A world where everyone, everywhere, fully enjoys their human rights
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

Our vision is a world where everyone, everywhere, fully enjoys their human rights.

We unite, promote and strengthen NHRI to operate in line with the Paris Principles and provide leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights.
As GANHRI Chairperson, this year has been an invaluable opportunity to reflect on the challenges we face, not only as human rights defenders but also as people living in a globalised and complex world. I believe that the fulfilment of human rights must be the foundation on which we build a more just global society, one which is capable of responding to the complex social and economic challenges of the 21st century.

This year I have directed my efforts towards a common goal of all GANHRI members: positioning NHRIs as the central institution of States for promoting full implementation of human rights in their countries. This task has involved deep reflection on who we are as an organisation and how we want to engage with others.

We sought to continue to position NHRIs at the heart of the international human rights system and, in June, had a one-on-one dialogue with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. This was the first meeting of its kind for GANHRI and we took the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of our institutions, including for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We trust it is the first step in a relationship that will continue to deepen and prosper.

Our goal is to see GANHRI recognised as a primary source of information for analysis and decision-making on human rights at the global level. Our Tripartite Partnership with UNDP and OHCHR is vital to us achieving this goal. In addition, with support from the European Union, we signed the second phase of the NHRI-EU project this year. Both contribute to strengthening the Alliance, the four regional networks and our members as we:

• Build the capacity of NHRIs in their work on human rights monitoring, reporting and protection
• Support NHRIs in the accreditation process and bolster their engagement with regional and international human rights mechanisms
• Bring together regional networks and NHRI ands support their efforts to promote a human rights-based approach to implementing the SDGs.

Realising human rights and sustainable development is both a complementary and mutual reinforcing process. NHRIs play a key role in these efforts at the national level, as set out in the Merida Declaration1.

We will continue to support our members as they seek to engage with their governments and uphold the promise of the SDGs to ‘leave no one behind’.

Another issue of great urgency is to promote the role of human rights defenders and protect them in their vital work. The alarming situation facing human rights defenders in my country, Colombia, and in so many other countries, demands action and solidarity. We need strong NHRIs that can provide timely warnings to government and propose durable solutions. We must take genuine steps to implement the Marrakech Declaration2, which sets out a roadmap for NHRIs’ actions in-country and which calls on NHRIs to develop regional action plans to respond to these challenges, as well as exchange knowledge and strategies that deliver real change. We should always have the courage to save a life.

Finally, another priority for our Alliance is to ensure respect for the rights of migrants. No State can deal with migration in isolation and, of course, State sovereignty must always be respected. However, the transnational phenomena of human mobility – and the grave risk of human rights violations at different stages of a person’s journey – requires both individual and joint action by NHRIs.

GANHRI and its members are committed to the full implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Our participation in the working group on national action plans, through the UN Network on Migration, gives us the opportunity to assist States to meet their commitments under the Global Compact while working closely with our partners. I have also promoted the creation of regional guidelines to support this process, which form part of the GANHRI’s three-year strategic plan to be adopted in March 2020.

It is time to look to the future with a fresh vision, one in which human rights are at the centre of our political discussions, of our public policies and of our economic decision-making. As GANHRI Chairperson, I will continue to work tirelessly to promote a robust culture of human rights, with the support of our members and regional networks, under the mandate of our esteemed Alliance.

Carlos Alfonso Negret-Mosquera
GANHRI Chairperson

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1 Available at: https://ganhri.org/international-conference/.
2 Available at: https://ganhri.org/international-conference/.
In a resolution adopted by consensus, the UN General Assembly called on all States to establish and strengthen independent NHRIs, including as a means to meet their commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also called on the UN Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation with GANHRI in support of NHRIs, and for all UN agencies and bodies to enhance their cooperation with NHRIs. A number of States that do not yet have an NHRI co-sponsored the resolution.

GANHRI’s Chairperson and Secretary met with the UN Secretary General to promote and strengthen formal cooperation across areas such as prevention, sustainable development and support for NHRIs and human rights on the ground. Our goal is to position GANHRI and NHRIs as leading sources of information and expertise on human rights issues worldwide for UN bodies and mechanisms.

