

March 3, 2021

## STATEMENT

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

#### GANHRI Statement

#### Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders<sup>1</sup>

Madame President, Madame Special Rapporteur,

GANHRI welcomes the report of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, and its comprehensive analysis of the situation of killings and threats against defenders.

The prevalence of killings, and death threats, against human rights defenders in many parts of the world is highly alarming and requires urgent action in response.

States must meet their obligations to ensure that no human rights defenders are killed for their work.

As recommended by the Special Rapporteur, this includes

- Promoting public recognition of the value of the work of human rights defenders including women and children human rights defenders;
- Ensuring efficient, gender-responsive and adequately resourced protection mechanisms for defenders, as well as early warning and prevention;
- Strengthening monitoring and reporting on killings and other harmful acts against human rights defenders, including in the framework of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.;
- Addressing impunity and strengthening accountability.

As highlighted in the GANHRI Marrakech Declaration, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) have a critical role to play in this process.

We support the Special Rapporteur's call on States to adequately resource NHRIs, for them to monitor the implementation of State human rights obligations, as well as responsibilities of non-State actors, including businesses, with respect to the rights of human rights defenders, including through systematic data collection and analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/46/35>

GANHRI is in the process of developing an Action Plan to support NHRIs implement the provisions from the Marrakech Declaration into lived realities on the ground.

This will include building NHRIs' capacities in monitoring civic space and the situation of human rights defenders; supporting the establishment of protection mechanisms for defenders; as well as promoting positive narratives on the work of human rights defenders. A gender perspective will be integrated across the Action Plan.

We look forward to our close and ongoing collaboration with the mandate, and other actor and partners.

Thank you, Madam President.