

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY CELEBRATING MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING GROUP ON UPR IN TANZANIA

PROMOTION AND PROTETION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)



From the National Coordinator

On behalf of CSOs and HRDs in Tanzania, THRDC would like sending sencere appreaciations to groups and partners who have been supportive technically and financially to the work of CSOs in the UPR process since 2014. We appreciate close collaboration between CSOs and the government during the process especially by the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, The Tanzania Embassy to UN in Geneva, and the Attorney General Office. THRDC recognizes and value the role played by Commision for Human Rights and Good Governance during the process. Most importantly, THRDC appraises the historic, splendid commitment and solidarity shown by CSOs in Tanzania during the process. Finaly, but not least, we say thank you UPR-Info for being with us all the time especailly, on capacity buliding and leadership on UPR.

Through its international advocacy program, THRDC strives to influence and champion utilization of the modern human rights ideas, regional and international human rights systems, and mechanism as part of continuing education for HRDs. This will foster to HRDs participation in the governance of the state and promotion of HRDs and human rights in general by engaging the regional and subregional mechanisms apart from the available domestic mechanisms.

The universal periodic review UPR is a statedriven process, which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN member states. The ultimate aim of the mechanism is to improve human rights in all countries and address human rights violations. The United republic of Tanzania underwent the first cycle of the UPR in October 2011. The state considered all 153 recommendations, accepted 107 in full, and 33 in part, and the remaining 4 were referred for further consideration or rejected.

As a strategy for inclusive participation in the UPR process Tanzania human rights defenders Coalition formulated nine thematic groups consisting of various Tanzanian organizations to contribute to the reviewing of the previous recommendation and the drafting of the joint and thematic reports for the second review.

The second review session for the URT was done on the 4th to 13th May 2016 upon which a total of 227 recommendations were made, out of which 130 recommendations were accepted, 72 noted and 25 were left pending. After the URT's responses to recommendations on the 22nd September 2016, a total of 133 recommendations were accepted and 96 noted.

Under the systematic coordination of THRDC, CSOs in Tanzania managed to effectively conduct six major UPR activities as follows; evalutating the implementation of 107 recommendations; the development of joint and thematic UPR reports for the second review; UPR pre-sessions both in the country and in Geneva aiming at advocating for the submitted CSOs recommendations: coordination of the advocacy strategy for the pending and noted recommendations before the official adoption; the session with editors and media practitioners on how to report the implementation of UPR recommendations and the development of CSOs UPR recommendation follow up Action Plan.

As part of ensuring ownership of the process by all CSOs in Tanzania, THRDC coordinated the inclusive participation of CSOs in Geneva UPR activities by organizing a trip of about 20 Tanzanian CSO delegates to attend the Geneva pre session from the 29th, arch to 1st april 2016 and later some of them during actual review in May 2016.

For the first time since the UPR mechanism was established, 2016 UPR pre- session expanded the network and hosted a good number of CSOs delegation from Tanzania. In 2011 CSOs delegation from Tanzania, which attended the UPR pre- session for the first cycle, was only 3 in number. Tanzania CSOs delegation was commended for being among the best and well-organized CSOs working group on UPR during presession in Geneva. A number of diplomats responded positively to the recommendations shared by CSOs.

I remind CSOs that we are now in the implemetation stage of the UPR recommendations, hence let us monitor and ducument the implementation process as agreed during our previous meeting. I believe that human rights work and specifically the UPR process require every one on board through an inclusive approach. We should therefore discourage any effort that comes in to destruct the spirit of solidarity shown by CSOs in the UPR process for the last two years. Its my wish that every CSOs would raise resources for UPR as agreed not re-event the will but to implement what was jointly agreed.

I finaly send my appreciation to Tanzania CSOs Working Group on UPR who have tirelessly worked hard to ensure the role of CSOs in the UPR process in Tanzania becomes a reality but mostly results oriented. Let us keep the same spirit and appraise ourselves of what we have done so far on UPR.

Generally, THRDC still insists and encourages cooperation among CSOs and between CSOs and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in this whole process especially in the ongoing implementation phase for the improvement of the Human rights situation in Tanzania

Onesmo Olengurumwa.

