

Half-day consultation on the experiences and practices of national human rights institutions in working to support the establishment and maintenance of inclusive societies and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Thursday, 7 March 2019

Room XVIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Consultation 10:00 – 13:00

Concept Note

Background

The General Assembly and the Human Rights Council (HRC)¹ have acknowledged the unique role played by NHRIs in promoting and protecting human rights, including in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Examples of practical functions that NHRIs can assume to fulfil their role in implementing the 2030 Agenda are also outlined in the Mérida Declaration, which was adopted by the 12th GANHRI International Conference in 2015. This declaration encourages all NHRIs, in line with their mandates under the Paris Principles, to collaborate in mutual capacity building and sharing of experiences to contribute to a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The existence of independent NHRIs compliant with the Paris Principles has been recognized as an indicator of progress by States under Goal 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (indicator 16.a.1).

Mandate

In this context, the HRC, in its resolution 39/17, requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to convene, in close coordination with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), an intersessional half-day consultation open to all States, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders with the objective of exchanging the experiences and practices of NHRIs in working to support the establishment and maintenance of inclusive societies and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Council further requested OHCHR to submit a summary report on the consultation to its 41st session.

Objective

In line with HRC resolution 39/17, the objective will be to exchange the experiences and practices of NHRIs in working to support the establishment and maintenance of inclusive societies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

¹ A/RES/72/181, A/HRC/RES/39/17

In line with the requirements of the resolution and the theme of the upcoming 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*, the consultation will focus on the key role of NHRIs as enabler for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda. A particular emphasis will be given to Goal 16.

This peer exchange will allow participants to discuss:

- NHRIs existing and potential experiences, practices and contributions to the realization of human rights and sustainable development for all;
- The specific role of NHRIs in SDG implementation, monitoring and measurement;
- The unique position of NHRIs at the core of the SDG “web of accountability”;
- Progress made and challenges faced by NHRIs in promoting a human rights-based realisation of the SDGs, and in implementing the Mérida Declaration in particular;
- NHRIs’ role regarding compilation of data, in particular in relation to Goal 16 and related indicators (including indicators 16.1.1, 16.1.2 and 16.10.1); and
- NHRIs’ work with National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to improve the quality of national data collection efforts around issues of inequality, discrimination and exclusion.

Format

The consultation will be divided in four sessions; including two panels for discussion (see Agenda enclosed). Each panel will begin with invited speakers, followed by an interactive dialogue, including with questions and statements from the floor.

The panels will address, amongst others, the following topics:

Panel I:

- What are the experiences, lessons and challenges of NHRIs as they work to progress the SDG and implement the Mérida Declaration?
- How can NHRIs engage in SDG implementation through data gathering? How can NHRIs best cooperate with NSOs?
- How can NHRIs create linkages between international human rights mechanisms recommendations and SDG targets? What is the role of NHRI in measuring use of maximum available resources?
- What is the overall progress achieved under SDG indicator 16.a.1 (Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles)? What are the remaining challenges? What can be done to achieve greater progress, and by whom?

Panel II:

- How can NHRIs contribute to the compilation, dissemination and use of data on human rights and SDG indicators, in particular on:
 - SDG indicator 16.10.1 (Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months);
 - SDG indicator 16.1.2 (Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause) and 16.1.1 (Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age);

- SDG indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 (Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law); and
- Human rights education component of SDG indicator 4.7.1 (Extent to which human rights are mainstreamed, at all levels in national education policies, curricula, teacher education and student assessment)?
- How can NHRIs contribute to the identification of groups left behind and their inclusion in SDG related data collection efforts?

Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

A call for written input will be circulated by OHCHR to all relevant stakeholders to inform the preparation of the summary report. The deadline for submissions is **28 February 2019**.

Online registration through the following link: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/19352/>

Expected outcome

The outcome of this discussion, as summarized in the HRC's report, will inform the work of the HLPF, as a UN official document. The consultation and its summary report are therefore an opportunity to strategically link with both the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development and the HLPF, and to raise awareness on NHRIs and their work. This is also an opportunity to enhance the participation of NHRIs fully compliant with the Paris Principles in UN mechanisms and processes.

Background documents

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)
[Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Principles relating to the status of national institutions (the Paris Principles)
[English](#)
- Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2018/64)
[Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)
- National human rights institutions (A/HRC/RES/39/17)
[Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Mérida Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
[Arabic](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)
- National human rights institutions engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
[English](#)

Agenda [To be circulated at a later stage]