



CCIG

INTERNATIONAL  
CATHOLIC  
CENTER  
OF GENEVA

# REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2021

[www.ccig-iccg.org](http://www.ccig-iccg.org)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CINGO</b>	Catholic-inspired Non-governmental Organization
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NMRF</b>	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow Up
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review

« Open to the world,  
at the very heart  
of International  
Institutions »

## **Creative Thinking Towards Realization of Our Shared Commitments**

### EDITORIAL

DEAR MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS OF CCIG,

On behalf of the Board, I am happy to present you the annual report 2021 of the International Catholic Center of Geneva (CCIG). While the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic were felt strongly, it also provided us with new opportunities, in particular to rethink creatively on how to implement our strategic plan, conduct our activities, respond to the needs of the members and, at the same time, be in compliance with health measures.

Learning from the experience of 2020, and with the excellent work of the CCIG Secretariat, we were able to deliver the activities we had planned, namely the service to the NGOs, training, and exchange and awareness raising.

The key highlight of the CCIG activities in 2021 was the 'Papua New Guinea: Human rights enhancement through the Universal Periodic Review' project. Together with our three members: Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Edmund Rice International (ERI) and Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI), CCIG succeeded in reinforcing the capacities of human rights defenders in the Papua New Guinea (PNG) to advocate for the respect and protection of the rights of women, children, and people with disabilities as well as environmental justice by using the UPR mechanism. Several of the recommendations proposed by CCIG and its partners were adopted. Among other project activities, human rights awareness raising through a radio campaign program was realized. The radio remains one of the main sources of information and an effective tool for human rights sensitization in Papua New Guinea.

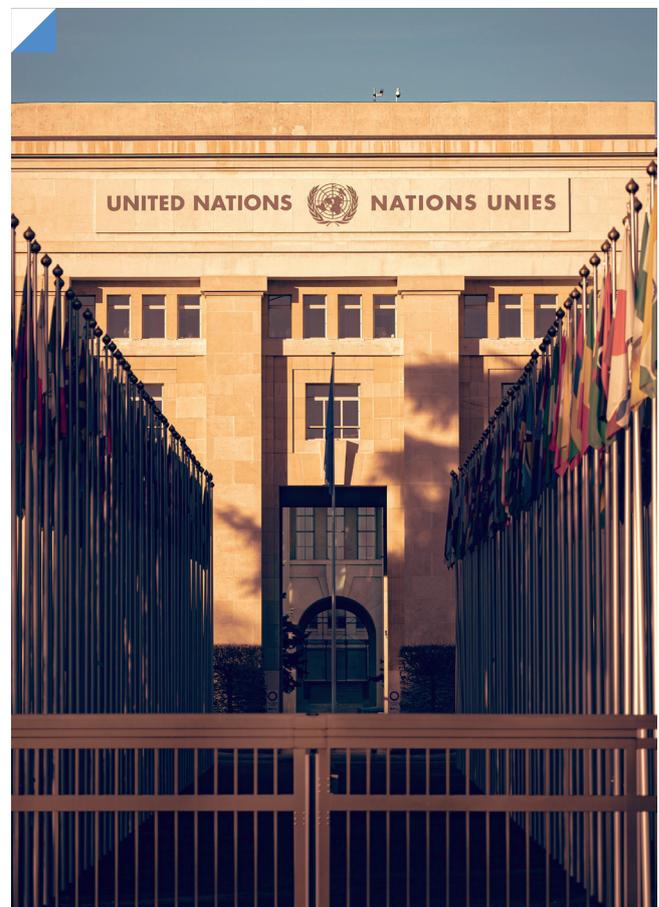
CCIG also continued to coordinate the UPR Platform. It was conducted through online activities instead of face-to-face meetings. In fact, the online platform allowed CCIG partners outside Geneva to participate in the discussion and provided the grassroots partners with the opportunity to share first-hand information on their

human rights situation, which then boosted partnership in preparing joint UPR Submissions and statements.

Therefore, I invite you all to read this annual report for a comprehensive presentation of all activities conducted throughout 2021. I would like to thank in particular the CCIG Secretary General, Maria D'Onofrio who has worked tirelessly to implement CCIG Strategic Plan. A special thank is also for Silvia Palomba and Marie Salphati who helped us during the maternity leave and with the implementation of the PNG Project.

