

September 14, 2020

## STATEMENT

### **45th session of the Human Rights Council**

#### **Enhanced Interactive Dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**

Madame High Commissioner,

The world is living through an unprecedented health, socio-economic and human rights emergency. The human rights issues are numerous, complex and profound.

Every country should place human rights at the center of its response and recovery efforts.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, members and staff of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in all regions are demonstrating the critical contributions they have in this process.

In line with their Paris Principles mandates and functions, our members:

- Advise the state and parliament on human rights standards during crisis and emergency;
- Inform the public about their rights, and promote accessibility of communications flows;
- Monitor the situation of groups in focus and advise on specific and targeted measures to ensure their protection including older people, women, children, or persons deprived of liberty;
- Hold states to account for upholding human rights in COVID-19 responses and recovery efforts; and

- Work in close cooperation with peer NHRIs, and the international and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms, including the treaty bodies and Special Procedures.

Our members are identifying some common gaps, such as insufficient attention to situations of vulnerability; lack of effective parliamentary and judicial oversight over states' responses; and discriminatory impacts of COVID-19 states measures.

We call on all states to ensure human rights are integrated into COVID-19 responses and recovery measures, and that situations of vulnerability be adequately assessed and addressed.

At GANHRI we will continue to support our members in these particular times, including by facilitating exchanges on the challenges, practices and lessons learned among NHRIs. In partnership with UNDP and OHCHR, GANHRI will consolidate into a joint publication NHRIs' experience in carrying out their functions and activities under the affected conditions, and the support provided to them.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration in support of a just recovery, that builds more equitable, accessible, and participatory societies.

Thank you, Madame President.