



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • BUREAU DU HAUT COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 Genève 10, SUISSE

Site www.ohchr.org • Tél. +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

[RRDD/WRGS/ADS/Women and Racism]

Sujet: Rapport du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies sur l'impact des formes multiples et convergentes de discrimination et de violence dans le contexte du racisme, de la discrimination raciale, de la xénophobie et de l'intolérance qui y est associée sur le plein exercice par les femmes et les filles de tous leurs droits fondamentaux

Le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme présente ses compliments aux organes, institutions spécialisées, fonds, et programmes des Nations Unies, organisations internationales et régionales, institutions nationales pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme; aux organismes nationaux de promotion de l'égalité des genres et la société civile, y compris des établissements scolaires ou universitaires, et a l'honneur de se référer à la résolution 32/L.25 intitulée « l'impact des formes multiples et convergentes de discrimination et de violence dans le contexte du racisme, de la discrimination raciale, de la xénophobie et de l'intolérance qui y est associée sur le plein exercice par les femmes et les filles de tous leurs droits fondamentaux »

La résolution, préoccupée de « l'impact des formes multiples et convergentes de discrimination et de violence », a reconnu la nécessité « d'intégrer la problématique hommes-femmes dans les politiques, stratégies et programmes », a demandé aux Etats « d'élaborer des politiques et des programmes multisectoriels de grande envergure tenant compte de la problématique hommes-femmes, ou de renforcer ceux qui existent déjà, en faisant intervenir les autorités compétentes dans des secteurs tels que la justice, la santé, les services sociaux, l'éducation et la protection de l'enfance, ainsi que des acteurs non étatiques intéressés », tout en priant « le Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme d'établir un rapport sur l'impact des formes multiples et convergentes de discrimination et de violence dans le contexte du racisme, de la discrimination raciale, de la xénophobie et de l'intolérance qui y est associée sur le plein exercice par les femmes et les filles de tous leurs droits fondamentaux, dans l'optique d'identifier les enjeux et les bonnes pratiques, y compris, le cas échéant, la contribution de l'Examen périodique universel, et de présenter ce rapport au Conseil à sa trente-cinquième session. »

Ainsi, le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme serait reconnaissant aux différentes parties prenantes de lui fournir les informations suivant le questionnaire annexé à la présente note verbale en vue de la préparation du rapport. Les soumissions devront être limitées à cinq pages et envoyées au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme (Organisation Nations Unies Genève, CH 1211 Genève 10; Fax. +41 22 917 90 08; courriel : registry@ohchr.org) au plus tard le **12 Décembre 2016**.

Vous êtes priés de bien vouloir indiquer si l'information transmise peut être rendue publique sur le site du HCDH. Toutes questions et demande d'information peuvent être adressées à Caroline Ouaffo Wafang au couaffowafang@ohchr.org, téléphone +41 22 9179881, et Sandra Aragon au saragon@ohchr.org, téléphone +41 22 928 9393.

Le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme saisit cette opportunité pour renouveler aux organes, institutions spécialisées, fonds, et programmes des Nations Unies, organisations internationales et nationales, institutions nationales pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme, organismes nationaux de promotion de l'égalité des genres et la société civile, y compris des établissements scolaires ou universitaires les assurances de sa plus haute considération.

UNITED NATIONS - OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
8 novembre 2016



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • BUREAU DU HAUT COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 Genève 10, SUISSE

Site www.ohchr.org • Tél. +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

Questions

Résolution du Conseil des droits de l'homme 32/L.25

Les questions suivantes visent à orienter les corps, mécanismes de protection des droits de l'homme, institutions spécialisées, fonds, et programmes des Nations Unies ; organisations internationales et régionales, institutions nationales pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme ; des organismes nationaux de promotion de l'égalité de traitement et la société civile, y compris des établissements scolaires ou universitaires, dans la soumission des informations au vu du rapport susmentionné.