Sincerely,

**Budi Tjahjono**  
President of CCIG Board



## SERVICE TO NGOS

### UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) PLATFORM

The Covid-19 pandemic had a great impact on human rights related projects. Throughout the entire implementation of our UPR Platform, the health situation related to Covid constantly presented us with new challenges, forcing us to question our usual way of working. It also required CCIG to be very flexible and to invest considerable energy in rethinking our activities on a daily basis as the health situation changed.

However, CCIG has used its creativity, skills and resources, especially human, to find satisfactory adapted solutions. For example, plenary meetings of the Platform have been held online and further efforts were made to prioritize capacity building events that could effectively take place online and therefore promptly respond to the concrete needs of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Despite the difficulties encountered, the CCIG remained engaged to continue its work through its UPR Platform aimed at supporting Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), with the ultimate goal of generating more effective States' action to prevent and address human rights violations. All the main activities of the Platform were successfully implemented and the expected outcomes achieved.

The CCIG and its partners received confirmation of the usefulness of the UPR Platform from the feedback of the participants in the activities, including some grassroots actors who had never had the opportunity to interact with the Universal Periodic Review even though they have crucial information on the local human rights situation. The Platform has thus given a voice to these grassroots actors and brought them into contact with each other establishing a local civil society network, as well as linking with other international stakeholders.

As a result, 2021 has been a fruitful year for the CCIG UPR Platform, which not only maintained its work to support and enhance coordination among its members<sup>1</sup> but also extended its range of sensitization and capacity building activities.

Finally, the UPR Platform offered a space for NGOs committed to human rights to share and coordinate their activities to boost their regular UPR work for better monitoring and implementation of fundamental human rights obligations at the local level.

During 2021, **four plenary meetings** of the Platform took place to facilitate the joint work of NGOs between the 39<sup>th</sup> and the 41<sup>st</sup> sessions of the UPR. Due to the conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR cycle, only 2 out of the 3 usual deadlines for UPR submissions were opened by the United Nations in 2021, i.e. in March for countries reviewed at the 39<sup>th</sup> UPR session and in July for countries reviewed at the 40<sup>th</sup> UPR session).<sup>2</sup>

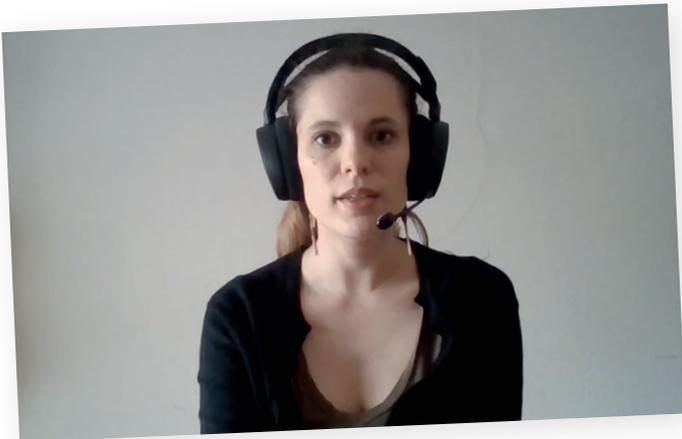
**Nine joint written reports** were submitted to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) by members of the CCIG Platform and **eight oral statements** were delivered under item 6 of the HRC. When compared to the number of countries addressed by the UPR Platform in 2020 (6 joint written reports and 8 oral statements), these reports and statements show a significant and steady contribution resulting from the work of the Platform. This is even more relevant if one takes into account that only 2 out of 3 deadlines for UPR submissions were organized by the United Nations for this year. With the support of CCIG, NGOs also developed common strategies to collect



1. An updated list of CCIG Platform's members is available at: <https://ccig-iccg.org/service-aux-ong/>  
 2. Please consult "UPR 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle deadlines for States and Stakeholders" at: [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/3rdCycle\\_deadlines.doc](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/3rdCycle_deadlines.doc)

information from their own members in the field, draft joint UPR submissions, and carry out joint lobbying activities with States Representatives in order to prioritize the members' concerns during the review.

