



## Papua New Guinea and Human Rights - Universal Periodic Review - Online Capacity Building Program<sup>1</sup> - December 2020- 2021 Program Brochure - Calling for Applications

### 1. Program Summary:

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP), The Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), Citizen's Constitutional Forum (CCF) and the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights are inviting applications for a national-level capacity building program for civil society in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to increase knowledge of, and encourage participation in, the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism.

In 2021, human rights in PNG are being reviewed in the UPR's Third Cycle. Civil society organisations (CSOs) have opportunities to participate in different stages of the review, to engage in dialogue on key human rights issues and to influence the recommendations made to PNG's government.

Drawing on reports from the government, UN agencies and civil society, the UPR identifies key human rights issues and make recommendations to improve protection and fulfilment of human rights, including through international cooperation. The review complements other human rights accountability processes and draws on input from UN agencies.

The UPR process provides CSOs with opportunities to build knowledge and understanding of human rights and to promote human rights-based approaches to development at the national level and with development partners. It provides openings for civil society voices in PNG to be heard on human rights, the environment, sustainable development and climate change in a key inter-governmental forum in Geneva – as well as domestically.

This practical capacity building and technical assistance program will enable civil society in PNG to effectively use these opportunities to raise their concerns around human rights, gender-based violence, the rights of persons of disability, the impacts of the private sector etc. It will increase the knowledge of civil society regarding human rights. It will also assist civil society in contributing to and leveraging other related processes such as National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, Voluntary National Reviews for the Sustainable Development Goals (VNRs), and Nationally Determined Contributions for the UNFCCC (NDCs). It will explore how COVID -19 has impacted and how human rights can provide a basis for post COVID-19 recovery – *for building back better*.

The program will draw on the experience of other Pacific CSOs in engaging with the UPR and will help to build Pacific networking on human rights.

This program will be conducted through a number of online sessions beginning in February/March 2021 - a mixture of informational sessions and online technical support involved in the drafting of a CSO submission. One or more of the participants may be involved in representing PNG CSO concerns at the PNG UPR Session scheduled for November 2021 in Geneva.

### 2. Program objectives

This capacity building and technical assistance program aims to:

- a. build the knowledge, skills, networks and confidence of PNG CSOs on the UPR mechanism,
- b. provide advice and support to civil society in PNG to draft individual/joint NGO submission/s

---

<sup>1</sup> In partnership with PIANGO, CCF, OHCHR

- c. To provide advice and guidance to CSOs in PNG on engaging UN agencies and foreign missions in Port Moresby regarding UPR review questions and recommendations

### 3. Background and Regional Context

PNG is preparing for its next review as part of the Third Cycle in 2021 which consists of three stages:

- Preparation for the review and reporting on State under Review implementation of recommendations from the previous UPR cycle;
- Review of the human rights situation in the State under Review and adoption of the report;
- Implementation of UPR recommendations and mid-term reporting.

NGOs including CSOs in PNG can participate in and influence the UPR mechanism in five ways:

- Participate in the national consultations held by the State under Review
- Send information on the human rights situation in PNG for inclusion in the stakeholder report
- Engage foreign missions/development partners to make recommendations
- Take the floor at the Human Rights Council during the adoption of the report in Geneva, and
- Monitor and participate in the implementation the UPR recommendations in PNG.

The UPR Third Cycle milestones for PNG are

National consultation period	NGO submission deadline	Country report deadline	UPR Working Group Session
12 February 2021	18 March 2021 (tentative)	July 2021	39th session (Nov 2021)

### 4. Program duration/content/format

**Duration:** Equivalent of two-day online training for PNG CSOs – Feb-Mar 2021 and continuing sessions leading up to and beyond the UPR session in November 2021.

**Content:** Likely/possible topics subject to needs assessment of participants:

- Universal Period Review mechanism & previous UPR recommendations for PNG
- Experience sharing from Fiji trainers
- Key human rights issues in the Pacific such as Business & Human Rights issues especially mining, logging, agribusiness, infrastructure and tourism, and the impact of climate change and environmental degradation/biodiversity loss on human rights
- UPR submission and lobbying skills, and
- Advocacy strategy planning for CSO participants.

**Format:** Online sessions, subject to coronavirus restrictions and program budget

### 5. Program methodology

The training methodology is interactive, with group work, case studies and planning sessions. Sharing knowledge and lessons with other participants and trainers is one of the highlights.

### 6. Deadline for Applications – January 18, 2021 – [ntp@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ntp@unsw.edu.au) / [www.ntp.unsw.edu.au](http://www.ntp.unsw.edu.au)