

September 22, 2021

## **Statement to the 48<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council on the right to environment**

### **Item 3 General Debate**

GANHRI welcomes the resolution tabled at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council explicitly recognising the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.

This recognition of the right will mark an important and much needed milestone.

A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is essential to the realisation of the right to life, and of all other human rights.

It is also integral in promoting and ensuring sustainable development, and thus the achievement of the Agenda 2030.

Recognising the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right at global level will send a strong message about the need for urgent action and adequate attention in addressing the environmental and human rights crises we are faced with.

GANHRI welcomes that more than 150 states have recognized the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right in their domestic legislation and policies, or through regional agreements.

GANHRI also welcomes the support for the resolution by over 1,000 civil society organizations, UN entities and business actors.

In implementing our commitments from the GANHRI 2020 Annual Conference on national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and Climate Change, GANHRI is supporting member NHRIs from around the world to exchange experiences, build capacities and coordinate our collective engagement in various climate change and environment related processes, including the upcoming COP 26. We are pleased to do so in partnership with UNEP, UNDP and OHCHR.

GANHRI supports the adoption of the resolution on the right to a healthy environment.

We encourage all states to support the adoption of the proposed resolution and look forward to working with all stakeholders towards its implementation.