In addition to the oral statements presented by the Platform members, the CCIG, on behalf of a NGO coalition consisting of Edmund Rice International (ERI), International Movement of Apostolate in the Independent Social Milieus (MIAMSI), International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Development, Education (VIDES) and Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA), delivered an **oral statement** under Item 6 (General Debate) of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, to address the **follow-up and implementation by Bolivia of UPR recommendations on violence against women, children and adolescents, the protection of human rights defenders and the prevention of human trafficking and smuggling.**<sup>3</sup>



Despite the acceptance by the Plurinational State of Bolivia of several recommendations at the last UPR in 2019 and the existence of norms such as the Political Constitution of the State and specific laws, the NGO coalition expressed concerns that sexual violence against women continues to be a serious issue in Bolivia, with 113 feminicides registered in 2020 and 24 feminicides up to March 2021. The four bodies of women found in the Chapare with signs of physical violence and indications of possible sexual aggression caused consternation. These events are allegedly linked to drug trafficking. Children and adolescents have also raised their voices to warn about trafficking and smuggling.

*«We demand that the government adopt effective measures to guarantee human rights defenders the protection of their lives and the exercise of their right to freedom of expression. We also ask the government to investigate with transparency the cases of violence against women, children and adolescents and to adopt measures to bring the perpetrators to justice.»*

*CCIG Joint oral statement,  
46<sup>th</sup> HRC session - Item 6 General Debate*

Regarding the situation of human rights defenders, to date, the Government of Bolivia has not adopted effective measures to protect their rights and physical integrity, making them vulnerable to legal and police persecution. Likewise, in the peripheral and rural communities where the government has a minimal presence, there are leaders threatened by criminal groups involved in illegal activities such as logging, mining, drug trafficking, among others.

Therefore this NGO statement demanded that the government adopt effective measures to guarantee human rights defenders the protection of their lives and the exercise of their right to freedom of expression. It also called on the government to investigate with transparency the cases of violence against women, children and adolescents and to adopt measures to bring the perpetrators to justice.

During the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, an additional **oral statement** was delivered by the CCIG, on behalf of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Confédération internationale Société de Saint Vincent de Paul, Edmund Rice International, Fédération internationale de l'Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture, Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Volunteerism Organization for Women,

3. The full text of the oral statement is available in English (<https://ccig-iccig.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CCIG-oral-statement-during-GD-under-item-6-final.pdf>) and Spanish (<https://ccig-iccig.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CCIG-Declaracion-orale-Punto-6-HRC46.pdf>).

Education, Development, Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice, Mouvement International d'Apostolat des Milieux Sociaux Indépendants, and VIVAT International.

This NGO coalition highlighted how, **moving forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> UPR cycle, the main challenge is to ensure the monitoring and implementation of recommendations at the local level.** Widespread dissemination of recommendations locally is still lacking and the involvement of the media is too limited. Further efforts are needed to enhance the role of communication experts in raising awareness of the UPR and the human rights issues that it raises. Moreover, the language in which the recommendations are framed is not always



accessible for non-experts in human rights. As a result, the UPR risks being a prerogative of a few advocacy professionals within the Government and the Civil Society.

To boost better implementation, there is a need to empower not only advocacy professionals, but all those who deal directly with human rights challenges providing related services, like education and victims assistance. Accordingly, the NGO coalition led by CCIG, recommended to implement targeted capacity building initiatives to widen the pool of actors reached and ensure that human rights monitoring is a prerogative of civil society as a whole. Finally, it was highlighted that much remains to be done to make the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow Up (NMRFs) an effective practice. The NGO coalition called upon Member States to set up these mechanisms in order to enhance implementation efforts of government institutions in consultation with Civil Society.<sup>4</sup>

Furthermore, in order to maximize existing partnerships and joint efforts, the CCIG UPR Platform has continued to find new forms of collaboration with the

*« To boost better implementation, there is a need to empower not only advocacy professionals, but all those who deal directly with human rights challenges providing related services, like education and victims assistance. »*

*CCIG Joint oral statement,  
48<sup>th</sup> HRC session - Item 6 General Debate*

United Nations OHCHR (in particular the local office in PNG) as well as with other NGO partners especially UPR Info.<sup>5</sup>

A database on the **CCIG website**, providing links to all Joint UPR Submissions by members, as well as Oral Statements has been regularly updated throughout 2021 in order to ensure that the database remains an effective tool for information exchange.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, a specific webpage on the UPR project run in Papua New Guinea by the CCIG was created on the CCIG website with the objective to support CCIG members while developing and strengthening their own advocacy activities.

The training materials and other advocacy and monitoring tools developed by CCIG through the PNG project were disseminated through the creation of a restricted area in CCIG website.

The creation of both the new webpage and restricted area represent a great added value to ensure the dissemination of the training and other relevant documentation among other NGOs, thus multiplying the impact of CCIG capacity building efforts. In fact, CCIG field projects web pages can be used as a tool for training and awareness-raising of local members as they also gather video testimonies of local human rights defenders and/or local NGO representatives who benefited from different CCIG initiatives in their countries.

