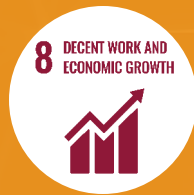




UNITED NATIONS  
JORDAN



# United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms

## Jordan's Engagement

# Introduction

The **1945 United Nations Charter** proclaims that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. In this context, the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, spells out, for the first time in history, the fundamental rights and freedoms that all human beings should enjoy. Its provisions have been developed in international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

**The Declaration also laid the groundwork for the human rights architecture that is nowadays composed of the main human rights mechanisms:**

1. The human rights **Treaty Bodies**, which are committees of **independent** experts, whose mandates emanate from the nine core human rights treaties and one optional protocol.
2. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a peer review by States which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a **State-driven process**, under the auspices of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions it has taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. As one of the main features of the Council, the UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed.
3. The **Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council**, comprising **independent** human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic (e.g., the freedom of expression or the right to food) or country-specific perspective. The system of Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. As of June 2021, there are 44 thematic and 11 country mandates.

These human rights mechanisms have different mandates, procedures and activities, which in turn shape the ways in which (i) States in their capacity as duty-bearers, (ii) individuals as the rightsholders, (iii) other national or international stakeholders (NHRIs, CSOs etc.), and (iv) the United Nations Country Teams (UNCT), engage with them. Some conduct **country visits** or inquiries to monitor specific human rights issues; others consider **complaints by individuals** who allege that their rights have been violated by a State; and almost all of them have an established **reporting procedure** for assessing the progress of States in meeting their human rights obligations. Independently of their functions, all three mechanisms generate **recommendations** to the States with the aim of contributing to short-term and long-term changes in legal and policy frameworks to improve human rights protection.

This background paper outlines past and forthcoming opportunities for engagement by all stakeholders in Jordan with these three human rights mechanisms to implement human rights treaty obligations in Jordan- realizing human rights for all, Jordanians and non-Jordanians alike.

2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE





## Overview

Jordan has **ratified** seven out of the nine core international human rights treaties:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD);
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

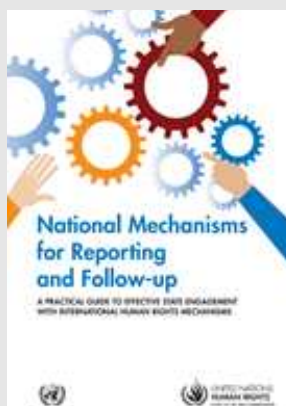
Jordan has not accepted any human rights treaty-based **individual complaints procedure**. It accepted the inquiry procedure under CAT (article 20), but has not ratified the Optional Protocol to that treaty which foresees the establishment of a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM). Individual communications addressed to Jordan by Special Procedures independent experts focus mainly around the prohibition of arbitrary detention and restrictions to freedom of expression. For details see [here](#).

Jordan has undergone three circles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), is **reporting** regularly to the independent expert committees (Treaty Bodies), which oversee implementation of the human rights treaties at the national level- with only one exception, namely under the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights a report is overdue since 2003. Jordan has welcomed several independent experts on a **country visit**, the latest of which in [September 2022](#), with some visit requests (like from the Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Expression) still pending.

For all recommendations addressed to Jordan through the UPR, by Treaty Bodies or by Special Procedure mandate-holders, please see the [OHCHR Universal Human Rights Index at UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS INDEX - Human Rights Recommendations \(ohchr.org\)](#). This database can be searched by country, human rights theme, SDG, affected group and by human rights mechanism.



Jordan does not yet have a **national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF)** to facilitate implementation of recommendations from the UPR, the Treaty Bodies and the Special Procedures but in the **UPR 2018** supported a recommendation to create one.

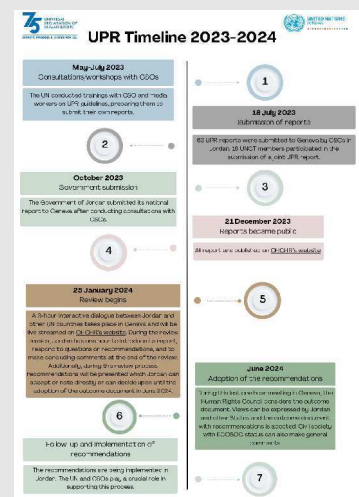
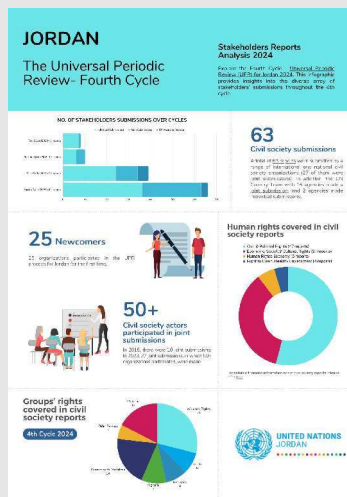
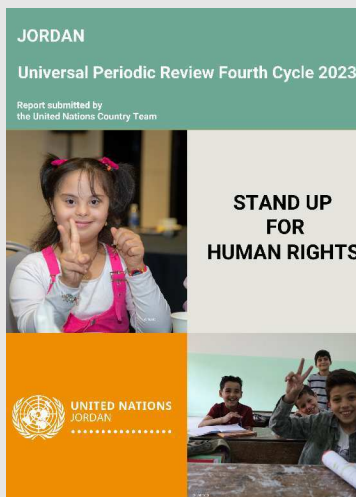


**A Practical Guide** and Study on National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) provide States with tools and suggestions on how to handle their multiple reporting tasks while maintaining strong communication lines with civil society.