1. Y aurait-il des données et recherches sur la prévalence de la violence et discrimination contre les femmes et filles appartenant à des minorités nationales ou ethniques, religieuses ou linguistiques ; femmes et filles migrantes ou demandeuses d'asile : femmes et filles survivantes de trafic de personnes ou de violence sexuelle basée sur le genre ; femmes et filles autochtones ; femmes et filles d'ascendance africaine ou appartenant d'autres groupes faisant face au racisme, à la discrimination raciale, xénophobie et de l'intolérance qui y est associée.
2. Prière de fournir des indications sur les pratiques prometteuses et les initiatives entreprises pour régler les formes multiples et convergentes de discrimination et de violence à l'égard des femmes et filles, particulièrement eu aux groupes susmentionnés ? en répondant aux questions vous voudriez bien prendre en considération les points ci-dessous :
 - a. Votre organisation a-t-elle une politique ou stratégie qui traite les formes multiples et convergentes de discrimination et de violence contre les femmes et les filles faisant l'objet de racisme, de discrimination raciale, de xénophobie et d'intolérance qui y est associée ?
 - b. Y a-t-il des mesures spécifiques ou multisectorielles, politiques ou programmes d'action visant à prévenir ou régler la violence contre les femmes faisant l'objet de racisme, discrimination raciale, xénophobie ou intolérance qui y est associée ?
 - c. Votre organisation a-t-elle développé des programmes multisectoriels de grande envergure tenant compte de la problématique hommes-femmes, et faisant intervenir les autorités gouvernementales compétentes et les acteurs des secteurs tels que la justice, la santé, y compris la santé sexuelle et reproductive, les services sociaux, l'éducation et la protection de l'enfance ? Y a-t-il un budget alloué à cet effet, ainsi qu'un organe étatique en charge de cette question ? comment de tels programmes prennent en compte la situation et les besoins des femmes et des filles appartenant aux groupes mentionnés ci-dessus et autres groupes faisant l'objet de racisme, discrimination raciale, xénophobie et intolérance qui y est associée ?
 - d. Prière de fournir toute information sur les programmes et initiatives mise en œuvre par vos organisations ou par les structures gouvernementales, les acteurs de la société civile, les organisations et réseaux de femmes, les organisations à la base, le secteur privé, ainsi que les médias en vue de régler les attitudes préjudiciables et les stéréotypes qui perpétuent les formes multiples et convergentes de discrimination sur le genre, de racisme, de discrimination raciale, de xénophobie et d'intolérance qui y est associée à l'égard des femmes et des filles ?
3. Prière de fournir des informations sur les mécanismes actuels mis en œuvre pour assurer la participation effective à tous les niveaux de prises de décision des femmes et des filles appartenant à des groupes qui font l'objet de racisme, discrimination raciale, de xénophobie et d'intolérance qui est associée ?



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • BUREAU DU HAUT COMMISSAIRE AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 Genève 10, SUISSE

Site www.ohchr.org • Tél. +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

4. Prière de fournir des informations sur les mesures adoptées en vue d'autonomiser, d'informer, de renforcer les connaissances intellectuelles et habiletés des femmes et filles faisant l'objet de racisme, de discrimination raciale, de xénophobie et d'intolérance qui y est associée, tout particulièrement la liste susmentionnée au point 1, en vue de prévenir, et de réduire l'impact de la discrimination et la violence sur le plein exercice par les femmes et les filles de tous leurs droits fondamentaux ?
5. Quelles sont les mesures en place pour favoriser la réparation, la réhabilitation, ainsi que la réintégration des femmes et des filles qui ont souffert de discrimination et violence, particulièrement celles appartenant à des minorités nationales ou ethniques, religieuses ou linguistiques ; femmes et filles migrantes ou demandeuses d'asile : femmes et filles survivantes de trafic des personnes ou de violence sexuelle basée sur le genre ; femmes et filles autochtones ; femmes et filles d'ascendance africaine ou appartenant à d'autres groupes faisant face au racisme, à la discrimination raciale, xénophobie et d'intolérance qui y est associée ?
6. Existe-il des mesures de renforcement des capacités des acteurs clés et d'autres professionnels du secteur de la santé, éducation, justice, force de l'ordre, migration, réfugié et de demande d'asile et du secteur de l'emploi, qui répondent aux besoins spécifiques des femmes et des filles à risques ou affectées par les multiples et convergentes discrimination et violence ?
7. Quels sont les défis liés à la prise en compte des besoins spécifiques des femmes et des filles faisant l'objet de racisme, discrimination raciale, xénophobie et intolérance qui y est associée, particulièrement les femmes issues des catégories susmentionnées, dans l'élaboration, la mise en œuvre et le suivi des politiques publiques ?
8. Quel est ou pourrait être la contribution de l'Examen périodique universelle pour régler cette question ?