GANHRI, in close cooperation with regional networks and OHCHR, facilitated the accreditation review process for 18 NHRIs from all four regions.

We established a task force to engage with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). As a result, NHRIs now have new and unprecedented opportunities to engage with CEDAW and raise pressing issues. We also deepened our collaboration with other UN human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to support NHRIs and strengthen their advocacy.

GANHRI’s Chairperson and Secretary met with the UN Secretary General to promote and strengthen formal cooperation...
In June 2019, we successfully advocated for the participation of NHRIs, GANHRI and regional networks in the work of the International Migration Review Forum. This is a significant achievement that will allow NHRIs to contribute their expertise directly to the intergovernmental body responsible for promoting safe and orderly migration. GANHRI was also invited to join one of the Working Groups established by the UN Network on Migration to support Member States develop national implementation plans under the Global Compact for Migration.

During the year, the Tripartite Partnership—which brings together GANHRI, UNDP and OHCHR—supported national and regional activities in Africa, including with the NHRIs of The Gambia, Mozambique and Mali, and to facilitate the international accreditation of the NHRIs of Egypt and Mauritius.

More than 35 NHRIs from all four regions took part in our two-day dialogue with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, held in October 2019. The rich discussions highlighted the desire for an ongoing program of engagement with NHRIs in 2020 at the global, regional and national levels, the creation of an online community of practice and a growing partnership with the UN Working Group.

GANHRI, the four regional networks and individual NHRIs collaborated to develop our three-year strategic plan that aims to strengthen NHRIs and bolster their impact—individually and collectively—at the national, regional and international level.
Our Members

GANHRI’s membership includes 113 national human rights institutions from all four regions: 80 ‘A status’ NHRIs and 33 ‘B status’ NHRIs.

Our rigorous, peer-based international accreditation process assesses the extent to which an NHRI complies with the Paris Principles. The Paris Principles set out the minimum standards for NHRIs to be considered independent and effective.

‘A status’ accreditation gives an NHRI the right to participate in the work of the UN Human Rights Council. And, in recognising its independence, ‘A status’ accreditation also helps strengthen the credibility of the NHRI in its domestic work.

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3 The GANHRI accreditation status chart (November 2019) is available at: https://ganhri.org/accreditation/

4 Available at: https://ganhri.org/paris-principles/
A wide view of a meeting during the 41st Session of the Human Rights Council held on 12 July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland ©UNPhotos
Independent NHRIs play a vital role to promote and protect the fundamental rights of all people in their countries.

They support victims to seek justice, they hold governments and other powerful groups to account, they advocate for changes to laws and policies, and they lead outreach programs to counter the attitudes that can fuel violence and discrimination. However, NHRIs need support to do this work and deliver on their mandate. That is why GANHRI was established. It is a network of NHRIs, created by NHRIs, to provide practical assistance and support to NHRIs. We provide support at each stage of an NHRI’s development so it can be a strong and effective human rights defender.

GANHRI’s THEORIES OF CHANGE

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NHRIs are established and accredited in all countries of the world

NHRIs are supported, strengthened and protected

NHRIs collaborate and share experience & knowledge

NHRIs speak with unified voices, influencing the global policy agenda

NHRIs contribute towards everyone everywhere fully enjoying their human rights

We provide support at each stage of an NHRI’s development so it can be a strong and effective human rights defender.

GANHRI, with and through its members, positively impacts on the enjoyment of human rights globally.

Supporting NHRIs at every stage

Providing advice on the establishment of NHRIs

Conducting training to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs

Reviewing and accredit NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles

Supporting NHRIs to strengthen their independence

Bringing NHRIs together to discuss, debate and collaborate

Assisting NHRIs to engage with the international human rights system

Standing in solidarity with NHRIs facing threats and reprisals

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Building knowledge and skills
Representatives from 13 NHRI\textsuperscript{5} took part in our annual training program on engaging with the international human rights system. The program explores the different forums where NHRI can raise issues, present information and lobby for recommendations to their government, with a focus on the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies. NHRI participants met in Geneva from 6-10 May 2019 for a week of face-to-face discussions, practical exercises and interactive learning.