This affirms how the CCIG UPR Platform has become a stimulating space for NGOs to conceive and implement new initiatives, to enhance know-how and spread best practices among its members all over the world.

4. The full text of the oral statement is available at: <https://ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CCIG-joint-statement-48HRC-Item-6-GD-final.pdf>

5. <https://www.upr-info.org/en>

6. <https://ccig-iccg.org/service-aux-ong/>

## TRAINING

CCIG continued its efforts to carry out several training activities for local human rights defenders and international NGO representatives. In accordance with its 2018 – 2022 Strategy and Action Plan, CCIG intends to foster quality contributions by NGOs in the UN system through a complete and successful exercise of their consultative status. Accordingly, CCIG offers training courses and theoretical-practical seminars for NGO members as well as other attendees interested in receiving specified training on United Nations mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, such as the Treaty Bodies and the UPR.

The COVID-19 restrictions have prevented the realization of in-person training sessions in Geneva in 2021. However, greater efforts were made by the CCIG to prioritize capacity building events that could effectively take place online and therefore respond to the concrete needs of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

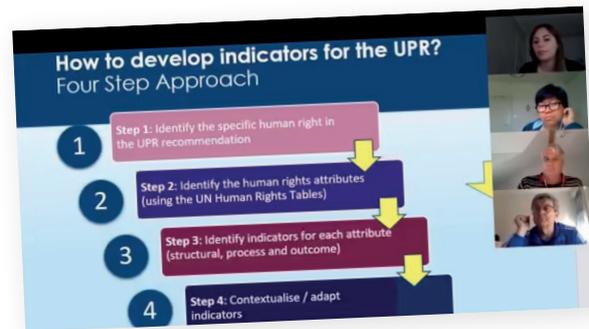
In accordance with its strategic priority of training and awareness raising, the CCIG secretariat offered continuous assistance to NGO activities to train their members in the field.

### WEBINAR ON CONTEXTUALIZING INDICATORS FOR MONITORING UPR RECOMMENDATIONS

In April, the CCIG in partnership with UPR Info facilitated a webinar on contextualizing Human Rights Indicators to specific country situations for Monitoring

*« I really appreciated the training provided on topics I had not had time to develop on my own. It is also very useful to have the CCIG to voice the concerns of its members as one for more impact. »*

Federation of ACATs (FIACAT)  
CCIG Member



UPR Recommendations. Seven NGO representatives attended the training. The speaker, Ms. Nicoletta Zappile of UPR Info began by framing the session in relation to the previous training session, which focused on Identifying Human Rights Indicators as a tool to measure the commitment and the efforts undertaken by a State in relation to the UPR Recommendations.

In fact, these indicators are very critical to assess State's compliance, accountability and transparency. An effective monitoring by Civil society actors also contribute to boost awareness-raising on human rights issues at the local level.

Nicoletta presented a Four-Step Approach in developing indicators: (1) identify the specific human right referenced in the UPR Recommendation, (2) identify the human rights attributes through the use of the UN Human Rights Table, (3) identify indicators for each attribute whether they are structural, process or outcome, and, (4) contextualize the indicators to the specific situation of the country concerned.

At the end of the session, she gave the participants an exercise to practice on. A follow-up session was held on April 30 where the participants presented their output. This training was part of 2021 capacity building activities promoted by CCIG to empower Civil Society organizations to effectively engage with the UPR mechanism and contribute to the realization of human rights on the ground.<sup>7</sup>

### ONLINE TRAINING SESSIONS FOR FMSI MEMBERS OF SPAIN AND ITALY

In the framework of CCIG collaboration with the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI), five online training sessions were delivered to local Marist representatives from Spain and Italy and the staff of FMSI, between November and December 2021,

7. <https://ccig-iccg.org/ccig-and-upr-info-conduct-webinar-on-contextualizing-indicators-for-monitoring-upr-recommendations/>



focusing on the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty bodies. A specific module on technical counselling for NGO engagement was also offered to a restricted number of participants. Each theoretical presentation was interspersed with reading and individual study of materials provided by the CCIG to further explore the content. The online viewing of a session of the UPR allowed the participants to familiarize themselves with this particular mechanism, providing the basis for an interesting debate between the participants and the trainer. Feedback provided by the participants on several aspects including CCIG trainer and training materials was quite positive, with all scores given being between 8-9, out of 10 as maximum score.



