

GANHRI OUTCOME STATEMENT 2023

1. 2023 is a significant milestone for human rights. We celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Principles by the UN General Assembly, both of which are the foundation for the work of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) around the globe. Furthermore, 30 years ago, GANHRI was established with a mission to promote, support, strengthen and be a voice for NHRIs around the world.
2. The Paris Principles are instrumental in paving the way for strong national institutions, which work to make universal human rights a reality for everyone, everywhere. The Paris Principles lay down the minimum standards that NHRIs must meet so they can be considered independent, credible and effective. As a result of these efforts, and the support from the United Nations, member states and civil society, from only a handful of NHRIs in the early 1990s, there are now over 120 NHRIs today across the world.
3. Today, despite a strong universal human rights framework and progress in its implementation in all parts of the world, we face huge and complex challenges, including severe rolling back of human right protections and growing pressure on those who defend them. These challenges pose a threat to the enjoyment of fundamental rights by millions of people across the globe, and thus to the vision of the UDHR.
4. Yet human rights are the solutions to many of today's challenges. The responses to the multiple crises we face must be centered in human rights and designed with people as part of the solution. They require inclusive, safe and meaningful channels for debate and participation.
5. As we move forward in this decade and celebrate these landmark anniversaries, we recall our key role as NHRIs in building fair, just, peaceful, and inclusive communities in countries around the globe. With a powerful legal mandate, we work to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms, by overseeing the actions of those who hold power in our nation states and ensuring that they uphold the human rights of everyone, everywhere.
6. We welcome the progress made by States across the globe in establishing and strengthening NHRIs in line with the Paris Principles. Today, whilst over 120 NHRIs exist worldwide, 89 of them are accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles. We recognize that accelerated progress is required to guarantee that all States meet the NHRI indicator under Sustainable Development Goal 16 by 2030, so that all people, in every country of the world, can benefit from a strong and independent NHRI.
7. So today, we, as independent institutions, representing the challenges and opportunities that exist in our respective regions commit to ensuring that:

Commitments at the national level

- 1) We will support States as primary duty-bearers in their work towards the full implementation of the UDHR and the Paris Principles, as well as their respective obligations under international law, including by providing advice and recommendations aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of all individuals.
- 2) Noting the 25th anniversary this year of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, we will work in close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders to create a safe space for human rights defenders, including NHRIs, and provide them with the necessary support to carry out their activities without any undue influence, threat, or reprisal.
- 3) We will continue to investigate, monitor, and report on human rights violations at all times. We will engage with people in vulnerable situations and communities at grass roots level and ensure they are protected and provided with a platform to raise their concerns.
- 4) We will advocate for States to embed human rights in their national approaches with the aim of realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Commitments at the international level

- 5) We will continue to build constructive and strategic partnerships with governments, civil society organizations, regional organizations, the international community, and other relevant stakeholders to address urgent human rights issues, including climate change, migration and human rights defenders.
- 6) We will ensure that the accreditation process led by GANHRI under the auspices of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, reviewing NHRI compliance with the Paris Principles, is a guarantee of independence, pluralism and accountability of NHRIs. We commit to working closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and GANHRI to make sure that the accreditation process is strengthened, effective, participatory, and transparent and that NHRIs remain independent and effective.
- 7) We echo various resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly as well as the UN Human Rights Council on national human rights institutions and call on all UN member states to establish and strengthen independent, effective, and pluralist NHRIs which are compliant with and accredited in line with the Paris Principles. In this regard, we urge all States to provide NHRIs with a sufficient institutional budget, respecting their administrative, operational, and budgetary independence, so as to ensure the proper functioning of NHRIs and their adherence to the Paris principles.
- 8) We commit to continue engaging with international bodies, providing independent and credible information, and advocating for States to address any violation of the rights of individuals or communities including taking measures to improve their standard of living and quality of life.

Concerted efforts

- 9) We commit to engaging - including collectively through GANHRI, the regional networks and between individual NHRIs - in national and international processes to promote human rights and advocate for policy changes that contribute to safeguarding the basic rights of the people.
- 10) We will continue to collaborate closely with GANHRI, bringing together NHRIs from all regions and providing leadership and support in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- 11) We call on all our partners, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, and the European Union, to support GANHRI, the regional networks, and NHRIs across different countries in implementing our mandate of bolstering human rights everywhere and helping in creating strong NHRIs and strong communities. Furthermore, we encourage our partners to continue their efforts in building capacities of NHRIs which can enable them to function independently and to their full capacity.