



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

15th Anniversary
(2007 – 2022)

UPR Voluntary Fund for Participation

SUPPORTING STATES, FULFILLING RIGHTS



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL





The Fund



The Voluntary Fund for Participation in the universal periodic review was established in 2007 by Human Rights Council resolutions [5/1](#) and [6/17](#) and it is administered by OHCHR.

The Fund provides financial support to cover travel to Geneva by one official representative from developing countries, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in order to participate in:

- ✓ sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review during which the representative's country is considered; and
- ✓ plenary sessions of the Human Rights Council during which the outcome of the review of the representative's country is adopted.

In addition, the Voluntary Fund covers:

- ✓ training of Member States in the preparation of national reports.

A proactive approach: OHCHR encourages States to avail themselves of the Fund's support. The UPR secretariat addresses correspondence to States that may benefit from the assistance of the Fund, indicating how they may request the assistance.

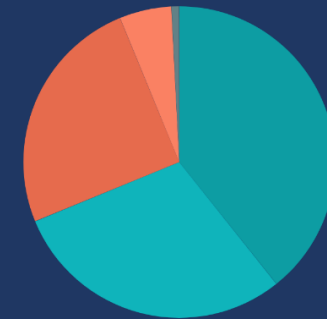


FACTS & FIGURES

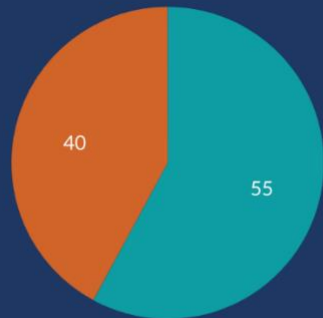
Since its establishment, the Voluntary Fund has supported the **travel** and participation, in the UPR WG or in the item 6 adoption, of delegates from 112 countries and from all regions of the world.

Out of these **112 States** assisted:

- **39%** are Least Developed Countries
- **32%** are Small Island Developing States



Africa (39.3%) Asia-Pacific (29.5%)
GRULAC (25%) Eastern Europe (5.4%)
WEOG (0.8%)



Male (57.89%) Female (42.11%)

In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 6/30, the UPR secretariat encourages States to consider gender balance in the composition of their delegation.

During the 3rd cycle of UPR (2017-2022), a total of **95 delegates** – **40 women** and **55 men** – participated in the UPR WG or in HRC item 6 adoptions thanks to the financial support from the Fund.

Due to COVID 19-related travel restrictions, in 2020-21 the Secretariat facilitated the participation of delegates through hybrid modalities.



ENGAGING WITH UPR

The Fund also finances **the organization of trainings to assist countries in the preparatory process**, prior to the sessions of the UPR Working Group. These trainings address UPR policies, procedures and modalities and enable sharing of good practices and lessons learned on national consultations, inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, the drafting of national reports and the participation in interactive dialogues.

Since May 2017, OHCHR organizes **informal briefings** during the sessions of the UPR Working Group to inform participants, especially those who have travelled from their capitals, on **tools** available to facilitate implementation and follow up activities; on **good practices** of implementation of recommendations made by human rights mechanisms and their integration in the UNSDCF; and on the **financial and technical support** that can be provided by OHCHR - including the UPR Branch - as well as the UN System to States upon request.



The Fund also contributes to **promote the engagement of parliaments and parliamentary human rights committees in the UPR process**, focusing on the role that parliaments play in translating international commitments into national policies and laws, in line with HRC resolution 35/29 and HRC report 38/25.



FUNDING

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

Since 2007, the Fund has received contributions for a total amount of **USD 3,659,247** from the following countries and intergovernmental organizations:

Germany	USD 795,397	Sweden	USD 100,000
Japan	USD 480,000	Switzerland	USD 95,238
Italy	USD 422,852	Singapore	USD 75,000
Australia	USD 387,580	Romania	USD 73,746
Denmark	USD 359,002	Belgium	USD 57,681
Austria	USD 157,729	Kuwait	USD 50,000
Saudi Arabia	USD 140,000	Republic of Korea	USD 50,000
OIF	USD 154,178	Colombia	USD 26,668
China	USD 100,000	Hungary	USD 19,083
Russian Federation	USD 100,000	Cuba	USD 3,817



FUNDING NEEDS FOR THE 4th CYCLE

In view of the fourth UPR cycle (November 2022 to February 2027), additional voluntary contributions will be needed to secure an annual income to the Fund amounting to at least **USD 300,000**.

This funding will enable the Voluntary Fund to:

- ✓ facilitate the active engagement of LDC/SIDS and other developing states with the UPR process;
- ✓ support the participation of some 30 delegates per annum in the sessions of the UPR Working Group and the Human Rights Council;
- ✓ respond to requests for training by eligible States on the preparation of national reports for the UPR;
- ✓ enable the hybrid participation of delegates, in complementarity with in-person participation;
- ✓ establish and support a network of UPR focal points in the regions, following the delegates' participation in the UPR proceedings;

- ✓ organize trainings and workshops with partners, such as the IPU, GANHRI, UPR Info, regional organizations such as the OIF, and the Commonwealth Secretariat, to share good practices of effective integration of the UPR and other human rights mechanisms with the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.



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Contact us

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