

NORWAY

Thank you for the report of the progress made so far on the intersessional work on establishing a Universal Periodic Review mechanism.

We also thank you for the schedule for further work within the framework of a formal intersessional Working Group. The work of the working group should be guided by the principles of predictability, transparency and inclusiveness. This is key if we are to move the process forward in a constructive manner.

Within the framework of the consultative process leading to the establishment of the Working Group much attention has been given to how the modalities of the UPR could look like. In our view, more attention is needed to a discussion on the objectives of UPR. Before we can agree on modalities, we need to agree on the aim.

The compilation of proposals provided by the Secretariat is useful and provides a good basis for further work. In order to facilitate an outcome of the process, however, we think it is timely to start developing an analytical synthesis of proposals aiming at finding common ground.

The key aim of GA resolution 60/251 is to strengthen the UN Human Rights machinery. Creating an Universal Periodic Review mechanism is an important element of this task. This means that we must ensure that the UPR adds value to the system. It must not duplicate what is done by other parts of the machinery – and it must not draw resources from other important elements of the Human Rights machinery. In this regard we underline that the key instruments to ensure implementation of treaty obligations are and should continue to be the Treaty Bodies.

We should be careful not to overburden neither the Human Rights Council nor the Secretariat with the implementation of UPR. Norway therefore supports a light version of the UPR aiming first and foremost at strengthening states cooperation and engagement with all parts of the human rights machinery.

My delegation is looking forward to participating in the work of the intersessional Working Group.

Thank you.