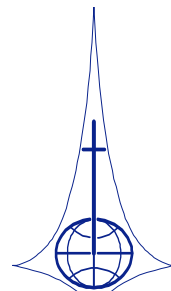




BAHÁ'Í
INTERNATIONAL
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ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE NON GOUVERNEMENTALE AVANT STATUT CONSULTATIF AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES, DE L'UNESCO,
ET DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE ET D'OBSERVATEUR AUPRES DE LA COMMISSION AFRICAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES PEUPLES

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL
DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS
الجمعية الدولية لحقوق الإنسان



The Lutheran World Federation



Joint Contribution

«United Nations Human Rights Council: Criteria for the Successful Establishment of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism»

Geneva, 20 November 2006

The objective of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is to improve each state's fulfillment of its human rights obligations and commitments.

An effective review will require the involvement of independent expertise at various stages of the review process. That independent expertise will analyze the available information and distill this material into the basis for the review of the concerned country, and it will also have an appropriate role in the inter-active dialogue and the follow-up.

The review process comprises all of a number of distinct elements, including the compilation and analysis of objective and reliable information and the identification of issues; the interactive dialogue; the conclusions and recommendations; the outcome, and the follow-up.

The entire review must be transparent in all respects for all participants and other stakeholders.

The basis for review should be objective, reliable, and transparent. The analysis and interactive dialogue should have as its principal basis Special Procedure and Treaty Body analysis and recommendations, as well as reports and information from States (including their election pledges), OHCHR and other UN bodies, national human rights institutions, as well as NGOs and civil society.

In keeping with the principle of equality, the review should be based on a common standard for review, i.e the UDHR, in addition to other human rights obligations and commitments, including election pledges, of each state reviewed.

NGOs should be able to participate effectively in the review process. This must include the possibility for national NGOs without consultative status to provide information and follow the review.

The review should result in a comprehensive outcome that will lead to a result-oriented follow-up.

The outcome may include a broad range of measures to encourage, assist or require the concerned state to fulfill its human rights obligations and commitments. These measures could include action proposed by the country under review, follow-up on Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies' recommendations, capacity-building and technical assistance, appointment of a country rapporteur, or recommendations to the General Assembly or to the Security Council.

The UPR must include provisions for follow-up in order to ensure implementation of decisions taken in the review. These measures should have a specific time-frame. The Council could request the State to report on the progress of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations at any given time.

The UPR can be only one means among others by which the Council addresses situations in particular countries. Other options include discussion and decision in regular and special sessions and the complaint procedure that results from the review of mechanisms. The various means for action by the Council in respect of the human rights situation in individual countries must complement one another.