United Nations Development Programme

Country: Bangladesh

Initiation Plan

Project Title:	**Report Right**
	Support to Human Rights Treaty Body Reporting IP

Expected CP Outcome(s): **UNDAF OUTCOME 1.2 Justice and human rights institutions are strengthened to better serve and protect the rights of all citizens, including women and vulnerable groups**

Initiation Plan Start Date:	01 June 2014
Initiation Plan End Date:	31 May 2015
Implementing Partner:	UNDP

Brief Description

Report Right IP will support the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to improve its capacity for timely and quality reports to UN Treaty Bodies. Bangladesh is a State party to all major international human rights instruments; however, due to lack of technical resources Bangladesh has an inadequate record of treaty body reporting and regularly has reported only under CEDAW and CRC. Engagement with treaty bodies is an integral component of ensuring the realisation of human rights at the national level. Accordingly, UNDP assistance to MoFA to build its capacity for human rights treaty body reporting is expected not only to improve the number and quality of reports to treaty bodies but in the longer term contribute to a national dialogue on the realisation of human rights that supports the substantive realisation of rights. In response to a request from MOFA, UNDP has developed this inception plan (IP). The IP has three components:

a) Assistance to MoFA for human rights treaty body reporting;

b) Assistance to MoFA to build capacity for treaty body reporting; and

c) Assistance for training on human rights reporting.

IP Period: June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015	Total resources required $229,000
	Total allocated resources: $229,000
CPAP Programme Component: _____	• Regular $229,000
	• Other:
Atlas Award ID: _____	○ Donor _____
	○ Government _____
PAC Meeting Date	Unfunded budget: _____
	In-kind Contributions _____

Agreed by UNDP: *[signature]*   7 May 2014

I. INTRODUCTION

The treaty bodies stand at the heart of the international human rights protection system as engines translating universal norms into social justice and individual well being. Using a growing set of tools, this system provides authoritative guidance on human rights standards, advises on how treaties apply in specific cases, and informs State Parties of what they must do to ensure that all people enjoy their human rights.
Ban Ki Moon, United Nations Secretary General (2012)

The Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has sought the assistance of UNDP to build the capacity of MoFA and its associated Foreign Service Training Academy to improve capacity for human rights reporting. Particular assistance is sought in the areas of selected human rights treaty body reporting.

In response to this request from MoFA, UNDP has developed this initiation plan (IP). The IP has three components:

a)   Assistance to MoFA for the completion of selected human rights treaty body reporting;
b)   Assistance to MoFA to build capacity for treaty body reporting; and
c)   Assistance for training on human rights reporting.

II. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Human Rights Situation in Bangladesh

The pursuit of human rights promotes the freedom, dignity and worth of every person. When human rights are realised, human dignity is respected and the poor and vulnerable can meaningfully participate in decisions affecting their lives. The absence of human rights is a defining characteristic of human poverty.

The Bangladesh Constitution provides for the protection of human rights of all citizens. The rights to life, to liberty, to be treated in accordance with law, and to equality and non-discrimination are the fundamental human right principles set out in the constitution, as are a range of civil and political rights. Key economic, social and cultural rights are also provided for as matters of state policy. In addition to these national guarantees, Bangladesh is a party to the core international human rights treaties.

In this backdrop, important gains for human rights have been made in recent years. A number of statutory bodies are functioning as effective human rights watchdog mechanisms with much greater authority and independence than before. Social protection schemes have been extended to the majority of extreme poor. Legislations have been promulgated by the Parliament to tackle domestic violence and sexual harassment as well as prevention of torture in custody. New legislations to improve the protection of the rights of children and persons with disabilities have also been enacted in line with the provisions of the relevant human rights instruments.

Yet, despite these legal protections backed by strong political commitment, the promotion and protection of human rights in Bangladesh remains an evolving discourse and undertaking as in any other country. it is generally acknowledged that many people in Bangladesh continue to suffer from the lack of knowledge about the fundamental and human rights they are entitled to. During its first and second Universal Periodic Review (UPR), held in February 2009 and April 2013 respectively at the Human Rights Council, Bangladesh received commendation for the sustained progress made in its overall human rights regime and particularly for the significant achievements made in ensuring social and economic rights of its citizens. During the two UPR sessions, Bangladesh made express commitments to continue to improve its human rights record and show

'zero tolerance' to any alleged human rights violations by law enforcement agencies; address discrimination and violence against women; prevent discrimination and attacks against religious and ethnic minorities; progressively eliminate child labour and child marriage; and address the challenges faced by different socially disadvantaged groups.

Treaty Body Reporting in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a State party to all major international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and two of its optional protocols; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its optional protocol; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CAT); and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Encouragingly, Bangladesh has also recently ratified the Rome Statute (International Criminal Court) on 22 March 2010 and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) on 24 August 2011.