THRDC National Coordinator,

1.0 INTRODUCTION

THRDC coordinated more than 103 Tanzania CSOs to participate in the 2nd cycle of the Tanzania UPR. These CSOs participated before, during and after the review in monitoring the implementation of the first cycle accepted recommendation, writing thematic and joint submissions, advocacy through both In-country and Geneva Presessions, conducting side meetings during the Actual Review and strategizing on the follow up to the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

2.0 THE UPR COORDINATION

As the kickoff of the 2nd cycle of the Tanzania UPR, the Coalition mobilized more than 103 CSOs working in different areas of human rights and clustered them into nine (9) thematic groups and empowered them to monitor the implementation of 107 accepted recommendations from the previous cycle.

The groups formed performed data collection, reportwriting, reportvalidation and successfully submitted the joint CSOs report to the UN Human rights working group in Geneva on the 21st September 2015. The joint submission contained about 65 recommendations in total. Apart from the joint submission, six(6) out of nine(9) thematic groups namely minority rights and PWDs/PWAs group, Women's rights group, Freedom of expression group, Civil society and human rights defenders group, the economic rights group and pastoralists/Indigenous peoples rights group successfully submitted their thematic reports to the UPR working group in Geneva.











Group photo of participants during the UPR CSOs UPR report validation meeting.

Mr. Kondo, Advocacy and awareness raising officer from Under the Same Sun(UTSS) commenting on issues with regard to rights of People with disabilities during the validation meeting.

Participants from women's rights thematic group deliberating on issues to be included in the CSOs joint report.

Participants from Freedom of Expression thematic group deliberating on issues to be included in the CSOs joint report.

3.0 ADVOCATING FOR THE UPR SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS

After successful submission of the joint and thematic reports, the coalition lead CSOs to advocate for the submitted recommendations inorder to bring to their attention specific issues and to obtain that such issues to be addressed during the interactive dialogue in the form of questions and/or recommendations. Advocacy work or lobbying was done both in the country and in Geneva.

4.0 THE UPR IN COUNTRY PRE-SESSION

The In-country pre-session was organized on the 11th March 2016. The pre-session was attended by about 81 UPR stakeholders from across the country mainly from CSOs, the government, NHIR, embassies and development partners. The in-country pre-session provided an opportunity to the civil society to meet delegates from various embassies and development partners based in Dar es Salaam with a view to advocate for their recommendations prior to the Geneva pre-session.



5.A group of CSOs, Embassy representatives and development partners during the UPR In country pre-session in Dar es Tanzania.



On the left is Miss perpetua Senkoro from Under the Same Sun (UTSS) presenting People with Disabilities UPR recommendations, On the right A section of participants following closely presentations from thematic groups during the UPR Incountry pre-session

5.0 GENEVA UPR PRE SESSION

After the In-country UPR Pre-session 20 CSOs delegates attended the Geneva Pre session. THRDC in collaboration with UPR Info, FES and DANIDA organized this advocacy trip which took place from the 29th day of March to the 1st day of April 2016 at Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG), 17 rue de Varembé. CSOs delegates attended a special UPR training

to equip them with valuable knowledge on UPR process and made presentations based on various topics relating to human rights in Tanzania. Delegates also visited the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations besides conducting several meetings with various Diplomats which intended to provide a platform for collaboration and information sharing between States and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the human rights situation in the States which are under Review.



Tanzania CSOs UPR delegation posing with some UPR Info International staff after the training session as part of the UPR Geneva pre-session.





On the left, .Tanzania CSOs delegates following closely the presentation during the training session, Rights .Pastoralist/Indigenous Rights Thematic group representative, Mr. Joseph Persambei, Executive Director-TPCF awarded a certificate of participation by Hans Fridlund-Programme Manager UPR Info International



On the left, Presenting on the status of Constitutional making process, political rights and independence of the national electoral commissions, state of impunity, restrictions to civic space and HRDs freedom to the diplomats is the National Coordinator of the Coalition, Mr. Onesmo Olengurumwa. On the right is, The photo showing a section of diplomats/Missions present during the UPR pre-session.

