



Northwest Model United Nations – Portland 2018 Human Rights Council - Universal Periodic Review (HRC-UPR) - Explanatory Note

What is the Human Rights Council - Universal Periodic Review?

The Universal Periodic Review is a process in which the human rights record of all UN Member States is reviewed. The Human Rights Council reviews 42 states per year, leading to each and every UN Member State being reviewed roughly once every five years. This process and its universality are designed to avoid both bias and the perception of bias in the Human Rights Council's work, and ensure that in addition to regular thematic debates at the Council level, there is a State-by-State focus to the Council's work as well. Philosophically, the Universal Periodic Review process also demonstrates that human rights is aspirational, and that all states have opportunities for future progress in this area. This Explanatory Note outlines the process for the HRC-UPR at NWMUN-Portland 2018.

Position Paper Process

Committee Members (delegates) submit their questions in advance to the State under Review (SuR) through the position paper process. Advanced questions from Member States will be posted on the NWMUN website for review and consideration by the Committee. States under Review, regardless of if they are also HRC members, will submit their National Reports through the position paper process; these national reports will also be available on the NWMUN website.

Committee Process

States will be reviewed in the order presented in the background guide.

Session 1 (Friday 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM): Interactive Dialogue and Responses by Country 1

Session 2 (Friday 7:00 PM - 9:45 PM): Draft recommendations for Country 1

Session 3 (Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM): Finalize draft recommendations for Country 1 by 9:30 AM;
Interactive Dialogue and Responses by Country 2

Session 4 (Saturday 1:15 PM - 4:15 PM): Draft recommendations for Country 2

Session 5 (Saturday 4:45 PM - 7:30 PM): Interactive Dialogue and Responses by Country 3

Session 6 (Sunday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM): Draft recommendations for Country 3

Session 7 (Sunday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM): Adoption of Outcome Document

Interactive Dialogue and Responses by the SuR

The interactive dialogue and responses is an opportunity for Committee Members to ask the SuR questions regarding their human rights and to seek further clarification regarding issues.



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- The President will open the session and each SuR will be allotted 10 minutes to present on their human rights record.
 - The President will open the Speakers List – a new speakers list is created at the start of each Interactive Dialogue.
 - Delegates from the Speakers List may comment on the human rights situation in the SuR and also pose questions from the advanced questions or any further questions that result from the debate. They may also suggest or discuss recommendations for later inclusion in working papers.
 - Any State may add themselves to the Speakers List, which will normally proceed in the order states were added; However, the President may recognize the SuR at any point (if they are on the Speakers List) to respond to questions and comments by Committee Members.

Working Papers and Draft Reports

Recommendations adopted by the UPR will be considered in the form of Draft Report Segments, compiled from Draft Recommendations considered by the body. At the beginning of the process, Member States may create Working Papers consisting of a recommendation, with a single state as a sponsor.

The State under Review may, when reviewing the recommendation, choose from one of three options:
The SuR may serve as a second sponsor (if they support the recommendation);
The SuR may be a signatory (if they want to review and consider the recommendation);
The SuR will not be a sponsor or signatory if it does not support the recommendation.

The State under Review can only consider the recommendation at the working paper stage, and may not change its support unless the recommendation text is amended later in the process. All other states who support the recommendation may serve as signatories. A Working Paper requires 20% of the body's membership as a sponsor or signatory to become a Draft Recommendation. Draft Recommendations are automatically sorted by the committee's staff into one of three Draft Report Segments for each State under Review:

- The first Draft Report Segment consists of recommendations which the State under Review supports (and is a sponsor of);
- The second Draft Report Segment consists of recommendations which the State under Review wishes to review and consider (and serves as a signatory of);
- The third Draft Report Segment consists of recommendations which the State under Review does not support (and is neither a sponsor nor signatory of).

All three Draft Report Segments will be voted upon, meaning that all Draft Recommendations approved by the dais and supported by 20% of the body's membership receive a vote regardless of the State under Review's opinion.



Draft Recommendations will be approved by the dais during the six sessions under which States are reviewed by the Human Rights Council. By the time of the seventh session of the Council, each of the Draft Recommendations will have been sorted by the committee staff into their respective Draft Report Segment.

Voting Process

During the seventh session of the Human Rights Council, the body will consider its nine Draft Report Segments (three segments for each of the three States under Review, with each SuR having a segment consisting of recommendations they support, a segment consisting of recommendations they will review and consider, and a segment consisting of recommendations they do not support). The seventh session will allow for amendments to draft report segments to be drafted and submitted by states. Amendments will require 20% of the body's membership as sponsors or signatories. If the amendment proposal is accepted by the committee staff, the staff shall (before voting commences) also obtain from the State under Review whether or not the amendment's potential adoption shall change whether the SuR wishes to sponsor, sign on to, or oppose the draft recommendation.

The voting process, coming towards the conclusion of the seventh session, is as follows:

1. Individual consideration of amendments to the Draft Report Segments on the review of Country 1 by the Council (with a majority vote required to adopt an amendment).
2. Committee staff announces which recommendations to Country 1, of those just amended, are now moved between the Draft Report Segments (based on the SuR's previous indication of whether or not the amendment would cause them to change their level of support, consideration, or non-support for the recommendation).
3. Vote on the Draft Report for Country 1, consisting of all three Draft Report Segments, as a whole, with a two-thirds majority required to adopt.
- 4-6. Repeat steps 1-3 for Country 2.
- 7-9. Repeat steps 1-3 for Country 3.