There were presentations from a number of GANHRI’s key partners, including the Association for the Prevention of Torture, the Geneva Academy, UPR Info and the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It was also an opportunity for participants to build connections and strengthen cooperation across the four global regions.

The program was presented by GANHRI, in partnership with OHCHR, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The training was delivered as part of a blended learning program, with participants now able to stay connected to each other and to workshop presenters via GANHRI’s new online learning platform. It was also the first time the training was open to staff of ‘B status’ NHRs.

In September 2019, we launched a webinar series on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Presented in conjunction with OHCHR and UPR Info, it supported NHRI preparing reports for the third cycle of the UPR. Representatives from the NHRI of Canada and the Philippines shared examples of good practice with peers from other regions.

We also developed a webinar series on NHRI and the environment that NHRI staff can access at any time. The training programme is a practical outcome of our partnership with UNDP, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the UN Environment Programme.

“GANHRI makes a difference by bringing NHRI together and enhancing the accountability of States for the promotion and protection of human rights.”

South African Human Rights Commission

Developing and sharing knowledge
While experiences vary from country to country, NHRI around the globe face many similar human rights challenges. GANHRI plays a vital role to support NHRI share knowledge and good practice that can drive positive changes in law, policy and practice at the national level, changes that make a difference for people vulnerable to discrimination and abuses.

During the year, we contributed NHRI expertise to global forums on:
- Sustainable Development Goals, including participating in the High-Level Political Forum and developing a publication\textsuperscript{6} in partnership with the Danish Institute for Human Rights as Chair of the GANHRI Working Group on SDGs.
- Business and human rights, including hosting a dialogue for NHRI to engage directly with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.
- Rights of women, including advocacy at the UN Commission on the Status of Women and regular dialogue with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- Rights of older people, including NHRI presentations and side events at the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing.
- Rights of persons with disabilities, including establishing a GANHRI Working Group and engaging closely with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Internally displaced persons, including holding NHRI consultations to inform the annual report\textsuperscript{7} of the UN Special Rapporteur.

The insights and good practice examples we present to these and other forums are shared with our members to support them as they plan their work and respond to urgent issues.

6. NHRI as accelerators, guarantors and indicators of sustainable development, available at: https://ganhri.org/resources/.

Promoting independence through accreditation
In 2019, GANHRI coordinated two sessions of our Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA).

The SCA sessions, held in March and October, assess the extent to which NHRI meet the minimum standards for independence and credibility set out in the Paris Principles.\textsuperscript{8}

Across the two sessions, our four-member, peer-based committee assessed and made recommendations on the accreditation status of 18 NHRI.

The SCA report provided to the NHRI at the conclusion of each session outline the practical steps they can take to strengthen their independence and effectiveness. For ‘B status’ NHRI, these recommendations set out a pathway for compliance with the Paris Principles.

Where possible, GANHRI – in partnership with the four regional networks, as well as OHCHR and UNDP – supports NHRI in their efforts to implement the recommendations of the SCA.

NHRI have a critical role in promoting and protecting the human rights of IDPs and other displacement affected communities.”

Cecilia Jimenez, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

In March 2019, GANHRI organised a retreat for members of its Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) to talk with and learn from each other in an informal setting, as well as discuss opportunities to streamline the accreditation process.

The four NHRI serving on the SCA are Canada (Americas), France (Europe), Morocco (Africa) and the Philippines (Asia Pacific).

“It was an important opportunity to consider the daily challenges that many NHRI face and better support them as they prepare for their accreditation review,” Amina Bouyahid, President of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) of Morocco, said.

Following its participation in the SCA retreat, the CNDH was able to share these insights at a training workshop on GANHRI accreditation for members of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, held in Rabat in July.

“This workshop provided technical assistance to NHRI in our region engaged in the accreditation process,” Ms Bouyahid said.

“Participants discussed the development of a practical guide on the accreditation process that responds to the practical questions NHRI have,” she said.

“It is a wonderful example of how, as GANHRI members, can share knowledge to support and strengthen each other in our efforts as human rights defenders.”

