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VIDEO-STATEMENT

51ST session of the Human Rights Council

Item 5

Interactive Dialogue on the Secretary General's report on cooperation with the United Nations its mechanisms and representatives in the field of human rights

Mr. President,
Madam Assistant Secretary General,

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) thanks the Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights for her annual report on cooperation with the United Nations and welcomes the opportunity to engage in today's interactive dialogue.

We are deeply concerned about reprisals against those who engage or seek to engage with UN bodies and mechanisms, and particularly troubled by attacks on the independence of the national human rights institution and its members.

Despite multiple UN General Assembly and HRC resolutions condemning reprisals and other acts of intimidation, we continue to receive information that a great number of NHRIs remain under threat.

Following a Global Consultation GANHRI has received information that 1 in 3 NHRIs – in all regions- have reported threats and reprisals on work done according to their mandate, including as a result of their cooperation with the United Nations.

Only last year GANHRI, in close coordination with other partners, has supported NHRIs in around the globe – with actions to uphold their independence and prevent further attacks.

Madam Assistant Secretary General,

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It is through their interaction with regional and international human rights mechanisms that NHRIs can raise concern and advocate for their protection and the protection of other human rights defenders. We call on States and the UN to ensure that protective mechanisms and procedures are established to preserve these channels of communication and denunciation and allow them to remain open and free from reprisals.

GANHRI will always act to protect the independence of our NHRIs facing threats or reprisals for undertaking their work according to their mandate, and we thank our partners from OHCHR and UNDP, civil society and member states for their continued support.

I thank you Mr. President.