

Make no mistake | The dos and don'ts of treaty body strengthening

06.09.2017

ISHR has released a new report presenting key tactics relating to the ongoing process of UN treaty body strengthening. Drawing lessons from previous processes and identifying some of the key challenges and opportunities currently facing the expert bodies, the report proposes seven building blocks to strengthen the core international human rights bodies effectively.



The [new report](#) reflects the findings of a consultation organised by ISHR in May 2017, which focused on the political strategy of treaty body strengthening. The event gathered over 60 high level experts from governments, treaty bodies, civil society, National Human Rights Institutions, OHCHR and academics.

'The meeting was a great opportunity to exchange ideas, establish new contacts, clarify misunderstandings, strengthen collaboration,' said expert member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Patricia Schulz.

'I must congratulate you and your colleagues for what I believe is a very solid report that will be of great use for the preparations to the review of UNGA Resolution 68/268 in 2020. The report covers all key issues,' added Paulo David from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Drawing on the substance of the expert meeting, [the report](#) identifies seven building blocks for a successful treaty body strengthening process:

1	Be collaborative, involve all relevant stakeholders in the process and foster consensus and a strong sense of ownership.
2	The perspectives and needs of rights holders and victims of human rights violations should be paramount.
3	Avoid least common denominators and be ambitious and open to change.
4	Identify a consensual and talented leader or leaders able to leverage support from a critical mass of relevant decision makers.
5	Identify good practices within Treaty Bodies and support adaptation and implementation across all of them.
6	If and when possible, avoid over-politicization of the strengthening process.
7	Be prepared and have a strategy to counter proposals aimed at curtailing the independence and effectiveness of Treaty Bodies.

'Treaty body strengthening processes have often been fragmented, as different actors such as governments and civil society get very few opportunities to reflect together and elaborate joint strategies on such critical human rights reforms,' said ISHR Director of treaty body advocacy Vincent Ploton. 'We were delighted to be able to bring together such a diversity of experts to the event, and identify key strategies to improve the work of treaty bodies,' he concluded.

Access the report [here](#).