5. The NHRI of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Peru and Thailand.

8. More information on our accreditation sessions is available at: https://ganhri.org/accrreditation/.
The 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63) was held in New York from 11-22 March 2019. GANHRI, in partnership with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), held a side event on 13 March to explore the role of NHRIs to advance gender equality and sexual and reproductive health rights.

In March 2019, SCA members, observers from the regional networks and representatives from OHCHR participated in an accreditation retreat. We reviewed the current SCA procedures, including the Statement of Compliance that all NHRIs under review must complete, to identify areas to strengthen and streamline the process.

Defending NHRIs from threats and reprisals

NHRIs can only be effective when their independence is supported and respected by States.

GANHRI will always act to protect the independence of NHRIs facing threats or reprisals for undertaking their work according to their mandate.

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In October 2019, the GANHRI Chairperson visited Guatemala to support Ombudsman Augusto Jordan Rodas Andrade. Ombudsman Rodas Andrade has been a vocal critic of human rights violations in the country, including recent murders of human rights defenders. However, members of Guatemala’s Congress have recently called for the Ombudsman’s removal.

The solidarity visit by GANHRI follows action we have taken to support other NHRIs that have faced serious threats, including the NHRIs of Poland and the Philippines.

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The solidarity visit by GANHRI follows action we have taken to support other NHRIs that have faced serious threats, including the NHRIs of Poland and the Philippines. The issue of reprisals against NHRIs was taken up by the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in his report to the Human Rights Council in September 2019, following advocacy by GANHRI.

In addition, the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas raised its voice in support of the Ombudswoman Nadia Cruz, in response of the threats and harassment against her and other representatives of Bolivia’s NHRI.

The UN General Assembly “calls upon States to promptly and thoroughly investigate cases of alleged reprisal or intimidation against members or staff of national human rights institutions or against individuals who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them and to bring perpetrators to justice.”

Resolution on national human rights institutions (A/RES/74/156) adopted 18 December 2019

9 Reports and statements of the Assistant Secretary-General are available at: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Reprisals/Pages/ASGandHRC.aspx.

10 Available at: https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/156.
BRINGING NHRIs TOGETHER

Collaboration between NHRIs is essential to address today’s major human rights challenges, many of which cross borders and regions.

We bring NHRIs together to share ideas, develop strategies and build partnerships that can inspire change.

And we speak with one voice on the international stage to amplify our impact.

In March 2019, SCA members, observers from the regional networks and representatives from OHCHR participated in an accreditation retreat.

In June 2019, GANHRI successfully advocated for the participation of NHRIs – as well as GANHRI and the four regional networks of NHRIs – in the work of the International Migration Review Forum. This will ensure NHRIs have a powerful voice at the intergovernmental body responsible for reviewing implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact.

2019 GANHRI Annual Meeting

- 227 representatives from more than 100 NHRIs took part, representing all four regions
- More than 50 participants from NHRIs, civil society, UN bodies and UN experts attended
- Held 4-6 March 2019, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Tackling the key challenges of our times

With an estimated 258 million migrants in the world, many of whom are vulnerable to exploitation, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is a landmark accord that seeks to improve safety and protection for all migrants.

Adopted in December 2018, the Global Compact sets out a common framework, shared principles and best practices to guide international migration.

However, the success of the Global Compact will rise or fall on how it is implemented and monitored by States – and this is where NHRIs can play a pivotal role.

Discussions at the 2019 GANHRI Annual Meeting looked at the practical steps NHRIs can take to help States develop a people-centred and gender-responsive approach to implementing the Global Compact.

The ideas shared by NHRIs and other participants were reflected in a statement adopted at the conclusion of the three-day conference. The conference statement is a roadmap for action by NHRIs, who committed to monitor the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The Annual Meeting was also an opportunity for NHRIs to share good practice examples and strategies to press for practical change on a range of human rights challenges. Side events and ‘knowledge exchange’ sessions demonstrated the impressive work of our members to:

- Promote a safer and more conducive environment for human rights defenders
- Contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
- Uphold the right to housing, especially for the poor and marginalised
- Build community understanding, electoral rights and civic participation.

