



THE KEY ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE UPR PROCESS

WHAT IS THE UPR?

The **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** is a **United Nations (UN)** mechanism to **review** the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a **State-driven process**, whereby each State **declares** what **actions** they have taken to **improve** the human rights situations in their countries. States under review (SuR) receive **recommendations** addressing existing human rights challenges from other states, which they can choose to accept, note or reject.

The review of each State is based on documents from **three** key sources:

National report by the SuR

NGO submissions

Compilation of UN information

CAMBODIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UPR

Cycle 1

- 91 recommendations received
- 91 accepted

Cycle 2

- 205 recommendations received
- 163 accepted

Cycle 3

- 198 recommendations received
- 173 accepted

Civil Society Engagement in the UPR Process



CSOs influence the UPR process by:

- Submitting information on human rights issues to SuRs and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations.
- Monitoring how previously accepted UPR recommendations have been implemented.
- Raising public awareness of the State's human rights situation.

CSO engagement prior to the review process

- Consulting with the SuR during the drafting process of the national report to create a balanced reflection of the human rights situation in a State.
- Civil society actors can submit individual or joint reports to help inform the review by the UPR working group, and formulate recommendations to the SuR.



Cycle 1

- 6 joint submissions
- 23 total submissions

Cycle 2

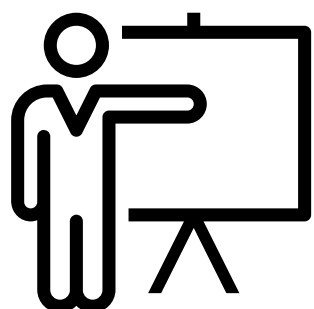
- 20 joint submissions
- 37 total submissions

Cycle 3

- 16 joint submissions
- 30 total submissions

Civil Society's role in advocacy prior to the review process

- Engaging with foreign diplomats in the SuR to raise awareness of key human rights issues.
- Engaging with permanent missions in Geneva to highlight existing concern and suggest targeted recommendations to address existing concerns.



Conclusion

Through their **submissions**, CSOs can shed light on the human rights concerns which SuRs may choose to withhold from their national reports, and assess whether previously accepted UPR recommendation have been implemented.

Through their **advocacy** and engagement with foreign diplomats, CSOs ensure that recommendations from States participating in the UPR target the most pressing human rights issues in the State under review.