

## ORAL STATEMENT

**Statement to the  
49<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 3 Interactive Dialogue with the**

**Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a  
safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment**

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) welcomes the Special Rapporteur's [report](#) on non-toxic environment.

The report is an alarm for our growing concern for environmental justice and the disproportionate impacts of pollution that certain individuals and groups unjustifiably bear.

GANHRI shares the Special Rapporteur's concern over the creation of "sacrifice zones," and is committed to working to ensure to find justice for those individuals and communities affected as one of the substantive elements of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and to create a toxic-free environment for all.

GANHRI will continue to engage with the Human Rights Council, other UN bodies and all stakeholders, in further reinforcement of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and welcomes that the Special Rapporteur is highlighting in his report the vital role National Human Rights Institutions have played in defending this right.

GANHRI congratulates the Human Rights Council for taking historical steps in the right direction by recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment at its 48<sup>th</sup> session and welcomes the creation of the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on climate change.

GANHRI will continue working with the Special Rapporteurs, UNDP, OHCHR and UNEP in addressing climate change and environmental issues for the protection and promotion of rights of present and future generations.