

Doha, 15 October 2020

**Invitation to the GANHRI Extraordinary General Assembly
to elect the new Chairperson and ratify the appointed Bureau Members**

Dear National Human Rights Institutions,
Dear Regional Network Secretariats,

I am honored and delighted to invite you to participate in the GANHRI's **Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA)**, to be held online from **19 to 26 October 2020**.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges to our professional lives, forcing us to adapt to unsettling circumstances and redefine the ways we work, but our commitment to human rights has held firm, and I am proud of the professionalism and solidarity we have all demonstrated in the past months.

GANHRI and the NHRIs have proved to be ready to take up the new challenges brought by this situation. We were ready to switch to new modalities of work and to continue our engagement online and from remote.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GANHRI 2020 Annual Meeting, including the General Assembly, which was scheduled to take place in March, in Geneva, was cancelled and postponed to a later date.

On 31 August 2020, Carlos Alfonso Negret Mosquera ended its national term as Ombudsman of Colombia and thus also his position as GANHRI Chairperson. Meantime, the regional network of the Americas (RINDHCA) on 15 July 2020 appointed Dr Freddy Carrión Intriago, Ombudsman of Ecuador, as candidate for the position of GANHRI Chairperson to serve for the remainder of the term hosted by the Americas.

Also, new or renewed Bureau members were appointed by the Asia-Pacific and African regional NHRI networks, respectively in September and November 2019; while formal ratification by the GANHRI General Assembly remained pending.

Against this backdrop and considering the urgency of securing timely and smooth transition to the new Chairperson, the GANHRI Bureau in a consultation held on 17-24 September 2020 requested by myself in line with article 36 of the GANHRI

Statute, decided to proceed with the organization of the Extraordinary General Assembly, to elect the GANHRI Chairperson and ratify the new Bureau members, to be held online.

The regular session of the GANHRI General Assembly and Annual Meeting shall take place before the end of the current year (most probably early December), in virtual format.

The current EGA will be structured in the following way:

- Monday, 19 October: link to the voting platform received by voting members ¹ (*Election runner*)
- 19-26 October: voting members can cast their vote
- 26 October: voting is closed

For more details and instructions on how to login to the voting platform, please read the attached logistic note.

To ensure a smooth election process, we kindly ask you **to indicate the email address we shall use to notify the unique link for the elections to:** Joana Sabra j.sabra@ganhri.org.

For more information about the modalities of the online elections, the agenda of the meeting, as well as all other relevant information, you can visit GANHRI website at: <https://ganhri.org/event/2020-extraordinary-general-assembly/>

We count on your usual cooperation and participation in such an important democratic moment for our Alliance!

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ali Bin Samikh Al-Marri
Acting GANHRI Chairperson and
Chairperson of the Qatar NHRC

¹ According to art. 1 of the GANHRI Statute, voting members are NHRIs with 'A' status accreditation.

LOGISTIC NOTE

Extraordinary General Assembly (19-26 October 2020)

The Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) will be held through the online voting platform *ElectionRunner* and the voting will be open for one week.

In order to ensure a smooth election process, we kindly ask you to ***indicate, as soon as possible, the email address we shall use to notify the unique link for the elections to:*** Joana Sabra j.sabra@ganhri.org.

Please also contact Joana Sabra j.sabra@ganhri.org whether you require any special assistance and we can arrange an alternate option for participating in the voting.

The agenda of the meeting, as well as all supporting documents, are available on the GANHRI webpage in a dedicated page [here](#).

HOW TO VOTE

You will be able to vote from any device (personal computer, smartphone, tablet). On the opening of the voting day you will receive an email with the login instructions for your voting session.

1. Follow the link "Click to Vote" received by email to directly access your voting session, or use your **VotingID** and **VotingKey** also received by email to login from the EGA voting page:
2. Select one option for each category (Chairperson/Bureau Members); Tick the box next to the candidate NHRI to confirm its election. You also have the option to abstain;
3. Submit your vote by clicking on "Submit Ballot" and download your confirmation receipt

Please note: Each voting member ('A' status accredited NHRIs) will have one vote and thus you can cast your vote only once. Once the ballot is submitted, you will not be able to access to the voting session anymore.

For more information and assistance, contact: Joana Sabra, j.sabra@ganhri.org