The following were the priorities of CSOs advocated during the UPR Geneva presession in a nutshell

Thematic group	Issues
General Human rights/Civil Society& Human rights defenders	 Constitutional making process Political rights and independence of the national electoral commissions State of impunity Restrictions to civic space and HRDs freedom
Minority rights and People with disability	 Awareness rising campaign on protection of the rights of PWDs Ongoing attacks and killings of PWAs. Human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest, torture, rape and inhuman treatment to gender and sexual minorities. The rights of elderly especially social security and health rights.
Pastoralists, Indigenous/ Hunter& gatherers rights	 Marginalization and Discrimination of pastoralists and hunter-gatherers Interference with Judicial Decisions by the Executive and Failure to Implement Court Orders Unlawful Arrests, Torture and Prosecution of Pastoralists and Hunter-Gatherers Misuse of State Machinery and Use of Excessive Power Lack of Representation of Indigenous Peoples in Decision Making Organs
Women and Children rights	 Women rights to inheritance Women participation in decision making bodies Human trafficking of women and children Maternal and child health Gender based violence Contradictions of law and policy framework on women and children
Economic and Land rights	 Land rights and forceful evictions The right to adequate housing Unfriendly environment for small scale farmers and food security
General Human rights/ Rule of law	 Ratification of the convention against torture (cat) Death penalty Extra judicial killings Conditions in the detention facilities Juvenile justice

The number of State parties as well as recommendations has substantially increased compared to the previous cycle. This complements the good THRD-coalition coordination and advocacy (lobbying) work done by the Tanzania CSOs in the country at the UN. It is a success that more than 50% of the recommendations submitted through the joint stakeholders report were made to the government during the review session.



On left, The Coalition's Capacity building officer Mr. Deogratias Bwire explaining the situation on Human rights Defenders in Tanzania to the Swiss Diplomat. Right, Women, Economic and land rights thematic groups' bilateral meeting with Swiss and Irish permanent missions.

6.0 ACTUAL UPR REVIEW SESSION

The Actual Review was conducted from the 4th to the 13th day of May 2016. The review started by a presentation of the UPR Report from the delegates of the Government of Tanzania, followed by recommendations from the State Parties. About 81 State Parties gave a total of 227 recommendations, out of which 130 recommendations were accepted, 72 noted and 25 were left pending. After the URT's responses to recommendations on the 22nd September 2016, a total of 133 recommendations were accepted and 96 noted.



On the left .The Coalition's national Coordinator Mr. Onesmo olengurumwa following closely the review of the URT. On the Right A section of recommending states during the URT review session.



Tanzania CSOs delegation during the UPR side meeting organized in collaboration with FES-Geneva office.



The URT Government officials, CSOs delegation and other UPR stakeholders after the URT UPR review session in Geneva.

7.0 UPR IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOW-UP STRATEGY

Since June 2016 to January 2017, the coalition has been mobilizing CSOs to strategies on follow-up and monitoring the implementation of the accepted recommendations. The coalition organized two successive meetings in which CSOs and the NHRI had an opportunity to agree on the priorities for the follow-up during the implementation phase. Two important documents that are the implementation plan and action strategies were also developed to guide them during the follow-up.



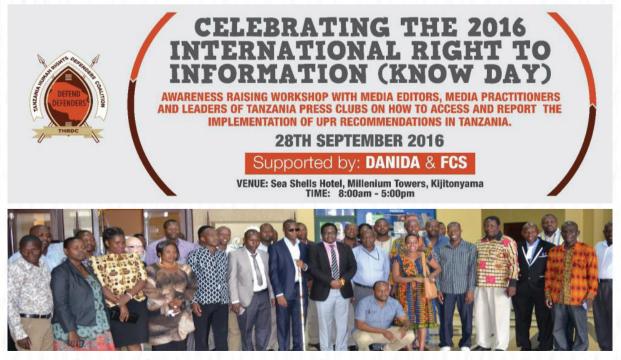
The Coalition's National Coordinator Mr. Onesmo Olengurumwa giving opening remarks during the CSOs UPR feedback session and implementation strategy.



Participants of the UPR strategy on implementation follow-up. During this workshop, Civil society and the NHRI(CHRAGG) developed the implementation plan and action strategy.