# TIMELINE - Past

The below timeline provides a historical overview of engagement of Jordan with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

- ▶ **August 2000- ICESCR: 2nd periodic report** examined August 2000 with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **April 2006:** Jordan issued **a standing invitation** to Special Procedures mandate holders.
- ▶ **June 2006:** Visit to Jordan by Special Rapporteur against Torture with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **November 2011:** Visit of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **September 2013:** Visit of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **March 2014:** Visit of the Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan
- ▶ **February 2015:** Visit of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **November 2015 - CAT:** 3rd periodic report examined in November 2015 with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **November 2018 - UPR (3rd cycle):** Jordan received 226 recommendations of which it supported 149. Matched against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the highest number of recommendations related to SDG 5 (36%), 16 (34%), 8 (8%), 1 (4%) and 10 (4%).
- ▶ **October 2021- ICCPR:** Jordan submitted **a report under the follow-up** procedures to the Human Rights Committee in December 2020 for **review** by the Human Rights Committee and the **Committee decided** on that information in October 2021.
- ▶ **5 - 15 September 2022:** Visit of the Special Rapporteur on Rights of Persons with Disabilities with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **11 - 12 May 2023 - CRC:** **6th periodic report** examined in June 2023 with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **25 January 2024 - UPR (4th cycle):** Jordan received **279 recommendations** of which it supported 196. A total of **63 reports** were submitted by a range of international and national civil society organizations. In addition, the UN Country Team with 16 agencies made **a joint submission**, and 2 agencies made individual submissions.

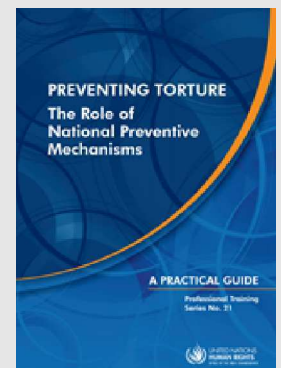
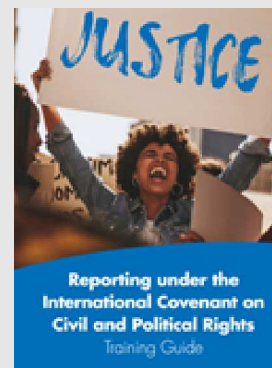
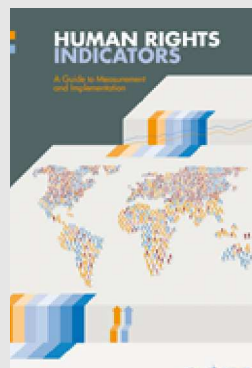
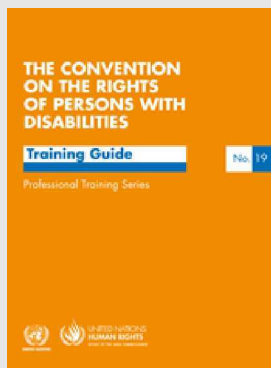
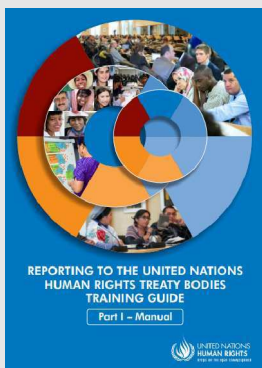


# TIMELINE - Future

The below timeline provides an overview for future engagement by all stakeholders in Jordan with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

- ▶ **Since June 2003- ICESCR:** Jordan is to submit its 3rd periodic report which is not submitted to date.
- ▶ **Since March 2021- CEDAW:** Jordan is to submit its 7th periodic report. The **6th periodic report** and **reply to list of issues** were examined in February 2017 with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **Since June 2021- CERD:** Jordan is to submit its 21st, 22nd and 23rd periodic reports. The **last reports** were examined in November 2017 with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan. Jordan submitted **a report under the follow-up** procedures to CERD in August 2020 and the **Committee decided** on that information in April 2021.
- ▶ **Since April 2022- CRPD:** Jordan is to submit its 2nd periodic report. Jordan's **initial report** and **reply to list of issues** were examined in March 2017 with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan.
- ▶ **June 2024:** Visit [Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights](#).
- ▶ **June 2024 - UPR:** At the Human Rights Council's session, the 4th cycle UPR report will be adopted.
- ▶ **November 2024 - CAT:** The constructive dialogue between the Committee and Jordan is **scheduled** for November 2024. The Committee sent questions, **LoIPR**, on 18 May 2018. Jordan **responded** to these questions in February 2021, which constitutes its next report for review by the Committee. Civil society can send information to the Committee by 30 September 2024.
- ▶ **2025 : Proposed Dates** - Visit [Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food](#).
- ▶ **2026 - Human Rights Committee:** The **5th periodic report** and **reply to a list of issues** was examined in October 2017 with these **recommendations** addressed to Jordan. The Committee will submit questions under the new Simplified Reporting Procedure to Jordan in March 2025 (to be confirmed) and the constructive dialogue would follow in 2026. See [OHCHR - Simplified Reporting Procedure: The Predictable Review Cycle](#).
- ▶ **To be scheduled - Special Procedures pending visit requests:** The Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights and Counter Terrorism; Freedom of Assembly; Minority Issues; and IE on International Solidarity have also requested a visit to Jordan.
- ▶ **The Special Procedures communications database can be searched [here](#).** Four communications were issued in 2023.

## RESOURCES



Other [resources to report to the treaty bodies](#) or around the human rights treaties are [available](#) and under development.



## Acknowledgment

This background paper is the first of a series of “norms and standards papers” developed by the United Nations in Jordan under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator’s Office to highlight Jordan’s obligations under international treaties or other commitments made, and to inform ongoing national initiatives and reform processes. The series also aims to familiarize a wider audience with international norms and standards and the work of the United Nations in Jordan.