Despite this, as the two UPR sessions also highlighted, Bangladesh does not have a good record in terms of its periodic reporting against the various human rights treaties it is a Party to. Bangladesh has never submitted reports to the concerned UN treaty bodies of ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT and CRPD. This has led to leading local NGOs arguing that Bangladesh's cooperation with the international human rights system would remain cursory or incomplete unless it improved its record on treaty body reporting. The Bangladesh Government consistently highlights a lack of resources and necessary technical expertise to complete its human rights treaty reporting. There is a lack of dedicated manpower for treaty body reporting, across the GoB. MoFA has difficulty in coordinating the relevant line ministries which are responsible for the implementation of each treaty. A lack of expertise in the relevant line ministries is also a limitation. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has been effective in ensuring a positive record in reporting under CEDAW and CRC.

Value of treaty body reporting

Treaty body reporting is not simply an academic exercise. Engagement with treaty bodies is an integral component of ensuring the realisation of human rights at the national level. States parties report periodically to the treaty bodies, which review legislation and policies and advise States on ways to achieve better compliance with human rights obligations.

The reporting process is designed to be continuous and dynamic. Full compliance with reporting obligations facilitates continual follow-up and a focus on implementation. Treaty body recommendations and general comments frequently constitute implementation guidance tools for States whilst also providing an advocacy platform for national human rights institutions and civil society. The involvement of experts, civil society groups and government representatives in reporting and other processes generates a genuine dialogue at the national level that empowers individuals and improves laws, policies, programmes and institutions.

Accordingly, UNDP assistance to the MoFA to build its capacity for human rights treaty body reporting is expected not only to improve the number and quality of reports to treaty bodies but in the longer term contribute to a national dialogue on the realisation of human rights that supports the substantive realisation of rights.

III. PURPOSE

This Initiation Plan has been developed in order to commence UNDP's engagement with MoFA through the delivery of targeted technical assistance and support. That support will enable MoFA

in 2013 to complete Bangladesh's UPR State Report, complete treaty body reports under ICCPR and ICESCR and commence targeted training and capacity building in MoFA for sustained and regular human rights reporting.

The program combines targeted short term assistance to complete specific human rights reports with broader support for human rights curriculum development for a specialized training centre and mapping of human rights responsibilities across government.

The programme will contribute to UNDAF Pillar One: Democratic Governance and Human Rights. The activities under this program will contribute to OUTCOME 1.2 under the UNDAF - *Justice and human rights institutions are strengthened to better serve and protect the rights of all citizens, including women and vulnerable groups.*

If the programme outputs are achieved, UNDP and MoFA may consider, together with other relevant ministries, a longer term project to build the capacity of the MoFA to deliver effective human rights reporting and engagement with the UN system.

IV. EXPECTED OUTPUT

This IP will focus on three activities as follows:

Activity 1: Treaty Body Reporting
The IP will support the completion of treaty body reports under ICCPR and ICESCR by:
- Technical Assistance in analysis of treaty legal requirements and reporting
- Assisting inter-ministerial coordination and engagement
- Assisting national consultation processes on the draft reports, including outside of Dhaka if needed, to ensure thorough information gathering and participation.

Activity 2: Improved capacity for treaty body reporting including improved data collection and coordination across government.
- Mapping of treaty body reporting responsibilities in Bangladesh and options for improving processes and data collection.
- Establishment of a monitoring mechanism within MoFA to facilitate treaty body reporting including research and coordination resources.
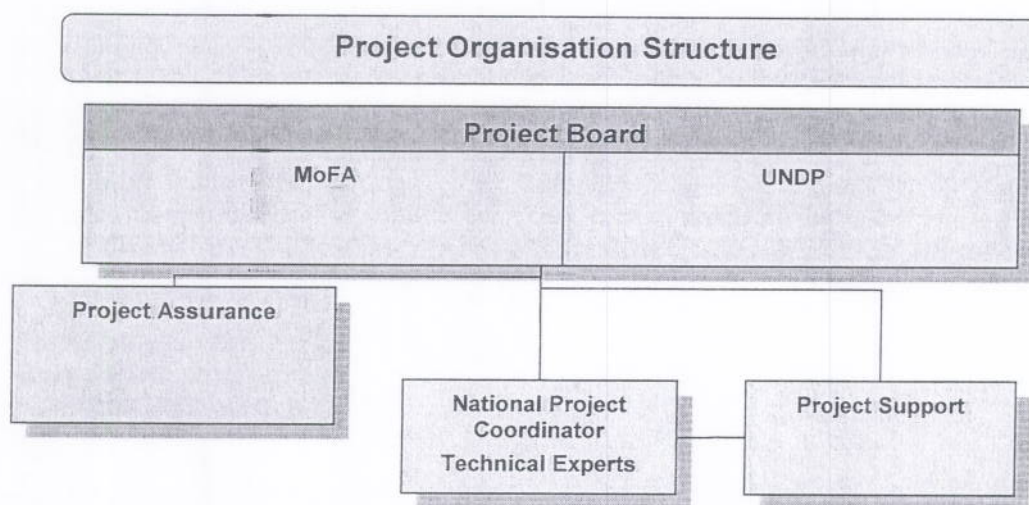
Activity 3: Assistance for training on human rights reporting.
- Develop and deliver new curriculum for human rights (which covers the UN System and treaty body reporting) in the Foreign Service Training Academy
- Explore options for the training to be mainstreamed within the Academy and made available to relevant line ministries.

