is Dr. Bertrand G. Ramcharan, former acting High Commissioner for Human Rights.