A view of a meeting during the 2019 GANHRI Annual Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.
GANHRI 2019
ANNUAL MEETING

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) held its annual meeting from 4 – 6 March 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Photos from GANHRI Photo Library
Speaking with one voice

NHRIs are respected partners of the international human rights system. They speak with credibility and authority at the UN Human Rights Council.

We support our members in their individual advocacy efforts at the Council. We also coordinate and deliver statements on behalf of NHRIs worldwide.

In 2019, GANHRI’s statements11 to the Human Rights Council:

- Underlined the vital role of NHRIs to promote and protect human rights defenders, with a particular focus on women human rights defenders (28 February)
- Stressed NHRIs’ commitment to provide human rights-based and gender-responsive advice to States in the development of laws, policies, action plans and indicators relating to migration (24 June)
- On behalf of 24 NHRIs from all regions, called for the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (1 July)
- Highlighted the critical role of NHRIs in supporting internally displaced persons (3 July)

In addition, GANHRI advocated for strong references to NHRIs and the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2019 resolution on NHRIs, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 201912.

New GANHRI leadership team

During the 2019 GANHRI Annual Conference, the General Assembly elected Dr Carlos Alfonso Negret Mosquera, Ombudsman of Colombia, as GANHRI Chairperson and Dr Ali Bin Samikh Al-Marr, Chairperson of Qatar’s National Human Rights Committee, as GANHRI Secretary.

Dr Mosquera succeeds Prof Dr Beate Rudolf, Director of the German Institute for Human Rights, who led GANHRI with distinction from 2016 to 2019. Dr Rudolf was supported in her role by Montserrat Solano Carboni, former Ombudswoman of Costa Rica, and then by Dr Mosquera of Colombia, the current GANHRI Chairperson.

Representatives nominated by the four regional networks of NHRIs serve in the positions of GANHRI Chairperson and GANHRI Secretary on a rotational basis.

• Drew attention to the crucial role of NHRIs in supporting States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (8 July)
• Expressed concern about the reported increasing number of acts of intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating or wishing to cooperate with the UN and highlighted reprisals and other acts of intimidation against NHRIs, their members and staff (19 September).

Collaborating for long-term impact

Our goal is to continue to strengthen the visibility, credibility and impact of NHRIs in all corners of the globe.

We are driven by a vision, set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, where all people can live a life of equality, dignity and opportunity.

NHRIs, working at the country level, and cooperating regionally and internationally, can be powerful agents for change.

The GANHRI 2020-2022 Strategic Plan, developed this year with input from our members and the four regional networks of NHRIs, as well as partners from UN and civil society, outlines a program of action to ensure NHRIs can be as strong and effective as possible.

Over the coming three years, we will focus on:

• Supporting and strengthening NHRIs from their establishment and at all stages of their development
• Bringing NHRIs together to discuss, debate and share knowledge to bolster their work and effectiveness
• Representing the voice of our members at the UN and supporting NHRIs to contribute directly to the international human rights system
• Strengthening GANHRI so we can support our growing membership.

The Strategic Plan will be endorsed by GANHRI’s General Assembly in March 2020.

Strengthening how we connect


The GANHRI website is a key plank in our efforts to strengthen communications with our members and deliver on our knowledge management role. The site provides news items, event updates and key reports and resources that NHRIs can use to inform their work.

We have also continued to build our presence on Facebook and Twitter, with plans to utilise additional social media platforms in 2020.

* The side event was part of a series of activities funded by the United Kingdom Pacific Commonwealth Equality Project.

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11 Available at: https://ganhri.org/human-rights-council/
12 Available at: https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/156.

**FINDING A COMMON LANGUAGE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

Fairness, equality, dignity, respect, participation and protection of the most vulnerable. The principles that underpin human rights are universal, crossing all cultures, in all parts of the globe. Translating human rights into words and concepts that are meaningful to people was the focus of a discussion led by representatives from Pacific NHRIs, held on the sidelines of the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council.

