

Panel on UNGPs 10+, 2 min

Speaking on behalf of the business and human rights working group of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), I want to emphasize our commitment to the UNGPs and their implementation. On March 18 this year the GANHRI working group in cooperation with UNDP facilitated a virtual workshop for NHRIs from more than 80 countries to discuss the role of NHRIs in the implementation of the UNGPs.

GANHRI, in cooperation with partners, works to assist NHRIs address and implement the Edinburgh Declaration

NHRIs have played a key role in implementation over the past decade, for instance in supporting national action plans development, ensuring that governments don't lose focus on rightsholders and ensure a human rights based approach, when developing and implementing NAPs and in preparing the path for mandatory human rights due diligence regulations. Through their mandates and networks, NHRIs can contribute in closing widely acknowledged protection gaps in supply chains which are connected to cross-border business activities. By harnessing their networks and their complaints handling mechanisms, NHRIs give voice to rights holders within supply chains. To maximize this potential, NHRIs' institutional capacities for transnational cooperation needs to be increased. The UN working group can support NHRIs in this respect, by being aware of and using NHRI networks for monitoring of international supply chains and handling of complaints in cross-border cases. The UN working group can also help raise awareness at UN and member state level that NHRIs should receive increased financial and institutional support for the purpose of cross-border cooperation by their respective governments. Governments should ensure that NHRIs are independent.

Knowledge should be deepened in emerging areas such as human rights and the impacts of the pandemic and pandemic responses and restrictions to business and human rights, post-pandemic recovery, climate crisis, human rights due diligence of technology companies and sustainable finance. Additional areas, such as corporate racism added to our work plans for the next decade. However, not only what we are going to focus on is be important, but as well how we are doing this. We need a plurality of methods to understand those issues: data-driven research, transdisciplinary analysis, for instance behavioral science, economic modelling as well as the inclusion of regional, especially indigenous knowledge.

NHRIs can and should play an important role in all those areas. In order to achieve this, it has to be made sure that they are well equipped with resources and knowledge and that their independence is safeguarded.