Answers to the Questionnaire distributed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding Human Rights Council Resolution 32/L.25

1. In Romania specific detailed statistics are available especially for cases of violence in the family. According to the Romanian General Police Inspectorate, during the first six months of 2016 there were 9,000 cases of abuses and violence. The Police recorded a number of 8,926 complaints of family violence. Most of the victims were women (79%) while the aggressors are mainly men (92,3%). During the same period there were 81 cases of rape within the family (36% of rapes occurred in the urban area, while 64% in the rural one). In 21% of the cases the victim is the aggressor's partner, and in 44,4% of cases the victim is either a son or a daughter, sometimes a step son or a step daughter. All of these aggressors were men. It should be noted that these data refer only to the reported cases. It is obvious that the unreported cases remain unknown. The victims lack confidence in the authorities while they are also afraid of the consequences they might face from their aggressors after reporting the violence. There are many associations and organizations which lobby for an Emergency Protection Order which should be issued within 24 hours since the aggression.

At present, according to Law No. 351/2015 on amending art. 27 of Law No. 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence, applications for issue of a protection order shall be judged under urgent conditions and, in any case, the solution cannot be given later than 72 hours since the application was filed.

In the period January – June 2016, 440 minors were victims of aggressions or abuse, out of which 46% were boys and 54% girls. With reference to the second part of the question, there were no cases of xenophobia and intolerance against African women or girls in Romania. As a transit country, Romania has received asylum seekers in the past few years. The population of Romania has been cohabitating for centuries with several minorities.

2.a) The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) has a rich history in the field of combating violence and discrimination even before Romania's accession to the EU . The Romanian Institute for Human Rights (RIHR) is the first national human rights institution established in Romania after 1989, with more than 25 years of activity in this field. According to its establishment Law No. 9/1991, the RIHR is an independent body with legal personality.

As stated in Article 2 of the above mentioned Law, the aim of our Institute is to ensure that the public bodies, the NGOs and the citizens acquire better knowledge of the human rights issues. At the same time by its mandate the Institute also has the role to inform the public opinion abroad and the international organizations about the practical ways in which human rights are ensured, guaranteed and respected in Romania.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Institute approaches all the human rights and fundamental freedoms, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights. In this sense, the Institute performs activities of information, research, documentation, training and education in the field of human rights. The Institute organizes conferences, round tables, debates, performs educational and training activities in the field of human rights and initiates awareness campaigns. It also publishes a quarterly scientific review with specific documentation, jurisprudence, research articles and news in the field of human rights and disseminates a series of studies aiming to better inform the public on the international human rights instruments and mechanisms and their implementation at local level. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights pays particular attention to the modalities in which the government bodies fulfill their obligations to implement international mechanisms ensuring the respect for human rights and strives to identify concrete ways and recommendations for surmounting certain inconsistencies and violations of human rights and for increasing the efficiency of the demarches of NGOs and Civil Society.

One of the Institute's tasks is to offer, on request by the specialised parliamentary commissions advisory opinion on the impact upon human rights of draft laws and legislative initiatives. The

RIHR formulates points of view on national legislation and especially on the respect for human rights also on request by other fora at international level.

