Sheet 4 – HRC Peer Review Mechanism

What is the Peer Review Mechanism?

General Assembly Resolution 60/251, which created the Human Rights Council, decided that the Council shall

undertake a universal periodic review, based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfillment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States; the review shall be a cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with the full involvement of the country concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs; such a mechanism shall complement and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies (...). (article 5 (e))

Who will conduct the Peer Review?

The UPR review will be conducted in one working group composed of the 47 member States of the HRC, the outcome of which will be a report consisting of a summary of the proceedings, conclusions and/or recommendations, and the voluntary commitments of the State Concerned.

What will the HRC Look At during the Peer Review?

The Working Group of the HRC on UPR will review the country concerned based on three key documents:

(1) 20 page submission of the State concerned;
(2) 10 page compilation of information prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) based on the information contained in treaty bodies, Special procedures etc and other relevant UN documents and
(3) additional 10 page credible and reliable information of the Stakeholders prepared by the OHCHR.

NGO Participation

NGOs, wishing to submit information for consideration and possible inclusion by OHCHR in the summary of stakeholders’ information, may send their contribution to UPRsubmissions@ohchr.org

NGOs are strongly encouraged to limit their submission to a 5-page document, to which a more detailed and factual report may be attached for reference.

The tentative deadline for submissions by NGOs for the first UPR session (scheduled from 7 to 18 April 2008) is 20 November 2007.