

Women's Human Rights

1 June 2016

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- Get an overview of the most important international legal frameworks and mechanisms on gender equality and women's rights
- Discuss how international standards and mechanisms can be used for policy dialogue with partner countries, as well as of project proposals
- Learn how and where to search for useful information on the status of women's rights in your partner country.
- Learn more about OHCHR's work on women's rights and its relevance to your work.

Objectives of the Session

- Legal guarantees (matter of law, not charity)
- Enshrined in International instruments (states have legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfil these rights)

- UN Charter (1945)
- UDHR (1948)
- HR Covenants
- CEDAW
- CRC, CMW, CRPD

As well as political commitments (VDPA, Beijing, SDGs)

What are women's human rights?

- Adopted by GA on 18 Dec 1979; EIF 3 Sep 1981
- 189 States parties
- Optional Protocol (complaints, inquiries): 107 States parties

- 16 substantive articles:
 - Part I (arts. 1-6): General provisions; trafficking and exploitation of prostitution; VAW
 - Part II (arts. 7-9): Political participation; equal rights to nationality
 - Part III (arts. 10-14): Economic, social and cultural rights of women; rights of rural women
 - Part IV (arts. 15-16): Equality before the law; equal rights in marriage and family relations

The CEDAW Convention

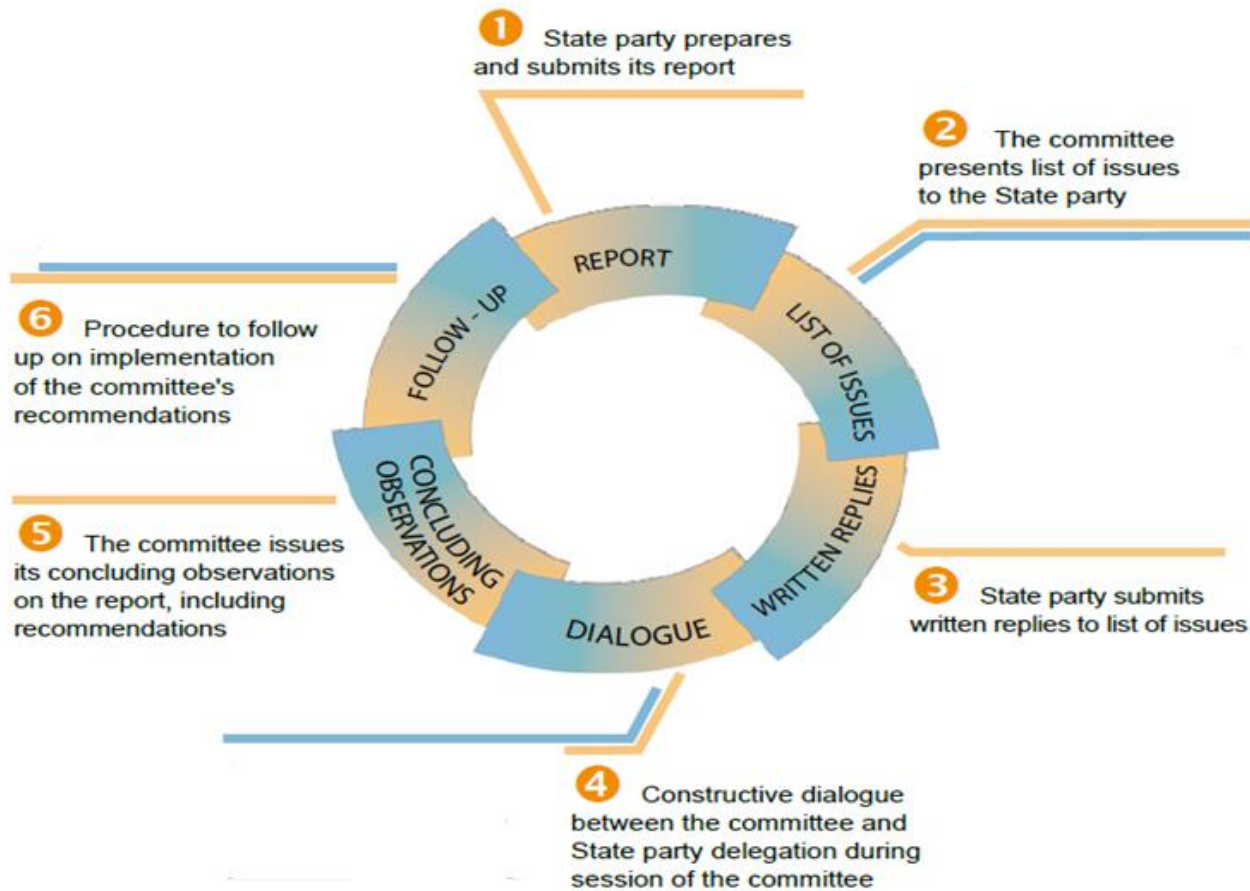
Committee

- 23 independent experts
- Elected by States parties for renewable 4-year terms
- Equitable geographic distribution
- 3 sessions per year in Geneva (formerly in New York)
- OHCHR serves as secretariat

Monitoring functions

- Reporting Procedure (art. 18)
 - Examination of reports submitted by States parties
 - “Concluding observations”
- Communications (art. 2 OP)
 - Complaints by women alleging rights violations
 - “Decisions”/“Views”
- Inquiries (art. 8 OP)
 - Reliable information: grave or systematic violations