Ever since its establishment, numerous publications combating violence and any form of discrimination against women, as well as equal opportunities and women's rights, were issued under the aegis of RIHR. While some of the publications were in English, others were issued in Romanian. We hereby translate all titles into English for easier reference:

1993 - "Rights of persons belonging to national minorities", 1994 – "The Legislative and Institutional Framework for the National Minorities in Romania", 1995 – "The Rights of Women. National and international regulations", 1996 - "Equal Opportunities, Real Opportunities. Studies and Research on Women's Rights", 1996- "Minorities. Statute and Perspectives", 1997 – "Women's Rights. Equality and Partnership", 1998 – "Minorities. Identity and Equality", 2001 – "The Fight against Racism and Racial Discrimination", IRDO-ANUROM, 2004 – "Fighting Racial Discrimination – Aspects", IRDO-ANUROM, 2011 – Protection against Racism and Discrimination", 2012 – "Nondiscrimination, Autonomy, Inclusion", 2014 – "Migration and Law"

RIHR advocated for the harmonization of the national legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and was in contact with local and international NGOs and Civil Society in developing education and continuous training programmes for professionals in the field. In its annual working plan, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is mainstreaming the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

2.b) The Romanian Institute for Human Rights supported the National Strategy 2007-2013 on combating discrimination at national level elaborated by the National Commission for Combating discrimination and participated in the consultation and recommendation process making its contribution with respect to better policies for women's rights and gender equality.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights contributed in Parliament's special Commissions with its viewpoints on several bills – the bill on the promotion of human dignity and tolerance for group differences, making reference to international and regional documents on human rights, dignity, non-discrimination, freedom of expression.

Documenting violence against women through a multisectorial approach is among the main objectives of the RIHR strategy and activity plan. In the context of its cooperation with national and international NGOs, the RIHR supports yearly the "United Against Racism" international campaign, being involved in local advocacy campaigns and training youth and professionals with regard to combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance. As a member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was part of working groups and cross-border research activities regarding all forms of discrimination against women and aspects of multiple discrimination.

An example of NGOs best practices in Romania was the establishment of the Romanian Network for Prevention and Combating Violence Against Women with the support of EEA and Norway grants. 24 Romanian NGOs joined the network which crystallized during 2011-2014. The network lobbied for the modification of Law 217/2003 regarding victims of family violence, especially campaigning for a highly needed Emergency Protection Order in cases of family violence. This network contributed to a higher degree to the protection of women victims of violence.

On the issue of combating violence and discrimination against women, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is arguing through its publications and programmes for the necessity of an improved legislation and of better services to ensure women's access to information and education.

To be noted that in its activity, the Institute has also in view apart from the international documents and mechanism in this field, the Amman Declaration on the rights of women and girls and the Amman Program of Action adopted at the 11th International Conference of ICC for National Human Rights Institutions. The theme of the Conference was "The Rights of Women and Girls, gender equality; the role of National Human Rights Institutions".

Prevention is an important factor and therefore women should be offered the tools to avoid becoming victims of violence. One of these tools remains continuous training and education.

The Romanian Institute of Human Rights is addressing the issue of discrimination and violence against women also by periodically organizing a series of conferences, workshops and roundtables dealing with gender stereotypes and discrimination. These events are attended by students, academia, experts and professionals in the field, NGOs, civil society, media representatives and general public. More details on these conferences, workshops and roundtables can be found in our "Human Rights" quarterly scientific review.

2.c) Under the auspices of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is involved in a series of working groups and projects envisaging also aspects of equal treatment and combating discrimination. An example in this respect is the project on the rights of elderly persons and long term care, which has been conducted in six countries including Romania through the Romanian Institute for Human Rights. Under this project an analysis of the public policies and of the national legislation was performed in order to compare them with the international and regional instruments to which Romania is a party and also 4 care centers for the elderly were monitored according to the objectives of the project. At the beginning of 2016, the Institute benefited of an adequate budget sufficient to guarantee its independence.

