

2 March 2023

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 1

General Segment

Mr. President,

2023 is a significant milestone for international human rights. It marks 30 years since the United Nations General Assembly gave strong endorsement for the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in accordance with the Paris Principles.

In addition, this year also marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which provides the foundation for the work of NHRIs in all regions.

For the past three decades, the Paris Principles have set out clear standards for independent and impartial national human rights institutions. They are providing a roadmap for NHRIs to effectively fulfill their role in protecting and promoting human rights, and to hold governments accountable for their obligations under international human rights law.

Mr. President,

Despite the progress made 75 years after the adoption of the UDHR, GANHRI remains particularly concerned at the dangerous rollbacks on human rights and the growing pressure faced by those who defend them.

It is time to recall the centrality of human rights in our everyday lives and re-commit to their full realization for all individuals.

To date, from 193 member states, 89 have established a Paris Principles compliant national human rights institution. Accelerated progress is therefore required to guarantee that all States meet the NHRI indicator under Sustainable Goal 16 by 2030, so that all people, in every country of the world, can benefit from a strong and independent NHRI.

GANHRI also wishes to reaffirm the vital role of human rights defenders in the realization of human rights for all.

We reiterate our commitment to support and empower NHRIs worldwide and all those defending human rights in their efforts to build just, fair, and inclusive communities.

I thank you Mr. President.