The CEDAW Committee



The reporting cycle

Who are they?

- **Thematic- 41 (ex. violence against women; discrimination against women)**
- **Country-specific – 14 (ex. Myanmar, Mali)**

What do they do?

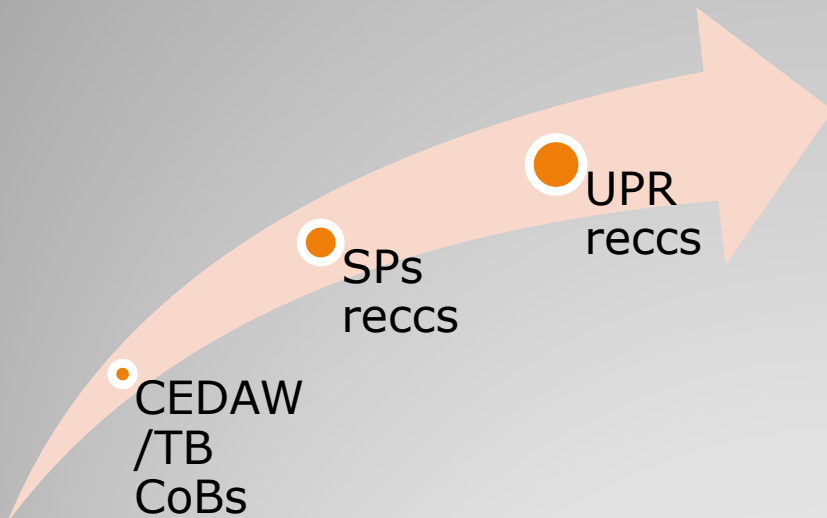
- **Country visits**
- **Communications**
- **Thematic reports**

Examples..

Special Procedures

- Peer review of human rights situation in all 193 UN Member States
- Conducted by Human Rights Council (47-member inter-governmental body of the General Assembly)
- Each State reviewed in a 4.5 year cycle
- Reviews based on:
 - ✓ National report from the State under review
 - ✓ Compilation of information from UN bodies
 - ✓ Summary of information from stakeholders (NGOs, NHRIs, etc)
- HRC issues a report with recommendations and commitments of the State concerned

The UPR



- Promote compliance with international norms in policy dialogue
- Assess the extent to which project proposals take into account/address women's rights concerns

How can you use the work of the mechanisms?

- Universal Human Rights Index:
<http://uhri.ohchr.org/en>
- OHCHR country-specific pages:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/Home.aspx>

Where can you find the info?

AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

- Promote and support the development of progressive norms (HRC, TBs, SPs, independent research) Examples..
- Produces policy and programmatic guidance, advocacy and training material. Examples..
- Global advocacy

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- Promote and support implementation (legal reform; development of policies; capacity building of civil society; capacity building for accountability/access to justice; etc.)

What does OHCHR do on women's rights?

- Over 60 countries
- Different types of presences (HR components; HR Advisers; Stand-Alone offices; Regional Offices
- Regional Gender Advisors in Regional offices

Where are we?

LET'S DISCUSS!



What is your experience?

THANK YOU!!