At the end of the IP the expected outputs are:

- Completion of treaty body report under ICCPR and ICESCR and sustained engagement with the treaty bodies for those treaties on reviews and the implementation of recommendations.
- 25 MoFA and other government officials trained in international human rights law and human rights reporting.
- Establishment of a treaty body monitoring unit within MoFA with an effective cross governmental coordination mandate.

4

V. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Project Organisation Structure

Project Board	
MoFA	UNDP

- Project Assurance
- National Project Coordinator / Technical Experts
- Project Support

Project Board: The project board, responsible for taking management decisions for the project, may be chaired by the UNDP Country Director as the executor of the project. The project board will monitor the overall progress of the project and provide guidance to implementation of the project. The Project Board will meet as required and at least once during the project period.

Project Assurance: This role may be delegated to the Policy, Innovation and Communications Cluster by the UNDP Country Director or Project Board.

Project Support: This role will be responsible for fulfilling the administrative, financial logistical and other technical requirements of the project and may be delegated to the Policy, Innovation and Communications Cluster.

National Project Coordinator and Technical Experts: One National Project Coordinator will be hired to oversee the day to day implementation of the project. In addition, national and international technical experts will be hired as required to provide specific technical expertise for the delivery of the project.

VI. MONITORING

In order to monitor the project implementation process and to assess the implementation progress, quarterly progress reports will be prepared.

VII. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Year: 2014-15

EXPECTED OUTPUTS (And baseline, indicators including annual targets)	PLANNED ACTIVITIES (List activity results and associated actions)	TIMEFRAME 2014 - 2015 Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1 **UPR and Treaty Body Reporting** *Baseline: No ICCPR and ICESR State Party Report* *Indicators: One State Party Report each for ICCPR and ICESR* *Targets: Completion of a State Party Report for ICCPR and ICESR* *Related CP outcome:*		▓				UNDP		National Consultants	$5,000
		▓				UNDP		Meetings	$2,000
	3. Technical Assistance in analysis of legal treaty requirements of ICCPR and ICESCR	▓				UNDP		National Consultant	$10,000
	4. Technical Assistance in preparation of report for ICCPR and ICESCR		▓	▓		UNDP		National Consultant	$10,000
								International Consultant	$30,000
								IT equipment (web portal for consultation)	$5,000
	5. Assist inter-ministerial coordination and engagement			▓		UNDP		Workshops	$5,000
	6. Assist national consultation process on report, including outside of Dhaka if need be, to ensure thorough information gathering		▓	▓		UNDP		Conference and Workshops	$30,000
								National Consultants	$5,000
								Travel	$2,000
								Printing	$5,000
Output 2 **Assistance to MoFA to build capacity for treaty body reporting**	1. Mapping of treaty body reporting responsibilities in Bangladesh and options for improving process.			▓	▓	UNDP		National Consultant	$5,000
								International Consultant	$15,000

							Amount
Baseline: Limited capacity of MOFA for Treaty Body Reporting Indicators: Mapping Document; Recommendations Targets: Setting up of a mechanism for Treaty Body Reporting Related CP outcome:							
2. Support for establishment of a treaty body monitoring mechanism within MoFA				UNDP		National Consultant	$10,000
Output 3 **Assistance for training on human rights reporting.** Baseline: No current Course for HR and HR Treaty Reporting in FATA Indicators: Course curriculum Targets: A functioning Course for HR and HR Treaty Reporting in FATA Related CP outcome:							
1. Develop and deliver new curriculum for human rights and human rights reporting in the Foreign Affairs Training Academy				UNDP		National Consultant International Consultant Printing	$15,000 $15,000 $5,000
2. Assist MoFA to mainstream training curriculum and provide support to training line ministries.				UNDP		National Consultant International Consultant	$5000
Output 4 **Project Management** Baseline: Indicators: Targets: Related CP outcome:							
1. Project Coordinator				UNDP			$20,000
2. Admin and Finance Assistance				UNDP			$10,000
3. IT Assistant							$10,000
3. Supplies and Logistics				UNDP			$10,000
TOTAL							$229,000