



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

UPR Voluntary Fund for Implementation

SUPPORTING STATES,
REALIZING RIGHTS





Mandate

The **Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review** was established in 2007 by Human Rights Council resolution **6/17** and further strengthened by resolutions **16/21** and **51/30**.

The fund provides financial and technical assistance to support countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to implement recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review in consultation with, and with the consent of, the country concerned.

A **Board of Trustees**, appointed by the Secretary General and composed of human rights experts from all regions, provides advice and guidance on policy orientation and strategy in the operationalization of the Fund.

“We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council’s recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (2017) (A/72/1, para. 98)





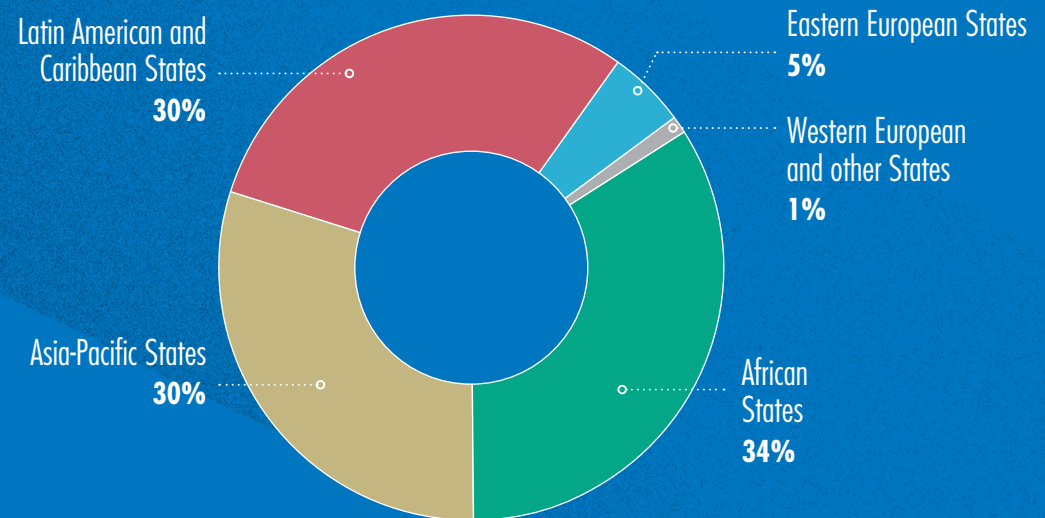
Facts & Figures

The Voluntary Fund provides seed funding aimed at enhancing national capacities in one or more of its established focus areas, creating synergies between the **implementation of key universal periodic review recommendations**, the **strengthening of Governments' institutional capacity** to ensure a comprehensive follow up and reporting on the progresses achieved, the **enhancement of the role of Parliaments**, and the **strengthening of the United Nations country teams** to support national efforts to implement human rights mechanisms recommendations and integrate them with initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since its establishment, the Voluntary Fund has disbursed over **USD 7,000,000**, providing support to activities in **86** countries and allowing the organization of **8** regional workshops to promote the sharing of good practices.

As a result of the enhanced focus on implementation of recommendations since the third UPR cycle, the fund has progressively increased annual funding of projects.

Voluntary Fund Country Projects by UN Regional Groups





- Country activities since the establishment of the VF
- Countries involved in regional activities since the establishment of the VF

Through a **regional consultation in Panama** on the universal periodic review and the 2030 Agenda, government officials and UN representatives from 17 countries shared good practices regarding the implementation of UPR recommendations and identified challenges and opportunities to align national initiatives to achieve human rights and the SDGs.

In **Costa Rica**, the Fund supported a participatory assessment on the access to justice of four indigenous peoples, which will allow the Judiciary to develop a policy on the matter in line with international human rights standards.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

In **Chad**, the Fund supported the strengthening of the national mechanism to monitor places of detention and the drafting of a law on human rights defenders.

In **Uruguay**, the Fund was used to support the work of the Parliamentary Penitentiary Commissioner in the elaboration of the “Plan to combat recidivism and favor rehabilitation, based on a gender and human rights perspective”.

In **Moldova**, the Fund supported the Permanent Human Rights Secretariat in developing a guide on national mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of human rights recommendations and a roadmap to link the National Human Rights Action Plan with the SDGs.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the Fund supported the implementation of a legal inventory of the national legislation to bring it in accordance with international human rights standards. An in-depth human rights analysis of 18 laws was carried out, focusing on issues of non-discrimination and protection of groups in a situation of vulnerability.

In **Mongolia**, the Fund supported the establishment of the national preventive mechanism against torture and the adoption of a law on human rights defenders.

In **Lesotho**, the Fund supported the strengthening of national human rights oversight bodies and promoting inclusion and access to equal opportunities for children left behind, in particular children herding domesticated animals and marginalized urban children.

