

CONCEPT NOTE

Launch Event

Universal Periodic Review: How to Implement Human Rights

Date/time: May 21st, Thursday, 10 AM-11AM BRT / 3PM-4PM CEST.

Format: Online

Zoom Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eMdmvHdXQZ6njI2cdxRZOw>

Language: Interpretation available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese

Organizers: IDDH and FES Geneva

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The [Institute for Development and Human Rights \(IDDH\)](#) is a Brazilian civil society organization that, for 21 years, has worked to strengthen civic space in Brazil and Latin America through Human Rights Education (HRE), civil society coordination, and advocacy within international human rights systems. IDDH works to expand meaningful social participation and contribute to the implementation of international human rights commitments.

For almost 10 years, IDDH has coordinated the UPR Brazil Coalition, the largest Brazilian coalition dedicated to monitoring human rights within the UPR framework. The Coalition has been responsible for numerous advocacy actions related to the UPR. The Coalition's reports and other publications are available on the [UPR Brazil Platform](#), maintained by IDDH.

In the Latin American region, IDDH has coordinated the UPR Latin America Coalition since its establishment in 2021 (as South America Coalition until October 2025), which brings together national coalitions from 15 Latin American countries and strengthens regional advocacy within the mechanism.

Building on this accumulated experience at both national and regional levels, as the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) are celebrating their twentieth anniversary, this second practical guide by IDDH and the [Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung \(FES\) Geneva Office](#) encourages civil society to continue engaging in civic space despite the current crisis in multilateralism. Building on the first guide¹, the publication [UPR: A Practical Guide for Civil Society Coalitions to Engage in Implementation Mechanisms](#) reaffirms that coordinated and collective action enhances impact.

Grounded in the idea that empowering diverse and historically marginalized actors is essential to influence decision-making, the guide highlights participation as a cornerstone of democracy and human rights implementation. It underscores that active social participation fosters trust, pluralism, and accountability, ensuring that public policies serve the broader public interest rather than limited groups. The guide also outlines how established civil society coalitions can engage throughout all stages of the UPR cycle, with a stronger focus on implementing recommendations and expanding the range of actors involved.

¹ Universal Periodic Review (UPR): A Practical Guide for Civil Society to Build National Coalitions, [available here](#).

It highlights National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs) as strategic, participatory spaces through which civil society can help translate international commitments into concrete human rights outcomes.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the event are:

- To launch the “Universal Periodic Review (UPR): A practical guide for civil society coalitions to engage in implementation mechanisms”.
- To share good practices of UPR national coalitions from Latin America, Asia and Africa (Guatemala, Malaysia and Zimbabwe).
- To reflect about the impacts (or not) and the relevance of the UPR mechanism in the context of the 20th anniversary of the UN Human Rights Council.

3. PROGRAMME

- Welcome remarks: Ira Gibson, Program Officer, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Geneva Office

Segment 1: Launch of the publication "Universal Periodic Review (UPR): A practical guide for civil society coalitions to engage in implementation mechanisms"

- Presentation of the publication: Fernanda Lapa, Executive Director, Institute for Development and Human Rights (IDDH)
- Comments: Ira Gibson, Program Officer, FES Geneva Office

Segment 2: Exchange of experiences with national UPR coalitions

- Presentation of the UPR coalitions of Guatemala, Malaysia and Zimbabwe
 - Sonia Acabal, Protection Officer of the Mesoamerica International Protection, Member of the UPR Guatemala Coalition
 - Jerald Joseph, Member of the UPR Malaysia Coalition
 - Kuda Murisa, Director of the Intersex Community of Zimbabwe (ICoZ)

Remarks on the role and evolution of the UPR at the Human Rights Council's 20th anniversary:

Gianni Magazzeni, Executive Board President, UPR Info

- Q&A
- Thanks and Closing: Fernanda Lapa, Executive Director IDDH