A common theme was the importance of communicating human rights principles through cultural values, traditional stories, proverbs and religious faiths, rather than legal language and jargon. Maiava Iulai Toma, Ombudsman of Samoa, said there had been confusion and opposition within the community following its country’s ratification of treaties on the human rights of children and the human rights of women. One of the first tasks of the newly-established NHRI, he said, was to “try to go back and change the attitudes which had set itself in the minds of Samoan people that human rights is a foreign concept that the UN was trying to shove down our throats.”

“We felt that it was highly necessary to put human rights in the Samoan context for the Samoan minds, alongside their cultural and faith beliefs,” Mr Toma said. The side event also included presentations by speakers from Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu.

* "I am very impressed with what you have done … You have set an example to the world on how to communicate human rights."
  Her Excellency Ms Veronica Bard, Swedish Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva

* "Overcoming Global Implementation Challenges – the first side event of its kind in Geneva involving speakers from Pacific NHRIs – was held on 25 June 2019 and attended by a large gathering of people. It was organised by the South Pacific Community’s Regional Rights Resource Team* and co-sponsored by GANHRI, OHCHR, the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, the Governments of Australia and Sweden and the Permanent Mission of Fiji in Geneva.

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**【GANHRI makes a difference by coordinating with and among its members and being the global voice for the views of NHRIs.】**

Office of the Public Defender of Georgia
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Supporting NHRIs through our Tripartite Partnership

Since 2011, GANHRI has worked in partnership with UNDP and OHCHR to support and strengthen NHRIs across the globe so they can effectively human rights advocates.

The annual meeting of our Tripartite Partnership was held in New York from 19-20 June 2019 and included representatives from GANHRI and the four regional networks of NHRIs.

Through our discussions, we developed a program of action to support NHRIs and regional networks in their work on:
- Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals
- Corruption and human rights
- Reprisals against NHRIs
- Promoting and protecting the rights of migrants.

As part of the Tripartite Partnership meeting, GANHRI’s Chairperson and Secretary held a series of high-level meetings with key UN leaders, including UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, to discuss UN-wide cooperation in support of NHRIs.

In 2019, the Tripartite Partnership provided dedicated support for:
- Country activities with the NHRIs of The Gambia, Mozambique and Mali, and international accreditation for the NHRIs of Egypt and Mauritius.

Collaborating with UN bodies

During the year, we strengthened our partnerships with a number of key UN bodies and independent experts.

This collaboration opens up greater opportunities for NHRIs to advise and advocate on behalf of vulnerable individuals and communities.

Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals: In March, we partnered with OHCHR to hold a consultation on the role of NHRIs to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as mandated by the Human Rights Council. We were also invited to take part in the Expert Group Meeting on SDG 16, from 27-29 May 2019 in Rome, and the High-Level Political Forum, from 9-18 July, where we jointly presented a side event on human rights and the SDGs.

Business and human rights: In October 2019, GANHRI and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights organised a consultation on NHRIs’ role in facilitating access to remedies for victims of business-related human rights violations. More than 35 NHRIs took part in the consultation, with this collaboration set to continue in 2020 through an online community of practice and other global and regional activities.

Rights of women: In November 2019, following advocacy by GANHRI over a two-year period, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted recommendations that open significant and unprecedented opportunities for NHRIs to engage with the Committee.

We also continued our engagement with other UN bodies and mechanisms, including the:
- Treaty bodies, in particular, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances
- Special procedures, in particular the Special Rapporteur on migrants, on the right to housing, on human rights defenders, on the right to a safe environment and on the rights of internally displaced persons
- UN Secretary-General’s Advocate for Victims of Sexual Exploitation

Supporting NHRIs to act on the issues that matter

In May 2019, the EU-DEVCO signed a funding agreement for the second phase of the NIHR.EU project, which will run through December 2023. Through the NIHR.EU project, we are able to deliver practical training and support so NHRIs can deliver on key parts of their mandate, including human rights education.

In this second phase, GANHRI and the four regional networks will plan and undertake a range of innovative activities with NHRIs, especially in relation to expanding civic space and protecting human rights defenders.

“With support and encouragement from GANHRI, we have been a vigorous contributor to discussions and meetings at CSW for many years now,” Ekaterine Shkiladze, from the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia, said.