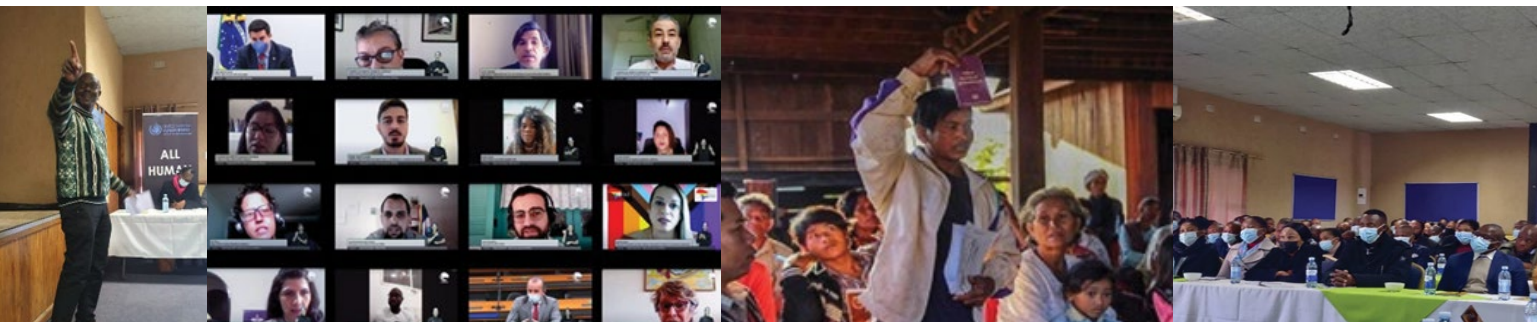
Facts & Figures

Accepted universal periodic review recommendations have proven to be an **important entry point for creating nationally led and nationally owned processes** to implement the recommendations made by all international human rights mechanisms and integrate them with the efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Such recommendations can also highlight areas in which early action is needed to address risks of human rights violations, therefore contributing to the United Nations agenda on prevention.

The **good practices** collected by OHCHR and other United Nations entities show that the universal periodic review has advanced the promotion and protection of human rights – in line with the Secretary General’s **Call to Action for Human Rights** and the resulting **UPR Practical Guidance** - and secured greater compliance, in law and in practice, with international human rights norms and with the commitments made by States in all regions of the world.

How to apply

Support by the Voluntary Fund can be requested by States in Geneva via a **Note Verbale** addressed to OHCHR or, at country level, via an **official communication** to the Head of the OHCHR field presence or the United Nations Resident Coordinator.





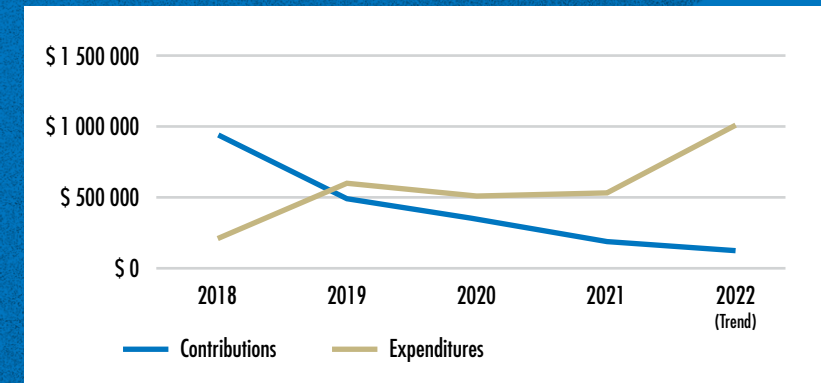
Support the Fund

Since its establishment, the Fund has received contributions for a total amount of **USD 8,136,465** from the following countries:

Norway	USD 2,283,483	United Kingdom	USD 179,033
Germany	USD 1,326,665	Kazakhstan	USD 128,865
Russian Federation	USD 850,000	Philippines	USD 75,000
Morocco	USD 500,000	Belgium	USD 51,706
Saudi Arabia	USD 409,993	Romania	USD 47,790
India	USD 400,000	Singapore	USD 45,000
Australia	USD 387,580	Colombia	USD 40,000
France	USD 371,128	Netherlands	USD 30,000
China	USD 299,998	Pakistan	USD 20,492
Republic of Korea	USD 250,000	Oman	USD 10,000
Spain	USD 216,752	Brazil	USD 9,980
United Arab Emirates	USD 200,000	Paraguay	USD 3,000

Contributions to the Voluntary Fund can be made by States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or private institutions and individuals.

While requests for support have increased during the last years, contributions have decreased in the period of 2019 to 2022.



“In view of the start of the fourth cycle in November 2022, the strengthening of the financial basis of the Voluntary Fund will be crucial to show the increasing importance that States attach to the implementation of recommendations arising from the universal periodic review”.




UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Contact us

Universal Periodic Review Branch (UPRB)
Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Human Rights

✉ Guillaume Ngefa, Chief a.i., UPRB
ngefa@un.org

Theresa Khorozyan, Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund
theresa.khorozyan@un.org

 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/trust-fund-implementation>
