

Minutes of the Meeting on the Implementation Status of Lebanon's UPR Recommendations

29 March 2012

OHCHR premises

List of Participants:

	Organization	Name
1	ALEF	Georges Ghali
2	ALEF	Maria Emanuela Falchi
3	CLDH	Wadih el Asmar
4	Al Karama	Saadeddine Shatila
5	Amnesty International	Jouliia Bou Karoum
6	AHRF	Elie Abou Aoun
9	Justicia	Myriame Younes
10	CPKML	Wadad Mrad
11	Norwegian people's Aid- Lebanon	Safia darwiche
12	IPW	Wafa Abed
13	Euromed Platform	Batoul Yahsoucy
14	Nahwa el muwatiniya	Assaf Nmeir
15	Ajem	F. Hady AYA
16	Ajem	Lina Chamoun
17	PHRO	Rola Badran
18	ANND	Zahra Bazzi
19	Caritas	Dima Haddad
20	CFKDL	Wadad Halwani

Agenda:

1. The purpose of the meeting
2. Discussions on the implementation status of the UPR recommendations
3. Discussions on individual and joint strategies to encourage Lebanon
4. Discussions on strategies with regard to rejected recommendations
5. The way forward

Summary:

OHCHR convened a meeting gathering representatives of twenty representatives of Lebanese NGOs for a discussion on the implementation status of UPR recommendations. A number of suggestions for joint strategies were put forward. A steering committee meeting would be held in the coming week to decide on joint actions and strategies.

The Midterm Review :

OHCHR gave a brief overview on the midterm review’s modalities. It was noted that MTR is voluntary that can be undertaken by the state and the civil society. There are no specific guidelines for the midterm review report. Civil society organizations can engage with the Human Rights Council in oral or written submissions under item 6 of the Council’s agenda during regular sessions in March, June, and September.

PHRO noted that it would use the following scheme for its submission to the midterm review:

- 1- Introduction: talking about the political situation in Lebanon and its effect on the human rights situation.
- 2- The Recommendations that Lebanon approved
- 3- The Recommendations that Lebanon didn’t approve
- 4- Concluding observations and recommendations by PHRO.

Participants received various examples on MTR submissions.

Update on joint actions:

ANND and Justicia met with the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss action taken by the latter to implement Lebanon’s UPR recommendations, and to establish a coordination mechanism between the Government and Civil Society Organizations. MOFA representative mentioned that there were number of actions taken but not complete. The focus of the coming period prior to the MoFA’s representative departure would be on the submission of Lebanon’s initial report to CAT.

Update on Individual Actions:

A number of the NGOs presented their current projects and strategies using the UPR recommendations as an advocacy tool.

CPKML stated that it has worked on a draft on the “right to know” to the family of enforced disappeared persons. Additionally, a number of round tables and seminars with Beirut Bar Association were conducted as part of its advocacy work.

AJEM presented its projects to combat torture. It focused its work on working closely with victims of torture in order to file complaints, in addition to visiting detention centers. Also, it supported the establishment of an ISF committee to follow up on torture cases, awaiting the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanisms.

Future Joint Strategies:

A number of suggestions were put forward for a joint advocacy strategy:

- Prioritizing issues in accordance to draft laws submitted to the Parliament for adoption.
- Establishing a platform where NGOs could share information. Participants agreed to use the following blog site- already established in 2010: <http://upr-lebanon-stakeholders.blogspot.com/>
- Incorporating UPR recommendations in the National Human Rights Plan of Action.
- Lobbying directly with relevant ministries, as well as with the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee, and key MPs.
- Launching an awareness raising campaign: The Coalition of Civil Society Organizations is working on a poster on UPR recommendations that will be widely distributed to ministries and to the public.

Action Points:

- A call for a meeting of the steering committee will be circulated. The interest of CS organizations will be sought.
- The steering committee will adopt the preferable strategy.