Children's  
and women's  
rights in Bolivia

## CCIG FOLLOW UP PROJECT IN BOLIVIA

In December 2021, the CCIG together with the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) initiated the Follow up Project «**Children's and women's rights in Bolivia: Follow up on the UN bodies recommendations**», whose goal is to support local actors in their efforts towards a better monitoring and implementation of children's and women's rights in Bolivia.

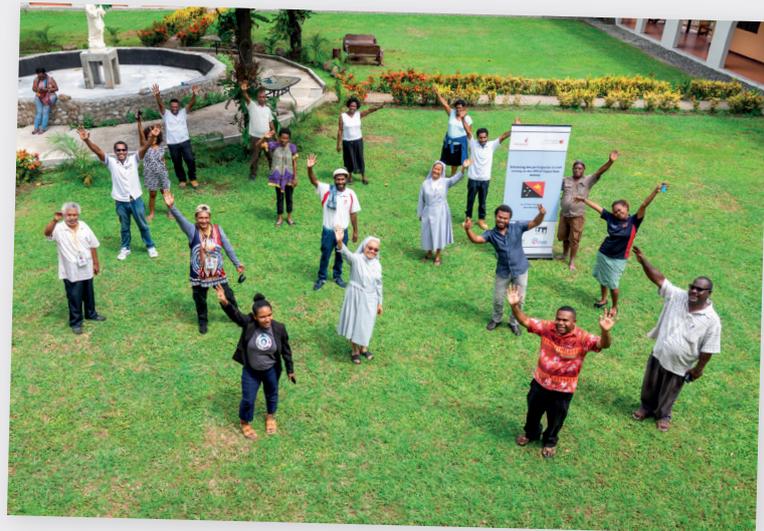
Also supported by Edmund Rice International (ERI), this project aims at reinforcing monitoring and implementation of UPR recommendations addressed in 2019 to Bolivia with regard to the right to participation of children and youth, child labor and violence against women and girls.

This year, several exchanges took place with project partners to advance with preparations of project activities and in particular the online trainings on monitoring and follow up to be delivered by CCIG in February 2022.

## PNG PROJECT: 'PAPUA NEW GUINEA: HUMAN RIGHTS ENHANCEMENT THROUGH THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW'

With the support of the City of Geneva and Misesan Cara, this year-long project was developed by the CCIG, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Edmund Rice International (ERI) and Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI) as well as **a sixteen-civil-society-member coalition situated in Papua New Guinea**. Commenced in December 2020, the project 'Papua New Guinea: Human rights enhancement through the Universal Periodic Review' reinforced women's and children's rights, environmental justice and the rights of persons with disabilities in PNG through an effective engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms, with a particular focus on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The overall goal of this Project has been to reinforce the implementation of human rights in Papua New Guinea



(PNG) especially by following the implementation of UPR recommendations accepted by PNG in 2016.

Accordingly, the Project strengthened the capacities of local human rights defenders to advocate for the respect

« It is good that we are here so we can learn about the UPR process and how to draft submissions and recommendations. Understanding the process is important for us who are addressing human rights violations in the country. Everything we learned here will help us with our work, especially in advocacy and lobbying and getting the government to address human rights violations in PNG. »

Lucielle Paru,  
Papua Native Landowners Association Inc.  
Member of the PNG local coalition and participant in the  
in-country consultation

and protection of women's rights, children's rights, rights of people with disabilities and environmental justice. As a result, it created a more conducive environment and fostered skills to further support existing local civil society programs monitoring the implementation of the government's obligations and commitments regarding those human rights. The project also contributed to the strengthening of the human rights defenders' network in PNG and gave visibility to local human rights challenges to improve compliance with PNG's human rights obligations and develop more effective strategies.

The project consisted of five activities, four of which were accomplished prior to the 39<sup>th</sup> UPR session reviewing Papua New Guinea.

The first consisted in the creation of a **local Steering Committee** to establish cooperation with in-country like-minded civil society organizations focusing on main human rights issues in PNG.

