Improving the Human Rights dimension of the fight against corruption

Hans Fridlund
Programme Manager, UPR Info
UPR Info
Non-advocacy NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland

- Africa Regional Bureau
- National Focal Points in Asia

Mission: to make the UPR process an effective mechanism to improve human rights on the ground by:

- Providing capacity-building tools and training
- Engaging with all stakeholders, including States, civil society, UN agencies, NHRIs, parliamentarians, media
- Strengthening the UPR process through cross-cutting approach: linkage with Int’l HR mechanisms and SDGs
The UPR and corruption
Overview of corruption-related UPR recommendation

- Corruption is not a high profile issue in the UPR (ranked 48/56 themes)
- Total number of recommendations: 307 (1-26 session)
- Less action-oriented recommendations compared to the global average
- 43% increase between cycles:
  1st cycle 126 recs, 2nd cycle 181 recs
- Acceptance levels: 90%
## UPR recommendations related to corruption (1-26 session)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Number of recs</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>International instruments</td>
<td>12 714</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Women’s rights</td>
<td>10 718</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rights of the child</td>
<td>10 112</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Right to housing</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>0.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>0.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>0.49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: UPR Info’s Database*
Flow between States of UPR recommendations related to corruption
(1-26 session)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>State under review</th>
<th>Recommending state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mozambique (14)</td>
<td>United States (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Equatorial Guinea (14)</td>
<td>Canada (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cambodia (9)</td>
<td><strong>Russian Federation</strong> (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mexico (7)</td>
<td>Turkey (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Moldova (7)</td>
<td>Australia (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Egypt (7)</td>
<td>Germany (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Liberia (6)</td>
<td>United Kingdom (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Romania (6)</td>
<td>Singapore (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bulgaria (6)</td>
<td>Cuba (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Russian Federation</strong> (6)</td>
<td>Morocco (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flow between regional groups of UPR recommendations related to corruption

- GRULAC, untapped potential: 16.89% of overall UPR recs, only 5.9% on corruption
- WEOG overrepresented (45.6% recs on corruption, 33.9% overall UPR recs)
- WEOG only regional group making more recommendations than they receive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receiving corruption recs</th>
<th>Making corruption recs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa (38.8%)</td>
<td>Africa (15.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia (25.1%)</td>
<td>Asia (17.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEG (18.9%)</td>
<td>EEG (13.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRULAC (14.3%)</td>
<td>GRULAC (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEOG (2.9%)</td>
<td>WEOG (45.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observer states (N/A)</td>
<td>Observer states (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rank 1: Recommendation directed at non-SuR states, or calling upon the SuR to request **technical assistance**, or **share information** *(Call on, seek, share)*.

Rank 2: Recommendation emphasizing **continuity** *(Continue, maintain, persevere, persist, pursue)*.

Rank 3: Recommendation to **consider change** *(Analyse, consider, envisage envision, examine, explore, reflect upon, revise, review, study)*.

Rank 4: Recommendation of action that contains a **general element** *(Accelerate, address, encourage, engage with, ensure, guarantee, intensify, promote, speed up, strengthen, take action, take measures or steps towards)*.

Rank 5: Recommendation of **specific action** *(Conduct, develop, eliminate, establish, investigate, undertake as well as legal verbs: abolish, accede, adopt, amend. implement, enforce, ratify)*.
Action categories

Global average

- Considering action: 7.8%
- Continuing action: 15.9%
- Specific action: 36%
- Minimal action: 1.1%
- General action: 39.1%

Corruption related recommendations

- Specific action: 19.9%
- Continuing action: 23.8%
- Considering action: 2.3%
- Minimal action: 1.6%
- General action: 52.4%
Examples of recommendations

**Specific action**
Create a legal framework that gives sufficient protection for "whistle-blowers" testifying in crimes related to corruption
*(Sweden to Guinea Bissau, accepted)*

**General Action**
Carry out necessary reforms to strengthen the rule of law to prevent political interference in the justice system and to tackle corruption at all levels
*(Japan – Moldova, accepted)*

**Continuing action**
Maintain the frontal fight against corruption
*(Venezuela – Cuba, accepted)*

Popular issues: *anti-corruption legislation, ratification of Convention against Corruption, specific agencies or mechanisms*
Increasing action-oriented recommendations

CSO actions
- Joint UPR submissions on corruption
- UPR Advocacy Factsheets on corruption
- Identify “friendly States” in each region
- Suggest SMART recommendations that if implemented will improve the situation
- Share expertise with States in the implementation process
- Don’t approach to UPR in isolation: identify synergies with the overall UN HR machinery and SDGs
CONNECT

- Connect on Social Media
- Subscribe to Email Newsletter
- Subscribe to Country Updates
THANK YOU

UPR Info
Promoting and Strengthening the Universal Periodic Review

h.fridlund@upr-info.org