

February 24, 2021

## STATEMENT

### 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

#### GANHRI Statement

#### General Segment

Madam President,

Meeting for their GANHRI Annual Conference, held in December 2020, national human rights institutions from across all regions called on states to uphold their human rights obligations in the context of climate change and climate policies.

A human rights-based approach leads to more sustainable and effective climate action and climate policies, NHRIs said in the outcome statement at the conclusion of the Conference. This requires that climate action must protect the rights of those most affected by climate change and build on the principles of non-discrimination and meaningful public participation.

NHRIs also reaffirmed the vital role of UN treaty bodies in further elaborating on the obligations of States to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights in the context of climate change.

NHRIs set out a practical set of strategies on how they can apply their mandates and functions, to promote and protect human rights in the context of climate change:

- From monitoring and reporting on the human rights impacts of climate change; to
  - Advising the State and others on human rights-based approaches to climate action;
  - Supporting victims and promoting climate justice;
  - Engaging business and others on their roles and responsibilities; to
  - Working through GANHRI as global voice of all NHRIs, to advance global policy development and support NHRI action on the ground.
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GANHRI will be supporting NHRI members worldwide in advancing on these commitments, both individually and collectively.

We are encouraged that the Secretary General's Call to Action Strategic Intervention 5 on Future Generations and Climate Change includes a focus on supporting and building the capacity of NHRIs, and look forward to the UN's ongoing support to NHRIs worldwide in collaboration with GANHRI.