



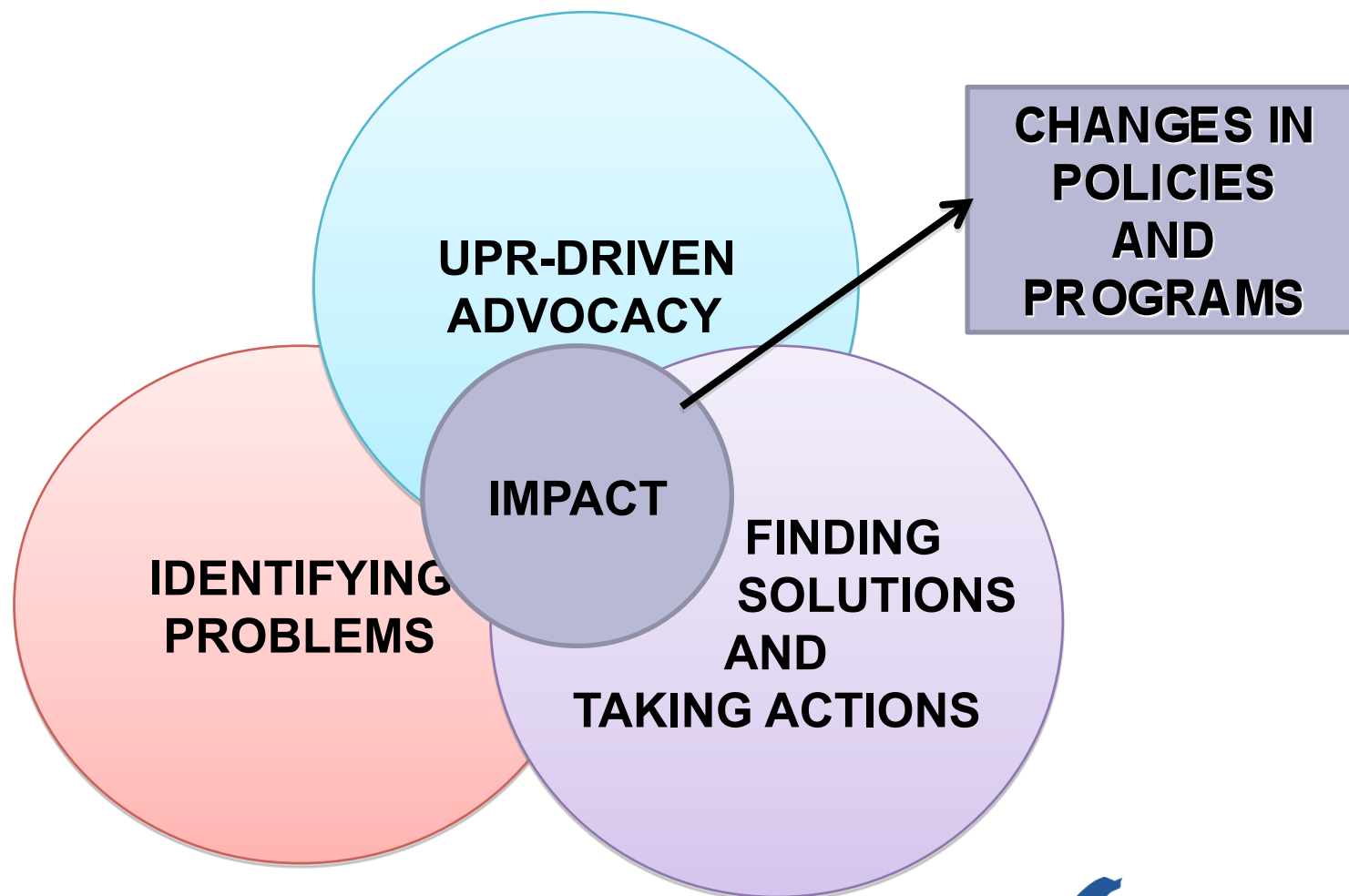
**Franciscans International**

A voice at the United Nations

Bringing the voice of those who are marginalized

# FI ADVOCACY STRATEGY

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**Franciscans International**  
A voice at the United Nations

# WHY UPR

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- It is universal and innovative with clear time frame
- It creates an opportunity to bring the concerns of vulnerable groups
- It provides legitimization for FI engagement with governments
- It provides a tool for regular flow of information between FI and grassroots, through implementation monitoring process

# How to bring the voice of vulnerable groups through UPR

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## Step 1 → logistical:

- Identifying the contact person(s) in the country for the UPR report
- Finding potential partners (networking)

## Step 2 → substantial

### A. Based on our work

- Defining the key human rights issues where FI and its partners are involved
- Analyzing and identifying the human rights violation

### B. Based on the previous UPR cycle

- Recommendations the previous cycle: accepted + rejected recommendations
- Mid-term report (if available)
- National policy on UPR implementation



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## Step 3 → Reporting

### National consultation

- Participation of the vulnerable groups or those who work with them
- Analysing their human rights situation
- Examining government policy on human rights
- Drafting the report

## Step 4 → Advocacy work

- Lobby at national level – with the diplomatic missions in the country
- Lobby in Geneva – including participation during pre-session and the review
- When possible bring the representative of the affected communities

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## Step 5 → Follow up

Implementation strategy. Three-steps process:

- 1st step: issue Identification. Identify recommendations stemming from accepted recommendations by the State under Review (SuR)
- 2nd step: mapping solutions. Propose solutions and identify those politically, economically, and socially feasible. Solutions should be viable and negotiable with Governments (Gvt), Permanent Missions (PM), UN bodies.
- 3rd step: building road map and action plans. This includes setting goals, objectives, success indicators, and means of measurement