This close cooperation resulted in the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations in New York providing opening remarks at the side event.

As part of the meeting, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launched a guide for NHRIs on conducting national inquiries and country assessments on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The side event at CSW 63 was jointly hosted by GANHRI, UNFPA and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions on 13 March 2019.

“Advancing Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights” featured speakers from the NHRIs of Afghanistan, Georgia, Northern Ireland and the Philippines.

“This has also provided us with a valuable platform to engage with the Government of Georgia on issues that matter to women and girls.”

Across the globe, a growing number of countries are stepping up their efforts to combat coercion, discrimination and violence in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Working in partnership with government and civil society organisations, NHRIs have played an important role to contribute to progressive changes in laws, policies and services that tackle harmful practices and promote equality for women and girls.

Some of these powerful case studies were presented at a side event during the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held in New York in March 2019.


SHOWCASING GOOD PRACTICE TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

The voice of all NHRIs – even the most remote – is heard in meetings and sessions in Geneva because of the quality representation provided by GANHRI.”

National Human Rights Council of Morocco

As part of the Tripartite Partnership meeting, GANHRI’s Chairperson and Secretary held a series of high-level meetings with key UN leaders, including UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, to discuss UN-wide cooperation in support of NHRIs.

In 2019, the Tripartite Partnership provided dedicated support for:
- Country activities with the NHRIs of The Gambia, Mozambique and Mali, and international accreditation for the NHRIs of Egypt and Mauritius.
The GANHRI Bureau met from 20 to 22 November 2019 in Medellín, Colombia, to discuss the new strategic plan (2020-2022) and future activities that will drive GANHRI’s work.
Traditional women in north Vietnam

Photo by Ives Ives on Unsplash
Our Finances

Summary Profit and Loss Statement (at 31 December 2019; all figures in CHF)

Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from members</td>
<td>348,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from donors</td>
<td>363,434.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other incomes, including expenses rebilling</td>
<td>28,624.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>740,059.18</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel (advocacy and support to NHRIs)</td>
<td>370,054.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel (admin support)</td>
<td>73,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects related activities, representation, coordination, advocacy, capacity building</td>
<td>88,146.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office costs</td>
<td>40,966.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, legal, accounting and consulting</td>
<td>111,081.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>14,192.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Differential profit</td>
<td>41,918.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>740,059.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary Balance Sheet (at 31 December 2019; all figures in CHF)

Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; cash equivalents</td>
<td>704,460.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>2,197.46</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>706,658.29</td>
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</table>

Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>115,028.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>591,629.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>706,658.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GANHRI is grateful for the continued support and commitment of our donors. We also acknowledge the pro bono contribution of UN online volunteers and the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Our People

GANHRI Bureau

Beate Rudolf NHRI Germany 
GANHRI Chairperson (to March 2019)

Carlos Alfonso Negret-Mosquera NHRI Colombia 
GANHRI Chairperson (from March 2019) and GANHRI Secretary (to March 2019)

Ali Bin Samikh Al-Marri NHRI Qatar 
GANHRI Secretary (from March 2019)

Madeleine Nirere NHRI Rwanda 
Regional Chair, Africa

John Robert Walter NHRI Namibia

Chenuta Divine Banda NHRI Cameroun

Rosemary Kumitinyo Kanyuka NHRI Malawi

Raquel Caballero de Guevara NHRI El Salvador 
Regional Chair, Americas (to September 2019)

José Apolonio Tobar Serrano NHRI El Salvador 
Regional Chair, Americas (from October 2019)

Consuelo Contreras Largo NHRI Chile 
(to July 2019)

Branislav Maneč Rokov NHRI Chile 
(from August 2019)

Luis Raúl González Pérez NHRI Mexico 
(from November 2019)

Maria del Rosario Piedra Ibarra NHRI Mexico 
(from November 2019)

Rosalind Croucher NHRI Australia 
Regional Chair, Asia Pacific

GANHRI Bureau

Justice H.L. Dattu NHRI India

Mousa Burayzat NHRI Jordan

Emily Logan NHRI Ireland 
Regional Chair, Europe

Maria Gavouneli NHRI Greece

Lora Vidovic NHRI Croatia

Erinda Ballanca NHRI Albania

Sub-Committee on Accreditation

Magali Lafourcade/Cécile Rou Chairperson 
NHRI France

Marie Claude Landry NHRI Canada

Amina Bouayach NHRI Morocco

Jose Luis Martin Gascon NHRI Philippines

Permanent observers to the Sub-Committee include representatives from GANHRI and the regional NHRI networks. OHCHR acts as secretariat to the Sub-Committee.