The National Council for Combating Discrimination is the autonomous state authority with activity in the field of discrimination and it operates under the control of the Parliament.

According to the national legislation in effect and to the international documents to which Romania is party, the National Council for Combating Discrimination is the guarantor for respecting and applying the principle of nondiscrimination.

The Council exerts its attributes as follows:

- Prevention of discrimination through information and awareness campaigns on the effects of discrimination, organizing training courses and local projects, issuing research studies and reports at local, regional and national level.
- Mediating discrimination actions and deeds with the aim to eliminate such actions
- Investigating, noticing and sanctioning discrimination actions. The cases and petitions are thoroughly investigated and sanctioning measures are taken in case of proved discrimination.
- Monitoring discrimination cases and follow up supervision of involved parties.
- Specialized assistance for victims of discrimination, explaining the legislation and the victims' rights, guiding the victims on the steps to be followed in submitting their petitions and complaints.

Another public institution with attributions in this field is **the National Agency of Equal Opportunities for Men and Women..**

2.d) The RIHR makes sure through its activity that the public institutions, governmental organizations and citizens have good knowledge of human rights and that they are kept informed with all the developments in this area, with the ways by which human rights are guaranteed. The RIHR also informs the public and the international organizations on the status of human rights both locally and in other countries, exploring the practical modalities by which human rights are ensured and respected in Romania. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights organizes annual scientific events, round tables, debates, workshops, training courses symposia and awareness campaigns. It also publishes and disseminates a series of studies aiming to better inform the public on the international human rights instruments and mechanisms. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights pays particular attention to the modalities in which the government bodies fulfill their obligation to implement international mechanisms ensuring the respect for human rights, and strives to identify concrete ways and recommendations for surmounting certain inconsistencies and violations of human rights and for increasing the efficiency of the demarches of NGOs and the civil society.

In all the conferences and training programmes, organized by the RIHR in partnership with academia and civil society, a special session and/or a working group will be usually devoted to the issue of non discrimination and to the rights of women. Over the past 18 years, in partnership with the University Alexandru Ioan Cuza in Iași, the Metropolitan See of Moldova and Bucovina and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Iași, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized annually (in 2016 the 18th session took place) the symposium “The spiritual Dimension of Human Rights” in which a special panel is devoted to the fight against discrimination. The event is attended annually by remarkable personalities of contemporary spirituality, of national and European universities and representatives of international organizations such as UN and UNESCO.

The International summer University of Human Rights, organized by Victor Dan Zlătescu Cheia Club Association with the support of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights and the Romanian Association for the United Nations, yearly reunites human rights experts and specialists, researchers, academia and civil society representatives. On 23-27 July 2016, the 22nd session of the International University of Human Rights took place under the logo “Human Rights: realities and perspectives”. A special panel was devoted to non discrimination and the rights of women as vulnerable category in the context of migration. It is more than 20 years since the RIHR has been organizing the training and communication sessions of the International Human Rights University in cooperation with the Victor Dan Zlătescu Cheia Club Association, the Romanian Association for the United Nations and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance. The International Human Rights University was also attended by representatives of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, the Legislative Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Protection and Elderly Persons.

This year, the International University of Human Rights marked 60 years since the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and 10 years since the establishment of the UN Council for Human Rights. A working group and a full panel session were devoted to the fight against discrimination.

3. 4. & 5.

Law No. 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence was amended and republished in 2014. It provides that victims of domestic violence are entitled to such services as counseling, rehabilitation, social re-integration as well as free medical assistance. The law also provides for the establishment of both recovery centres for the domestic violence victims and assistance centres devoted to the aggressors. Nevertheless, according to the civil society, Romania fails at present to respect minimum standards of protection and adequate assistance for the victims of sexual violence. According to the 2013 WAVE Report on Romania, Romania lacks 71% of the necessary places in shelters for the victims of gender oriented violence. However, these shelters can provide protection to the victims of sexual violence, but only if the aggression took place within the family.