Afterwards, in February 2021, an **in-country consultation** (Activity 2) gathering 16 local society organizations was conducted in Port Moresby (PNG)



to introduce and train them on the functioning of the Universal Periodic Review and on opportunities for civil society to efficiently interact with it. By the end of this three-day workshop, the participants enhanced their knowledge of this UN mechanism, learned how to maximize the impact of their actions as human rights defenders, acquired a methodology for drafting UPR submissions and policy recommendations and strengthened their capacity to better advocate for human rights issues and support the government in implementing UPR recommendations. As a result, the local NGO coalition was able to finalize a joint UPR submission.<sup>8</sup> A video of the event with interviews from the participants was elaborated and disseminated through CCIG's Project dedicated webpage.<sup>9</sup>

The third activity featured **advocacy activities in PNG**, bilateral exchanges and meetings with Embassies and other diplomatic missions based in or competent for Papua New Guinea. In support of this activity, an executive and updated summary of the joint submission was elaborated and disseminated to the diplomatic missions.<sup>10</sup>



8. <https://ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CCIG-Joint-UPR-submission-for-PNG-2021-final.pdf>

9. <https://ccig-iccg.org/papua-new-guinea/>

10. <https://ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Advocacy-tool-light.pdf>



## SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA: ADDRESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF UPR RECOMMENDATIONS

A VIRTUAL EVENT FOLLOWING  
**THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL  
PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021   
  9 am - 10:30 am (Geneva time)  
 6 pm - 7:30 pm (PNG time)   
  Via Zoom | Registration at:  
[bit.ly/2YNsdCC](https://bit.ly/2YNsdCC)



**PANELISTS**

**MS. MOU BEGURA,**  
Acting Director,  
International Organisations  
Branch, Department of  
Foreign Affairs and  
International Trade, PNG

**DR. SILVIU JORA,**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
EU Delegation in PNG

**MS. PRISCILLA KARE,**  
Administrator,  
Callan Services for People  
with Disabilities National  
Unit, PNG

**REV. ROGER JOSEPH,**  
General Secretary,  
PNG Council of Churches

**MS. JOSEPHINE MANN,**  
Human Rights Officer,  
Office of the High  
Commissioner for Human  
Rights (OHCHR)

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**Moderator**  
Ms. Maria D'ONOFRIO,  
Secretary General, CCIG.

Interpretation in English  
and French will  
be provided.



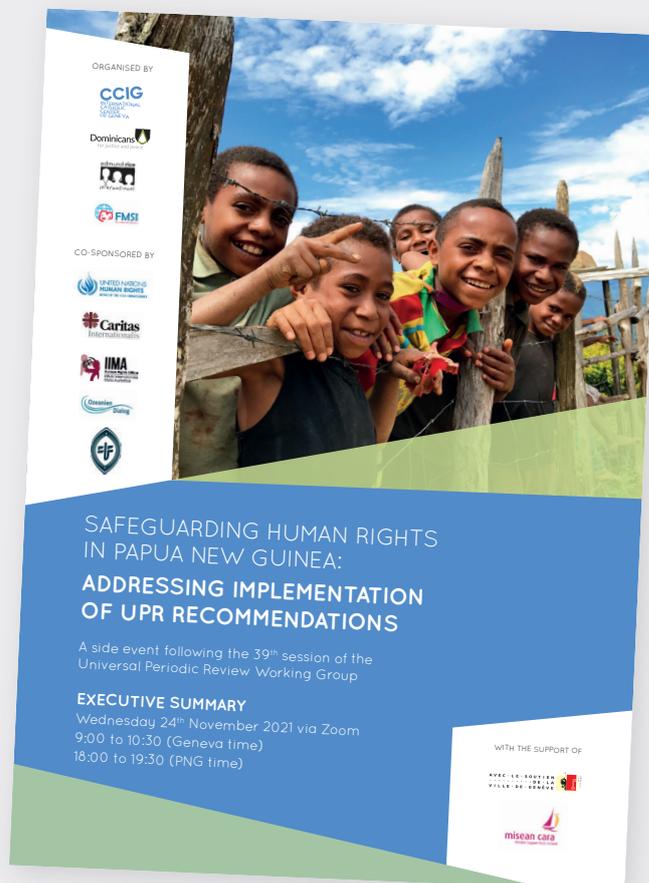


The fourth activity took place in October 2021 and consisted in **advocacy activities towards Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva**.<sup>11</sup> Three representatives from the NGO coalition were able to take part in the UPR pre-session organized in virtual format by UPR Info in order to present the issues detailed in the joint UPR submission to 25 Permanent Missions.<sup>12</sup> A small gathering was held in Port Moresby on the margin of the pre-session to ensure, with UPR Info's collaboration



and contribution, that other participants from the consultation could follow the pre-session. Despite the sanitary crisis preventing bilateral meetings from taking place in person, great efforts were also undertaken by project international partners to reach out to interested Permanent Missions. The concerns and recommendations of the local coalition were shared with States' representatives by the Dominicans for Justice and Peace during the UPR pre-session organized by the delegation of the European Union in Geneva on 12<sup>th</sup> October and which was attended by 18 EU Members States. To complement this advocacy, the joint submission and the advocacy tool were also shared by the international partners of the project via email with 50 Permanent Missions in Geneva.

