

October 1, 2020

STATEMENT

45th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2 and 8

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Madame President

We thank the Secretary General for his [reports](#) on national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and the activities conducted by GANHRI in accrediting NHRIs.

GANHRI and the four NHRI regional networks support the establishment of NHRIs where they do not yet exist and contribute to the continuous capacity development of NHRIs to enhance their effectiveness. We do so in close coordination and in partnership with the UN.

Strong and well-resourced NHRIs play a critical role in assisting states meet their international human rights obligations, and in realizing the SDGs.

This role and their guiding authority has been critical also and especially during the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency crisis.

As documented in the Secretary-General's report, NHRIs are engaged in a range of monitoring, advisory, and reporting activities, and play an important role in holding states for upholding human rights in their COVID-19 responses.

The existence of an independent, Paris Principles compliant NHRIs is also an indicator to measure states' progress under Goal 16 of the SDGs.

However, whilst in 2019, 40% of member states have achieved compliance of their NHRIs with the Paris Principles, progress in 78 countries across several regions remains overdue, as has been noted by the Secretary General in his 2020 SDG progress [report](#).

All people in all countries should have the benefit of having a strong and independent NHRI that can protect and promote their human rights, and ensure that they can operate in a safe and enabling environment.

We encourage states to establish or strengthen NHRIs where they already exist and look forward to working with them and to continue supporting our members NHRIs in building strength and growth, whilst defending their protection.

Thank you Madam President.