

UPR Advocacy Strategies in South America

South American Countries as States under Review and Recommending States

**9th International Training Session on the UN Human Rights Council
Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for educational and civil society
organizations**

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Political and Historical Context

South America

- Independent States 2 centuries
- Dictatorships / Recent, incomplete transitional process
- 2 decades of contemporary democracies
- Contrasts between
 - Social, economic, human rights achievements
 - Dimension of challenges ahead
- Human Rights Treaties
 - Fast accession, difficult implementation
- Appreciation of multilateralism, including support to the UPR as the first global human rights evaluation mechanism

A South American State as SuR **Chile**

2nd Cycle – Jan 2014

Joint Civil Society Report

Follow-up on 2009 Recommendations

- 14 Organizations – coordinated by Humanas

- National HR Infrastructure
- Equality and non-discrimination
- Women's participation
- Indigenous Peoples / Terrorism
- LGBTI



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Advocacy Strategies:

- **Comparison Chart State Report / CS Report**
 - **Example: Assistance to Victims of the Dictatorship**
 - **State – Assistance to Victims of EJ Executions and Disappearances during the dictatorship**
 - **CS – Commission Valech – strict eligibility criteria, leading to a low coverage (30%)**



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Advocacy Strategies:

- **Follow-up in Santiago (embassies) and Geneva (missions)**
 - **Recommending State / Topic 2009**
 - State of the legislation or practice in question
 - Germany – Institutional Arrangements
 - Uruguay – Women, Indigenous
 - Turkey – Military Justice
 - Finland, Sweden, Netherlands - abortion



A South American State as SuR **Chile**

General Assessment

- Chile accepted 180 out of 185 recommendations
- UPR Process During Government Transition
 - Low Chilean engagement in January, absence in side-event
 - New commitments in June rejected in January
 - Anti-terrorism laws against Mapuches
 - Criminalization of abortion
 - Challenge– need to engage the State institutions in the process, beyond different government political orientations



A South American State as a Recommending State - Brazil

Conectas

“Foreign Policy as Public Policy”

UPR as key instrument to include human rights in Brazil’s foreign policy



Focus on:

- Requesting Brazil to make recommendations that have an impact on the ground
- Brazil’s policies vis-à-vis SuR,
- Brazil’s priority human rights topics – multilaterally and UPR
- National good practices that can be extended to SuR
- Problematic issues internally, that can bring about national positive impact



A South American State as a Recommending State - Brazil

Joint Actions with Conectas’ Partners:

- Brazilian constituency together with national/regional partners esp. South-South relations
- Knowledge of national laws and practices
- Knowledge of Brazil’s foreign policy

Specific actions

- Conectas’ regional “Connectors”
- Joint Meetings with Itamaraty (MoFA), Brazil’s embassies and Mission in Geneva
- Joint letters suggesting recommendations
 - Previous recommendations, national good practices, Brazil’s human rights priority issues
- Hosting of meetings in Sao Paulo
- Facilitation of media outreach in Brazil



A South American State as a Recommending State - Brazil

Example of Joint Action

Review of Nigeria:

Strategies

- Meeting in MoFA in SP Office during Conectas' Colloquium
- Joint advocacy letter – UN Mission, Embassy in Lagos, MoFA's HR Division and Social Issues, reinforcing recommendations

Conectas' recommendations / Brazil's Recommendations to Nigeria

Women's Rights

Enactment of laws protecting women from violence and ensuring gender equality - (Brazil's Maria da Penha Law) / Made by Brazil

Prision Management:

- Establishment of a tracking system to monitor pre-trial detention / Brazil's domestic challenge / Not made by Brazil

Death Penalty:

- Accede to the OP2- ICCPR / traditional Brazilian UPR recommendation / Made by Brazil



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A South American State as a Recommending State - Brazil

Challenges / Obstacles

- Absence of national partners on the ground (national civil society space)
- Absence of Brazilian diplomatic representation / no direct contact, geographic distances
- Brazil's priority partners – watering down of recommendations
- National "not so good" practices difficult to be made by Brazil



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Thank you

Comments, questions, suggestions?

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