Also, Romania ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence under Law No. 30/2016.

It is certain that the migrants, the refugees and the beneficiaries of humanitarian protection are the most exposed to discrimination in the process of exerting their rights to work. In this context, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized numerous events and awareness campaigns advocating for equal right to work and drawing attention on the fact that the moment a vacancy is advertised, according to the national legislation on non discrimination, the employer has no right to impose any requests referring to race, nationality, ethnic origin, citizenship, religious convictions, language, political convictions, health condition, illness of HIV/AIDS, age, sexual orientation, civil status or other individual criteria. Also the employer has the obligation to adapt the working place to the needs of any disabled employee when the person is hired or in case the person had acquired a certain disability after his/her employment.

6. The Romanian Institute for Human Rights, through its activity, has constantly supported the key institutions by providing information and research studies in order to respond to the specific needs of the population, which is at a risk to be exposed to discrimination. The most important instrument for preventing discrimination is education and training through continuous and updated information. RIHR contributed by its continuous education and training programmes to the promotion of the fundamental human rights and equal opportunities for women and men.

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights advocated for the implementation of the European and the international mechanisms in the national legislation and for continuously informing the public and the decision making actors on the need to combat racism and discrimination, to facilitate access to education for all minorities, especially for the Roma population. The implementation of the international mechanisms in the national legislation would also ensure proper information of the EU community on any occurrence of discrimination on the territory of our country.

7. With reference to vulnerable categories of population, for instance the Law No. 292/2011 of Social assistance and Non discrimination on reason of disability is one of the social assistance values within the national system of assistance. An added value compared to the Law No. 448/2006 is that this new law introduces the term “disability” as a generic term for limitation of an individual activity due to a health problem. The same law contains a whole section referring to social assistance for persons with disabilities, including children but makes no reference to teenagers, while reiterating most of the provisions of Law No. 448/2006 and establishing the obligations of the public, the central and the local administration in providing social services

Although the fact that women with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination is acknowledged, the Romanian legislation falls short of measures for women with disabilities to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms and also measures to fully secure women's development, progress and involvement so that they might exercise and enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms laid down in the Convention.

It is also a fact that present statistics lack data related to women and girls with disabilities in all fields of activity.

According to some non-governmental organizations, there are several problems, particularly at local level, regarding training and the insufficiency of specialized personnel to assist and rehabilitate women victims of traffic.

Regarding the access to education - In Romania, 1.36% is the rate of illiteracy and more than a half is represented by women (in 2011). The illiteracy rate is 3 times higher in rural areas and Roma women are the most vulnerable group (more than 40,000 women).

According to non-governmental organizations, women's issues on the local agenda remains very limited, in all cities and towns where the percentage of Roma population is significant and is invisible in strategies that address gender equality. Moreover, within Roma communities more than 60% of the women live without proper access to care services, infrastructure and housing.

8. As it is known, the Universal Periodic Review is a unique mechanism of the kind and it reports on human rights situations and records of all the UN Member States. The UPR offers each country the opportunity to describe the actions taken for improvement of human rights in the respective country. When assessing the human rights situation in each country, the UPR also makes recommendations. In this respect, all the challenges in the field of human rights faced by a country are addressed in the UPR and appropriate recommendations are made. Its contribution is that it thus offers each country the possibility to redress its human rights situation in comparison with the best practices of other countries mentioned in the UPR and also to be informed on all types of human

rights violations that might occur in the member states. In our opinion the UPR globally contributes to the improvement of the human rights situation by assessing the extent to which a State respects its pledges and human rights obligations set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the UN Charter. It is a monitoring instrument that ensures accountability of member states and monitors the extent to which local legislation harmonizes with international humanitarian law. While the role and contribution of the UPR in its capacity as human rights watcher is clear, ensuring that each country has to prove its progress or explain its failure in the field of human rights, each State has the responsibility to follow the UPR recommendations and implement them in cooperation with and with the assistance of the international community.