



Utilising International Instruments

I. Type of International Human Rights Mechanisms for NGO Advocacy

| | | Individual HR | Group HR | Country level | Thematic HR |
|--------|---|---------------|----------|---------------|-------------|
| Global | HR Council | | | | |
| | HR Commission-Special Procedures | | | | |
| | Treaty Bodies (TB) | | | | |
| | UN Bodies | | | | |
| | National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) | | | | |

II. Sample: Objectives, Actions and Strategies

| Objective | Mode of Actions or Strategies |
|--|---|
| 1. Remedy for Individual Human Rights Violation(s) (HRV) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Procedures (SP) • Individual communications • Urgent Action |
| 2. Government's policy change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Procedures • Treaty Bodies • Consultation |
| 3. Ratification and removal of reservations | |
| 4. (Standing) invitation to Special Procedures | |
| 5. International agenda-setting | |
| 6. International standard-setting | |
| 7. Mechanism-building | |
| 8. Promotion of culture of human rights / Awareness building | HR education and training |

III. Type of Activities by UN Body Campaign and Advocacy

| Venue | Activities |
|------------------------|--|
| HR Council (HRC) | Government performance monitoring Intervention (oral and written) Position or briefing paper Briefing meeting Lobby |
| HRC-Special Procedures | Country visit – formal and informal (conference or training, etc.) Standing invitation Individual communication Open letter or press statement Feedback to annual report |
| Treaty Bodies | Ratification campaign Reservation(s) Counter-report Monitoring and Implementation of concluding observation |

IV. Checklist: What can be done?

DOMESTICALLY

1. Systematically document and investigate HRVs (compatible with UN standards)
2. Organise HR training on UN standards and mechanisms
3. Make public aware about government's HR obligations
4. Disseminate the info – concluding observations, resolutions, etc.
5. Monitor government performance (speech, action, etc.)
6. Respond to government action (statement, protest, etc.)
7. Organise regular consultation with government before and after the UN meeting
8. Produce counter/shadow/parallel/alternative report to Treaty Body
9. Create a national TF or coalition on UN advocacy for planning and implementation
10. Organise ratification campaign
11. 'Critical' collaboration / partnership with NHRI

V. Practical Understanding of the UN HR Mechanisms

1. Role and Tasks of the Special Procedure

1. Annual Report to CHR / GA (findings and policy recommendations)
2. Individual complaints (communications)
3. Country visit (mission)

2. Role and Tasks of the Treaty-Bodies

1. Periodic examination of State-party report
2. Concluding observation (recommendations)
3. Individual complaints (communication) – HRC, CEDAW, CAT and CERD
4. Investigation (confidential enquiries) – CAT, CEDAW, etc.

3. Role and Tasks of the Office of the Human Rights Commission (OHCHR)

1. Country visit by UNHCHR
2. Annual Report to CHR by UNHCHR
3. Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation
4. Field Presence (HR adviser, monitoring mission, etc.)
5. Thematic Study
6. Urgent Appeal

Comparative Chart on the HR Mechanisms and Procedures

| | Charter-based (CB) Bodies | Treaty-based (TB) Bodies | OHCHR |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Individual HR Violations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Procedures • Urgent Appeal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Complaints (Optional Protocol) • Statement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent Appeal |
| Collective / Group Rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report of UNHCHR |
| Country Level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country visit (Country mandate holders (Burma (Myanmar), DPR Korea) and Thematic Mandate holders) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the State-party Report • Recommendations (concluding observations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Cooperation & Advisory Services • Field Presence (Sri Lanka, Mongolia, • Monitoring Mission • Country Visit of UNHCHR |
| Policy level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report (Analysis and Recommendations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report of UNHCHR • Thematic Study |

Other UN Specialized Agencies and Related Organisations :

UNHCR, OCHA, ICC, ICRC, ILO, WHO, UNESCO, WFP, UNEP, NEDP, UNIFEM, IOM, IPU, etc.

Role of HR Defenders (HRDs)

- UN GA Declaration on HR Defenders in 1998 : Defending the Right to defend Human Rights
- Ms Hina Jilani (Pakistan) - Special Representative of UN SG on HRD since 2000
- HR Defender vs. HR Activist, Advocate, Practitioner,
- Rights of HRD vs. Responsibilities of States
- Conference of Women HR Defenders (Colombo, Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, 2005)

III. Type of Activities by UN Body Campaign and Advocacy

| Section | Team |
|---------------------------|---|
| Thematic Programme | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human Rights Defenders (HRD) 2. Democratization and the Rule of Law 3. Peace and Counter-Terrorism Measures 4. Globalization and Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) Rights 5. Right to Development 6. Anti-Discrimination, Minorities and Vulnerable Groups 7. Women's Rights and Gender Issues |
| Country Programme | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nepal Campaign 2. Aceh Campaign 3. Burma Campaign 4. Other Campaigns (Cambodia, North Korea, etc.) 5. Emergencies |
| Advocacy Programme | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UN Advocacy 2. Treaty Body Advocacy 3. Regional Advocacy |
| Capacity-Building | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Human Rights Training and Education 2. HR Resource Development |

What can we do concretely?

Checklist for possible actions

NATIONALLY

1. Education and Training: UN human rights standards and mechanisms (HRD, Media, government officials, etc.), HRD, etc.
2. Systematic monitoring, investigation and documentation of human rights violations
3. Public consultation with the government
4. Campaign for standard-setting: declaration (IP), convention
5. Campaign for establishment of NHRI
6. Lobby diplomatic missions
7. Lobby national offices of the multi-lateral institutions