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WRITTEN STATEMENT

Statement to the 48th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council on the Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Right to Development

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this discussion and highly notes the Report presented by the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, Saad Alfarargi, which examines climate action, good practices and challenges from a right to development perspective.

We would like to start this statement by agreeing with the the Special Rapporteur that both the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change and 2030 Agenda requires the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right to development. Today, we have reached a global scientific consensus on the critical state of the planet and its consequences for human lives. The current COVID-19 pandemic has also reminded us of the link between economy diversification and the need to protect the poorest and most vulnerable in our societies. It is clear that climate and development policies are more effective when designed with a human-centered approach.

We would like to highlight the individual and collaborative progress being made by national human rights institutions (NHRIs) across the globe on this area. GANHRI has embarked in its journey to strengthen the link between Human Rights, Climate Change and Development starting with its Strategic Plan for 2020-2022 and culminating with the issue of its outcome declaration after its Annual Conference on Climate Change last December, which includes deciding on the establishment of a GANHRI Caucus, to focus on Human Rights and Climate Change. In November, we will hold a COP26 NHRI



Symposium in Scotland to reinforce our capacity and participation in the Climate Agenda. This will be a critical moment for the world to agree upon urgent steps to address climate change and protect our shared environment.

Individually, NHRIs, can also play a key role on holding states to account for their commitments and action under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) via monitoring and reporting as well as complaint handling when in their legal competence.

GANHRI calls on the international community to urgently adopt climate policies that enable the meaningful participation of all members of society in decision-making and guarantee equality of opportunity in access to basic resources, education, health services, food, housing and employment. Particular attention should be paid to indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, children and women in vulnerable situations, which are among groups disproportionately affected by climate change.

As we move to the implementation of SDGs and the COP26 outcome, GANHRI looks forward to closely collaborating with and providing any further information on these issues to the Human Rights Council.