THE ROLE OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE IN IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL TREATIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS
There are **9 core international human rights treaties**.

Ten treaty bodies were launched to supervising the implementation of these treaties.

- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** (adopted in 1966, ratified in 1973)
  - Human Rights Committee
  - [https://cutt.ly/hymO0Mv7](https://cutt.ly/hymO0Mv7)

- **Second Optional Protocol concerning the abolishment of the death penalty** (1989)
  - [https://cutt.ly/1ymO0L8](https://cutt.ly/1ymO0L8)

- **First Optional Protocol (concerning the individual complaint process)** (1966)
  - [https://cutt.ly/GymO0cc](https://cutt.ly/GymO0cc)

  - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
  - [https://cutt.ly/vymO2uw](https://cutt.ly/vymO2uw)

- **Optional Protocol (concerning the individual complaint process)** (2008)
  - [https://cutt.ly/oymO27E](https://cutt.ly/oymO27E)
Human rights treaties addressing specific phenomena

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
(adopted in 1965, signed by Ukraine in 1966, ratified in 1969)
https://cutt.ly/OymO9E4

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
(adopted in 1984, signed by Ukraine in 1986, ratified in 1987)
https://cutt.ly/bymO4yk

Committee against Torture

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
https://cutt.ly/KymO3yo

Committee on Enforced Disappearances

Optional Protocol to CAT
(establishing of a Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) (ratified in 2006)
https://cutt.ly/zymO31Q

Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
Human rights treaties protecting certain groups

**Committee on the Rights of the Child**
  - [Link](https://cutt.ly/SymO7XM)
- **Optional Protocol establishing a complaints procedure** (signed by Ukraine in 2014, ratified in 2016)
  - [Link](https://cutt.ly/rymO5MH)

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**
- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** (adopted in 1979, ratified by Ukraine in 1989)
  - [Link](https://cutt.ly/4ymO4In)
  - [Link](https://cutt.ly/WymO7qk)

**Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**
- **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families** (adopted in 1990)
  - [Link](https://cutt.ly/SymPqrN)

**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (adopted in 2006, ratified by Ukraine in 2009)
  - [Link](https://cutt.ly/jymPet2)
  - [Link](https://cutt.ly/WymO7qk)

Ukraine has signed, but did not ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

- [Link](https://cutt.ly/hymO5yR)

- [Link](https://cutt.ly/NymO6x0)
Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – is a new mechanism of the Human Rights Council. It is a review process of the human rights record of all 193 UN Member States once every five years. UPR enables each State to declare what actions have been taken to improve the human rights situation in the country and to fulfil its human rights obligations. Thanks to UPR, countries from all over the world share their best practices in the field of human rights. Currently there exist no other similar universal mechanisms. [https://cutt.ly/7ymProX](https://cutt.ly/7ymProX)

As a result of the review, the country is provided with recommendations on actions required for the promotion of human rights.

In 2017, **190 recommendations** were provided to Ukraine. [https://cutt.ly/symPrMR](https://cutt.ly/symPrMR)
With effect from the date of entry of an international treaty into force, the states are committed to adopt domestic laws and to take relevant measures to ensure proper promotion of human rights.

Also, the states are required to report periodically to the treaty bodies (UN Committees) on the steps they have taken.

Currently there is a trend for a simplified reporting procedure, whereby the State’s answers to the Committee’s questions constitutes its report under the specific treaty. Thus, simplification involves combining steps 1 and 2.

Special Procedures is a separate mechanism of the Human Rights Council.

This can be either an individual (called "Special Rapporteur" or "Independent Expert") or a working group of five members. Special Rapporteurs usually do country visits; work on individual cases of alleged violations and concerns of a broader, structural nature by sending communications to States; conduct thematic studies and arrange expert consultations.
International supervision over the fulfilment of human rights obligations

Full reporting procedure

1. The State party prepares and submits its report

2. The committee presents list of issues to the State party

3. State party submits written replies to the list of issues

4. Opportunity for input from Civil Society, National HR institutions and UN system

5. Constructive dialogue between the committee and the delegation of the member-state during session of the committee

6. Opportunity for input from the civil society, national human rights institutions and the UN system

Procedure to follow up on implementation of the committee’s recommendations

Reporting cycle under the international human rights treaties

The committee issues its concluding observations on the report, including recommendations

The committee presents list of issues to the State party

Opportunity for input from the civil society, national human rights institutions and the UN system

State party submits written replies to the list of issues

Opportunity for input from Civil Society, National HR institutions and UN system

FOLLOW-UP

LIST OF ISSUES

REPORT

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

DIALOGUE

WRITTEN REPLIES

5 years
Has already reported on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and received more than 50 recommendations from the UN Committee. 
https://cutt.ly/AymPtKR

Must submit the national report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a report with answers to questions regarding the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Received 25 questions on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. https://cutt.ly/lymPymb

Must defend before the UN Committees the reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights prepares, from time to time, the Compilation of recommendations of the United Nations human rights mechanisms addressed to Ukraine. As of December 2019, more than 400 recommendations are provided to Ukraine. 
https://cutt.ly/qymPuEK
This year Ukraine

17.02–06.03
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
67th Session
Consideration of the State’s report with answers to questions

By 04.03
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Submission of the national report

By 01.06
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
CSOs and NHRI provide information

13.07–24.07
CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE
70th Session
The State’s report with answers to the list of issues

February

02.03–06.03
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
77th Pre-Session Working Group
Consideration of the list of issues for Ukraine

By 06.04
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Submission of the national report by the State

01.06–05.06
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
86th Pre-Session Working Group
Consideration of the list of questions for Ukraine

March

April

May

June

July

29.06–24.07
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
129th Session
Concluding observations
The Parliament’s role in ensuring the fulfilment of the international human rights obligations

Monitoring of the fulfilment of the commitments

Expert examination of the draft laws for compliance with the human rights standards and international commitments.

Participation in the preparation of national reports to UN Committees, discussion thereof along with alternative reports prepared by the national human rights institution or non-governmental organizations.

Encouraging of the inclusion of Members of the Parliament into national delegations that report to UN Committees and ensuring that the Parliament is kept informed about hearings in UN Committees.

In cooperation with the Government, planning measures to implement the recommendations provided by the UN Committees to improve the human rights situation.


Effectiveness of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights as one of the tools for exercising parliamentary control over the observance of human rights in Ukraine. In addition, all Conventions provide for the possibility of prepare the National Human Rights Institution submissions.

Cooperation with the National Human Rights Institution and Civil Society in the context of implementing the recommendations.
The Parliament’s role in ensuring the fulfilment of the international human rights obligations

Giving the consent to be bound by the international treaty

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine gives its consent to be bound by an international treaty for Ukraine by signing, ratifying it or acceding to it. It is up to the Parliament to decide on whether the State will undertake commitments under the treaty. If necessary, the Verkhovna Rada shall prepare a ratification package of documents to amend the legislation. The conclusion of international treaties that contravene the Constitution of Ukraine is possible only following relevant amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine.

Implementation of the undertaken commitments

The Parliament shall:

- adopt the necessary laws to promote human rights;
- approve the State Budget of Ukraine with the necessary funds allocated for the implementation of the human rights standards;
- implement the recommendations of the UN Committees by adopting relevant laws.
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