Finance Committee

Luis Raúl González Pérez NHRI Mexico Chairperson

Justice H.L. Dattu NHRI India

Amina Bouayach NHRI Morocco

Rebecca Hilsenrath NHRI United Kingdom
Every year, GANHRI welcomes representatives from NHRIs for a week-long training in Geneva on the international human rights system. During the training, participants are invited to take home a human rights commitment that they resolve to promote within their respective NHRIs with the support and advice of GANHRI and partners.
Our Agenda for 2020

In 2020, GANHRI will undertake a range of activities to complement our regular work to support and strengthen NHRIs.

We will begin implementing our new three-year strategic plan, to be adopted by the GANHRI General Assembly in March 2020. We will play a leadership role to advance human rights through our work to establish, strengthen, support, bring together and represent NHRIs at the global level.

Our new expert group will help implement the Marrakech Declaration and advise GANHRI and NHRIs on strategies to better support the work of human rights defenders. It will operate as a think tank and include UN experts and representatives from OHCHR and our members.

As a result of our ongoing engagement, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will hold a half-day meeting with NHRIs on the sidelines of the GANHRI 2020 Annual Conference. The session will provide NHRIs with the opportunity to discuss their monitoring role under article 33.2 of the Convention.

We will renew our advocacy for the independent participation of NHRIs in the work of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. A newly-established GANHRI task force will engage with the CSW Bureau to promote the value of informal arrangements – such as issuing a standing invitation to NHRIs – similar to those in place with other UN bodies.

We will work with key partners to support our members in their work to prevent torture, especially those NHRIs who have been designated as their country’s national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

We will bolster the operations of GANHRI’s Head Office in Geneva, including through the appointment of an additional staff member, to meet the demands of our growing membership.

We will expand the reach of our online learning platform and social media presence to better engage with our members, share knowledge and good practice, and promote the work of NHRIs to partners and other stakeholders.

We will work with key partners to support our members in their work to prevent torture, especially those NHRIs who have been designated as their country’s national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

"...play a leadership role to advance human rights through our work to establish, strengthen, support, bring together and represent NHRIs at the global level.

GANHRI makes the difference

Sharing knowledge and expertise with the international human rights system is a priority for the National Human Rights Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CNDH-RDC).

"GANHRI makes the difference by supporting the CNDH to speak at sessions of the Human Rights Council and with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women," Chairperson Mwamba Mwanus Mushikonke said. "In the event that the CNDH was unable to travel to Geneva, GANHRI read statements on our behalf."

GANHRI has also helped facilitate the CNDH’s collaboration with OHCHR, NHRIs from other regions and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups on the situation of human rights defenders, on the rights of indigenous peoples, on the right to the environment, on violence against women, on the rights of migrants and on business and human rights, among others.

With support from GANHRI, the CNDH will partner with international agencies to lead a national workshop for public authorities on implementing the recommendations accepted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo following its participation in the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in May 2019.
In September 2019, we mourned the death of Abdul Samad Amiri, Acting Director of the Ghor Provincial Office of Afghanistan’s Independent Human Rights Commission.

Mr Amiri was captured and murdered by the Taliban for his human rights work.

He had worked with the Commission for many years, including as a children’s rights officer. He was an inspiring activist and a beacon of hope for his family, community and colleagues.

In a statement, GANHRI Chairperson Carlos Alfonso Negret-Mosquera called for those responsible for Mr Amiri’s murder to be held to account.

“All human rights defenders, including members and staff of NHRCs, must be able to undertake their work freely and in full safety.”