

TRAINING COURSE

IMPLEMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Engaging with UN Mechanisms at the National Level



2-6 NOVEMBER 2026
GENEVA AND ONLINE (HYBRID COURSE)



Overview

Questions regarding the effectiveness and relevance of human rights standards and mechanisms have become more prominent in recent years. At the same time, expectations placed on States to demonstrate tangible progress at the national level continue to increase. This creates a need for practitioners to better understand how international human rights frameworks can be used in practice to support implementation and accountability.

This training focuses on how international human rights standards are translated into action within national contexts. It examines how different actors engage with United Nations mechanisms and how recommendations can be followed up in a structured and coordinated manner.

The course examines the main components of the UN human rights system, including treaty bodies, special procedures, fact-finding mechanisms and the Universal Periodic Review. It considers how these mechanisms connect to national processes and actors, including government institutions, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations, local governments, parliaments and UN entities.

Through case studies and practical examples, participants will analyse how recommendations are formulated, prioritised and tracked over time, and how follow-up can be organised at the national level to enhance accountability.

Key Areas Covered

- The structure and key mechanisms of the international human rights system, including treaty bodies, special procedures, fact-finding mechanisms and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
- The role and formulation of recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms, and the gap between recommendations and implementation in practice
- National-level implementation and accountability processes, including different stakeholders, coordination mechanisms, national action plans and reporting structures
- Reporting processes across UN mechanisms, including national reports, UN compilations and stakeholder submissions
- Tools and approaches to support engagement with UN mechanisms and monitor progress, including data collection methods and digital tracking tools
- Case studies and practical examples from different countries and policy contexts, illustrating how recommendations are prioritised, implemented and monitored over time
- Participation in UN processes in Geneva, including attendance at a session of the UPR Working Group and, subject to availability, a UN treaty body session
- Consideration of current resource constraints affecting the UN system and their impact on mechanisms and national implementation efforts

Practical Information



Location: Geneva



Format: Hybrid



Fees: In-person CHF 2,100
Online CHF 1,900



Application deadline: 11 October 2026



Visa deadline: 20 September 2026



Lead trainer: Miloon Kothari

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