



Promoting and strengthening  
the Universal Periodic Review  
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**United Nations Human Rights Council: 52<sup>nd</sup> Session**  
**Oral statement Item 6 – General Debate**  
**UPR Info – March 28th, 2023 (delivered by Nicoletta Zappile, Deputy Director, UPR Info)**

Mister President,

UPR Info welcomes the announcement made by the Permanent Mission of Argentina, at the High-Level Panel on 01 March 2023, regarding the creation of a Group of Friends of the UPR. The creation of this Group of Friends of the UPR comes at a time when we have entered the 4th cycle and it can contribute to the exchange of good practices and advance the implementation of the UPR recommendations. UPR Info will actively engage with the Group of Friends to strengthen the UPR as a key collaborative mechanism for improving human rights on the ground.

As we enter the 4th cycle, which aims to strengthen the implementation of the recommendations, we would like to draw attention to the roles of legal professionals in ensuring the rule of law, respect for human rights and the implementation of laws and international obligations. Although the role of the executive and the legislature is explicitly recognised in various Human Rights Council resolutions, there is a lack of clear reference to the key role of legal professionals. Like resolution 35/29 on the "Contribution of parliaments", the OHCHR/Human Rights Council should adopt a specific resolution on the "Contribution of the legal profession to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review". Such a resolution will contribute to strengthening the rule of law and the use of the UPR in domestic legal proceedings.

Finally, we would like to encourage States to create a national basket of funds fully dedicated to support the implementation of the UPR recommendations. Such an instrument supported by the UN system, resident embassies and development actors can support all national stakeholders, the three State' branches as well as the civil society, implementing the UPR recommendations. Common collaborative projects should be encouraged.

The realisation of human rights requires political will, a collaborative and innovative approaches. Even a small contribution can have a big impact.

I thank you.