8.0 UPR WORKSHOP WITH THE MEDIA

On the 28th of September 2016 the Coalition organized a workshop targeting the Media Editors, Media Practitioners and Leaders of Tanzania Press Clubs on how to Access and Report the Implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Recommendations in Tanzania. The event was held at Sea Shells Hotel, Millennium Tower in Dar es salaam. The UPR workshop aimed at sharing experiences on key issues about Human Rights concerns expressed by stakeholders through the UPR process. It was also aimed at providing the opportunity to inform editors and media practitioners about the UPR process, recommendations made, stakeholders' engagement and media entry to the process. The training gave a chance for the provision of valuable suggestions and way forwards on how we can improve the media reporting on the UPR recommendations issues.



Group photo of participants of the UPR Media advocacy the Guest of Honor Hon. Amon Mpanju(holding the walking stick), the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

9.0 THRDCs UPR COORDINATION REMAKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

• For the first time since the UPR mechanism was established, 2016 UPR pre-session expanded the network and hosted a good



number of CSOs delegation from Tanzania. In 2011 CSOs delegation from Tanzania which attended the UPR pre-session for the first cycle was only 3 in number.

• The CSOs delegation managed to have about 40 bilateral meetings with diplomats/ permanent missions which they advocated issues for recommendations during the review.





3.1 Coordinated civil society

Particularly well-organised UPR coalitions were seen at the Pre-sessions of Armenia, Australia, Ireland, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Moldova, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, United States of America, and Venezuela. While formal UPR coalitions are the structure best fitted to concerted advocacy at the Pre-sessions, yet even informal collaborations can make a good impression on the Recommending States. Where diplomats see a united and coherent voice amongst civil society, the impact of their collective statements is significantly increased. In terms of bilateral advocacy, CSOs can employ a strategy to each meet with different representatives, making sure that all participants have a particular issues that they will raise amongst target States.

We broke up into thematic groups so that States interested in a particular topic was approached by the relevant thematic group. This strategy allowed us to have more informal meetings and ensured that the States we approached were those working on our particular issues. That Clos coalition for the VPR, 2016.



- A photo taken during the meeting with representatives of the Danish Permanent mission to the UN. CSOs representatives in the photo are the pastoralist/indigenous people's rights, minority rights and people with disability, freedom of expression and the right to information and the women's rights representatives.
- 2. Ms Tike Mwambipile, Tanzania Women Lawyers Association Executive with representatives of the Swiss Embassy.
- **3.** Well documented and comprehensive joint Tanzania CSOs report on the UPR attracting mission/diplomats
- **4.** A text photo on the recognition to THRDC as among the leading Coalitions in the coordination of the UPR pre-session the efforts of all our members on UPR process (UPR Info Presessions Empowering human rights voices from the ground UPR Info Report 2016, page 28)



Ambassador Mero addressing the delegation.

The United Republic of Tanzania permanent representative to the UN congratulated the delegation for the initiative done improving the human rights situation in the country and promised to maintain the solidarity by organizing the state-CSOs meeting before or during the review.

Increased General knowledge on the UPR among CSOs in Tanzania. Civil society in Tanzania is to the large extent aware of this mechanism. This has been contributed by well-organized coalition's coordination, capacity building workshops, instant and frequent updates, what sapp and Google groups as well as media advocacy. Civil society is committed and ready to follow up and monitor implementation.

Theoverallincreasein number of recommending states and recommendations made to the government compared to 2011 cycle. In 2011 48 states made 166 recommendations to Tanzania. During the 2nd cycle, about 81 states made 227 recommendations to Tanzania. Increased number of accepted recommendations compared to 2011 UPR cycle. For the 2nd cycle 133 out of 227 recommendations were accepted compared to 107 out of 166 in 2011.

The UPR has also contributed to increased solidarity and networking between CSOs on the one hand and cooperation between CSOs, NHRI, the Ministry of Constitutional and legal Affairs(MoCLA) and the Office of the UN Human rights advisor to Tanzania



The CSOs UPR delegation posing for the group photo with ambassador Modest J. Mero, The United Republic of Tanzania permanent representative to the UN.



On the left, is the group photo with the special guest Hon. Amon Mpanju, deputy permanent secretary of Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, seatting front row at the middle during one of the CSOs UPR workshop. On the right is Ms Chitralekha Massey, the former UN Senior Human Rights Advisor to Tanzania commenting on the role of CSOs in the UPR.



Awareness raising to the public on the importance of UPR to Tanzania through newspaper article'. Mwananchi 27th February 2017

