

**TRAINING FOR NHRIS
CO-ORGANISED BY GANHRI, FES, OHCHR, and UNITAR**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Rationale

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are independent institutions of the State with a constitutional or legislative mandate to protect and promote human rights in line with the United Nations Paris Principles.

NHRIs have a significant and unique role to play in bridging the gap between international and national human rights mechanisms, to strengthen human rights on the ground. This role is distinct from, yet complementary to, the roles of states and civil society.

NHRIs can provide independent and authoritative information to United Nations (UN) processes. They are important conveners for national consultation processes and can encourage engagement by state and non-state actors with the UN system. As key national stakeholders, NHRIs are also critical in the follow-up to UN recommendations and in monitoring progress in country.

The international community has recognized the roles of NHRIs and has provided such institutions with increasing opportunities to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights at the international level. This includes the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and its processes, and the UN treaty bodies.

Role of GANHRI, FES, OHCHR and UNITAR

As the global association of NHRIs, the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) encourages and supports the active participation of NHRIs in UN human rights mechanisms and facilitates the sharing of information, advice and best practice approaches between NHRIs and other stakeholders.

GANHRI currently has over 100 member institutions worldwide, encompassing around 5000 human rights experts in all regions of the world. 79 NHRIs are presently accredited by GANHRI with A status in full compliance with the UN Paris Principles.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is a German political foundation which promotes the effective engagement of national stakeholders from developing countries with the UN human rights mechanisms. To this end, the FES focuses on capacity building at both regional and national levels. In Geneva, the FES hosts training courses on the strategic use of UN human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR supports the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs and works closely with NHRIs providing assistance to them in the implementation of their mandates to promote and protect human rights. NHRIs feature prominently in OHCHR's strategic priorities.

Currently OHCHR focuses efforts at four major strategic objectives: (1) country engagement, through which OHCHR supports efforts by governments to establish or strengthen NHRIs; (2) monitoring and advice, through which OHCHR assesses compliance with the Paris Principles and strengthens the capacity of NHRIs to work effectively and independently; (3) assisting the interaction between NHRIs and the international human rights system; and (4) strengthening partnerships, especially with UN agencies and programmes on the ground, the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), regional organizations, regional coordinating bodies of NHRIs as well as with other stakeholders.

OHCHR also provides substantive secretariat support and financial assistance to GANHRI, its four regional networks and GANHRI's Sub-Committee on Accreditation.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations. UNITAR's mission is to develop the capacities of individuals, organizations and institutions to enhance global decision making and to support country-level action for shaping a better future. In 2016, UNITAR provided training, learning and knowledge sharing services to 54,840 beneficiaries. The Institute's programming includes a wide range of training and other types of events covering topics in the broad areas of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; multilateralism; environmental sustainability and green development; resilience and humanitarian assistance; sustainable peace; and economic development and social inclusion.

Scope and objective

Building on the positive experience of a pilot seminar in 2014, the 2020 training program will aim at strengthening NHRIs' capacity to effectively engage with United Nations human rights mechanisms at all stages including reporting, participation in meetings and following up in country. The training will support participants in:

- Expanding their knowledge of the functioning of UN human rights mechanisms;
- Identifying concrete opportunities for NHRIs' effective engagement;
- Participating in sessions of UN human rights mechanisms;
- Identifying practical ways of effective engagement with the UN mechanisms, such as report writing and following up;
- Engaging with colleagues from the OHCHR and NGOs as well as with states; and
- Exchanging experiences and best practices with peer NHRIs participating in the training.

The 2020 training will be conducted in English. It is envisaged to develop into a training series, to be offered in other GANHRI languages in the future.

Expected outcomes

The proposed training will have the following outcomes:

- Knowledge by NHRIs of UN human rights mechanisms expanded;
- Understanding of NHRIs of their engagement opportunities and potential impact developed;
- Numbers of NHRIs engaging effectively with UN human rights mechanisms increased;
- Level of follow up to, and monitoring of, UN recommendations in country strengthened;
- Peer networks and exchanges among NHRI staffs developed and sustained; and
- National level cooperation between FES regional offices and NHRIs developed.

Application process and requirements

Successful candidates must be a staff member of a NHRI, with priority for junior and mid-level staff. NHRIs accredited in full and partial compliance with the Paris Principles by GANHRI (A and B status), may apply to the 2020 training. Priority will be given to candidates from a NHRI located in a country with FES presence.

In addition, the successful candidate must

- Have completed the preparatory work for the training course;
- Be a staff member of a NHRI and occupy a function within the NHRI related to international human rights work. Junior and mid-level professionals are encouraged to apply;
- Have good working knowledge in English; and
- Have the ability to interact and maintain effective working relations with individuals of different national and cultural backgrounds.

Each applicant must submit

- A completed application form;
- A completed protocol of engagement;
- A recent *curriculum vitae* (max. 2 pages); and
- A letter of recommendation from the sending NHRI.

In the selection process, balance among participants is sought in terms of gender, geographical regions and human rights issues addressed by their sending NHRI.

Travel and accommodation costs for participants from developing countries will be covered by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Other participants will have to cover those costs themselves. (In addition to the airfare, local costs of about CHF 160-200/day should be calculated for food and accommodation). There will be no additional training fees.