The fifth activity was the side event **'Safeguarding Human Rights in PNG: Addressing Implementation of UPR recommendations'** held on 24 November 2021. Originally set to take place physically in Geneva at the Palais des Nations, UNOG's restrictions related to access to the Palais des Nations and the organizations of side-event and the deterioration of the sanitary situation in



PNG prevented it from happening in this format. Thus, it was decided to organize a hybrid event with some of the panelists gathered in a room in PNG (for technical support) and the side event streamed live via Zoom. The hybrid format also allowed other representatives from the national coalition of NGOs to physically attend the side-event in PNG. Co-organized by CCIG, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, ERI and FMSI, the event took place following the review of Papua New Guinea at the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR and was co-sponsored by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Caritas Internationalis, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice, Ozeanien Dialog and the Catholic Bishops Conference in PNG.

Moderated by Ms. Maria D'Onofrio, the Secretary General of the International Catholic Centre of Geneva, the panel featured experts with a variety of experience and knowledge on both the human rights situation in Papua New Guinea and the Universal Periodic Review, namely: Miss Mou Begura, Acting Director of the International Organisations Branch at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) of Papua New Guinea; Ms Priscilla Kare, representative of Callan Services for People with Disabilities National Unit; Reverend Roger Joseph, General Secretary of PNG Council of Churches; Dr. Silviu Jora, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the European Union delegation in PNG; and Miss Josephine Mann, Human

11. <https://ccig-iccg.org/upr-pre-session-of-papua-new-guinea-local-csos-advocate-for-the-rights-of-children-women-persons-with-disabilities-and-the-protection-of-the-environment/>

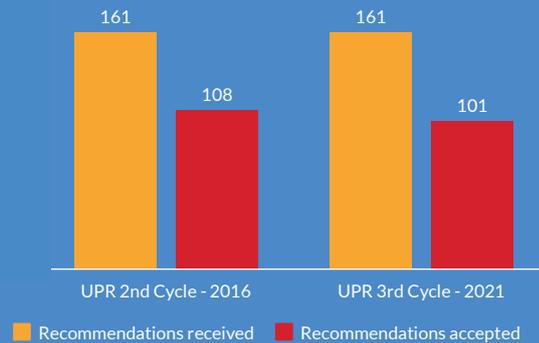
12. The video statements of the three representatives for the pre-session are available on CCIG's webpage dedicated to the project.

## The Universal Periodic Review

Papua New Guinea was reviewed by UPR Working Group 39, in November of 2021. It received 161 recommendations and it supported 101 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 49, in March 2022.

Supported recommendations related to: legal and general framework of implementation, international humanitarian law, universal and cross-cutting issues, civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, women's rights, children's rights, and other specific groups and persons.

## Trends in supported recommendations



## Top 5 Sustainable Development Goals\*



Rights Officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in PNG.

The purpose of the event was to build on the previous lobbying activities carried out during the Project by providing first-hand information on and highlighting human rights issues present in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea particularly in relation to children, women, and persons with disabilities as well as environmental protection. It also provided the opportunity to discuss and identify specific areas of collaboration between the State, the international community and local civil society organizations for the implementation of the UPR recommendations received during the review. The executive summary<sup>13</sup> and the recording<sup>14</sup> of the Side Event are available on the CCIG website.

In order to compensate the savings made on the budget due to the cancellation of the travel of the representatives from the local coalition to Geneva, two new project sub-activities were undertaken. Since local partners had expressed their need for **capacity building in relation to the follow-up of recommendations**, a video training was recorded by CCIG to present the role of civil society with regard to three main levels of actions: awareness-raising, cooperation and monitoring. As part of the monitoring, a matrix template to track implementation of UPR

recommendations and the related indicators to be used were provided. The aim of this follow-up training was to continue strengthening the link and synergy between the organizations and defenders involved in the project and provide them with adequate tools to pursue their work upon project completion.