# ...NATIONAL LEVEL

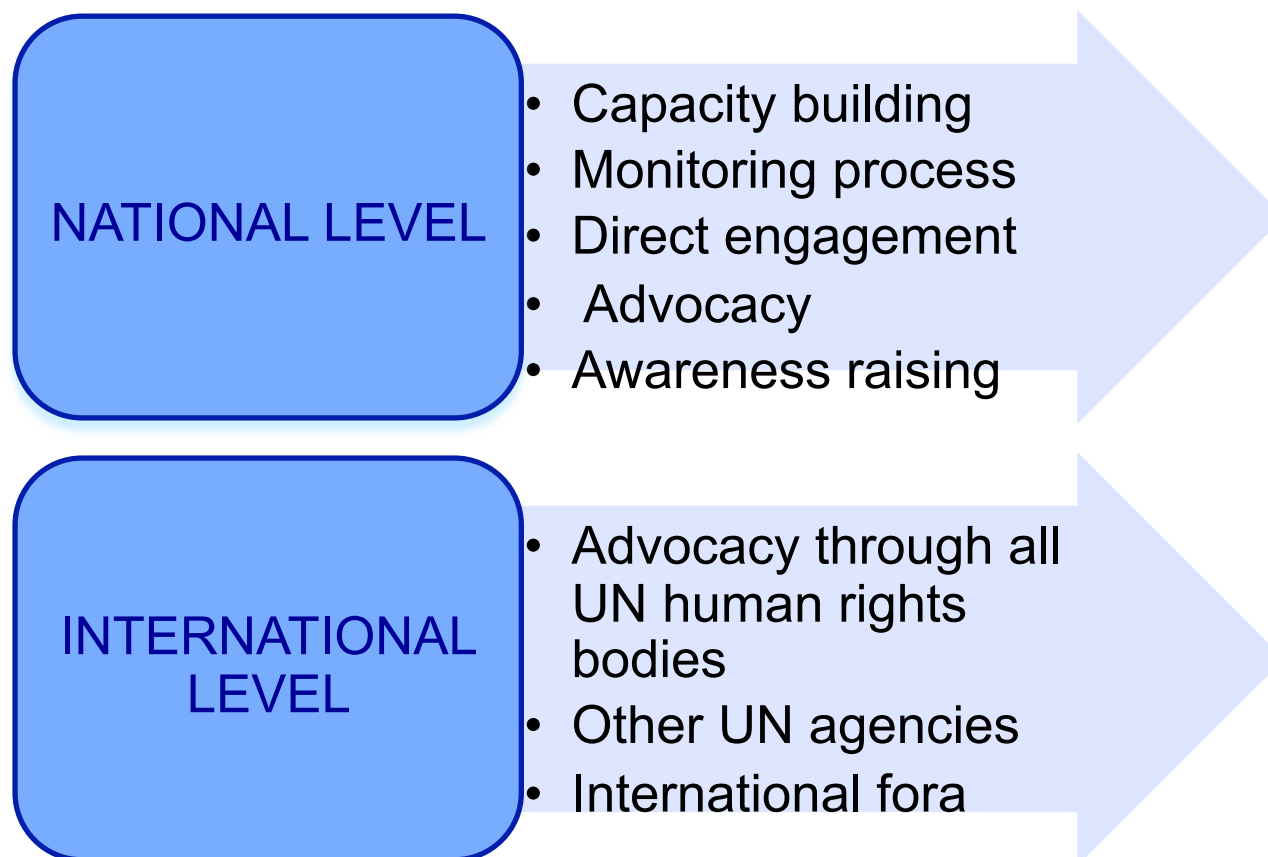
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Action plan:

- **MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF UPR RECOMMENDATIONS:** consultations at national and local level, rural and urban surveys, questionnaires, forums with victims
- **DIRECT ENGAGEMENT IN NATIONAL ADVOCACY:** key national bodies, Embassies of countries that recommended, NHRC, Members of Parliament, victims, representatives of local communities, religious and traditional leaders, UN and Regional Body, NGOs
- **AWARENESS RAISING:** Building partnerships with key stakeholders, organise campaigns, open debates, invite Media, radio and journalists

# UPR IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

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# Example of cases

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## **BENIN**

- UPR 2008 and 2012 focusing on practice of ritual infanticide (“witch children”)

## **AUSTRALIA**

- UPR 2011 focusing on the human rights of Indigenous Peoples (Aborigin)
- UPR 2014 additional focus on the asylum seekers searching international protection in Australia

## **INDONESIA**

- UPR 2008 and 2012 focusing on the isolation of the indigenous peoples in West Papua

## **HONDURAS**

- UPR 2014 focusing on the human rights of migrant children

## **BOLIVIA**

- UPR 2014 focusing on the rights of women in detention

# CHALLENGES

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- Recommendations should be more specific, action-oriented, measurable and implementable for a clear implementation strategy
- Poor communication between GVA and national authorities. UPR still remains too much linked to the Geneva Bubble. Lack of awareness at national level
- Enhance engagement of regional bodies (EU, Africa Union)
- Mid-term assessment by states and institutional bodies tracking compliance: the praxis should become the norm

# CHALLENGES

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“Only if there is a move  
from a peer review to a peer engagement,  
the success of UPR mechanism  
will become sustained”

OHCHR, Retreat of Algiers on the review of the work and functioning of the HRC, 2010.