Furthermore, a **radio sensitization on human rights in PNG** was developed. Broadcasts were organized through national radio in PNG to address the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities as well as environmental protection, through testimonies and interviews of representatives of the local NGO coalition.

As an overall result of this project, well-prepared and motivated local civil society actors were able to achieve **7 very focused and concrete UPR recommendations on targeted vulnerable groups. Globally, 43 recommendations on women's rights, 33 on children's rights, 8 on the rights of persons with disabilities and 9 on environmental issues, including explicit references to business activities and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights, were made during the UPR session.** The PNG government committed to implement most of these recommendations, providing local actors with a powerful tool for monitoring and following up on the actions to be undertaken by the Government toward a better implementation of human rights in the country.

13. <https://ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Rapport-side-event-PNG-Final-LR.pdf>

14. [https://ccig-iccg.org/Downloads/Video\\_CCIG\\_Event\\_PNG.avi](https://ccig-iccg.org/Downloads/Video_CCIG_Event_PNG.avi)

## EXCHANGES AND AWARENESS-RAISING

COVID 19 REVOLUTIONIZED THE WAY WE LIVE AND WORK, FORCING US TO FIND NEW WAYS OF OPERATING. CCIG HAS ALSO HAD TO COME TO TERMS WITH THIS REALITY AND MAKE THE BEST OF IT.



With the cancellation of all in-person events and travel to Geneva by human rights defenders from the ground, CCIG has concretized its commitment to human rights sensitization through the organization of webinars and online events, most notably the high-profile event on Papua New Guinea.

In addition, the CCIG has also implemented a sensitization initiative in PNG through the national radio station. The choice to use radio programs as a raising-awareness tool was based on the fact that the radio remains a very effective means to reach a wider audience in countries like PNG where a large part of the

population does not have easy access to the internet. For each recording, a participant from the local NGO coalition was invited to share his or her expertise with the topic at hand. This way, human rights concerns were brought to the attention of the larger public, hopefully boosting more debate at the national level.

Finally, the further development of CCIG website with the creation of a restricted area for local defenders, activists and/or NGO representatives also contributed to a wider sensitization on existing human rights challenges and the tools provided by the United Nations to address them.

## ADMINISTRATION

### STRUCTURING AND IMPLEMENTING CCIG ACTIVITIES

In 2021, the Board held six meetings in order to ensure coherence and adequate realization of all activities as well as the development of fundraising efforts.

As a result of the measures taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the General Assembly of the CCIG was held through an online meeting.

As result of the tax exoneration granted in 2020, this year the CCIG has submitted its Tax Declaration in conformity with the decision of the Geneva cantonal authorities.

Finally, as with every year, several meetings were held between the Secretariat and members wishing to receive assistance in the development of their activities. The work of the Secretariat was supported by Silvia Palomba as a Consultant for Management and Fund-raising in the first semester 2021 and by Marie Salphati as Projects Officer for the whole year. A special thanks to Maria Lilian S. Espedilla, ODN for her precious support throughout the year.

### FINANCIAL STRATEGY

In 2021, CCIG continued its efforts to shape and secure the future of the organization vis-à-vis its traditional donors as well as with the more recent donors.



### MEMBERS OF CCIG BOARD (UPDATED ON DECEMBER 31, 2020)

- Budi Tjahjono – President
- Diana Duarte Rizzolio – Vice-President
- Felix Wertli – Treasurer
- Brian Bond – Secretary
- Larry Kohler – Member
- Sophie de Rivaz – Member
- Angel Diego Garcia Otaola – Member



In addition to the continued and appreciated support of Action de Carême (Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund), CCIG has received a contribution from the City of Carouge and the City of Meyrin, in 2021.

The Project for human rights defenders in Papua New Guinea (PNG) was carried out thanks to the financial support of the City of Geneva and Miseen Cara.

Finally, the approval by Miseen Cara of the Follow up Project for children's and women's rights in Bolivia, has been an important outcome of the CCIG fundraising efforts.



### KEY POINTS RELATED TO FUNDRAISING

- The Follow up Project for Children's and women's rights in Bolivia was approved by Miseen Cara.
- As a result of additional funding efforts undertaken in 2021, the City of Carouge and the City of Meyrin have granted financial support to the CCIG UPR Platform.
- We also thank all those who made donations to CCIG in 2021.



# CCIG

INTERNATIONAL  
CATHOLIC  
CENTER  
OF GENEVA

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2021

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