



2023 Annual Review Meeting: TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions

24-25 May 2023

UNDP, FF Building, 11th Floor, Doha Room
304 East 45th Street, Manhattan, New York

OHCHR | GANHRI | UNDP

Concept Note:

Background

The TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions (TPP) Annual Review Meeting takes place yearly to foster closer collaboration between the UN system and national human rights institutions (NHRIs), their regional networks, and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). TPP partners and broader stakeholders in the UN system utilize the TPP Annual Review meeting to set joint and complementary priorities for engagement and support to NHRIs in the coming period. Increasingly, the Annual Review meeting has also served as a platform to raise awareness of the important role of NHRIs in addressing pressing human rights challenges and discuss priority joint work on key thematic priorities that the TPP can advance and address.

2023 is the midpoint for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and marks the [75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and the 30th anniversary of the [Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action](#), which provide the foundation for the work of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) around the world. 2023 also marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the [Paris Principles](#) by the United Nations General Assembly, setting out the standards for independent and effective NHRIs and the establishment of a worldwide network of NHRIs, today known as GANHRI.

Objective

Against this backdrop, TPP partners will convene in person on 24-25 May 2023 in New York for the Annual Review. Discussions at the 2023 TPP Annual Review meeting will focus on key global and regional developments, experiences supporting and collaborating with NHRIs in priority areas, as well as current needs of NHRIs and demand for future support.

The 2023 Annual Review Meeting aims to:

1. Strengthen collaboration amongst TPP partners to support NHRIs in priority areas, including Capacity Assessments, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, digitalization, and climate action.

2. Support delivering on the Call to Action on Human Rights including with UN Country Teams and enhancing UN system support to NHRIs.
3. Provide a platform for NHRIs and the UN system to enhance collaboration at global and country levels, including on delivering on the Call to Action and in the face of increasing reprisals against NHRIs and human rights defenders.
4. Set joint and complementary priorities for engagement and support to NHRIs in the coming period.

Please reference the event agenda for more details.

The TPP is also organizing a public facing event at UN Headquarters (Conference Room 6) on 25 May from 9:00-10:30 EST entitled, *Where do we stand halfway to 2030? How national human rights institutions accelerate progress towards the SDGs*. Please reference the separate concept note and agenda for this event for more details.

Relevant Information

Capacity Assessments of NHRIs: NHRIs are central to strong national systems for protection and promotion of human rights. To play their demanding roles effectively, NHRIs require solid capacities to safeguard their independence and resilience to possible changes in governance infrastructures or political changes. The TPP is dedicated to strengthening the capacities of NHRIs, including through supporting Capacity Assessments, in line with the [Global Principles for the Capacity Assessment of National Human Rights institutions](#), and coherent follow-up to implement the recommendations. The ability of NHRIs to carry out in-depth Capacity Assessments and implement the recommendations has been affected in recent years by the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises. However, the need for Capacity Assessments and follow-up remains high and NHRIs together with TPP partners have developed creative methods to overcome obstacles in order to assess and support key capacities.

NHRIs and the 2030 Agenda: With less than 7 years remaining to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for people and planet, in September 2023 Member States will review progress achieved at the [SDG Summit](#) and make a negotiated political declaration for accelerated action. NHRIs play an integral part in supporting achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the presence of Paris Principles compliant NHRIs are indicators of progress in the 2030 Agenda. To date, however, only 88 countries have established a Paris Principles compliant NHRI the equivalent of 45% of member states. As recognized in the recent [Special Edition of the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report](#), Member States must accelerate progress to put in place NHRIs that are compliant with the Paris Principles in order to achieve the promises of the 2030 Agenda.

This topic will also be the focus of the public facing event supported by the TPP taking place on 25 May. Please reference the separate concept note and agenda for this event.

Digitalization and human rights: In the context of rapid digitalization, NHRIs are increasingly being called upon to engage in the protection and promotion of human rights in the digital sphere. At their [2022 GANHRI Annual Meeting](#), NHRIs worldwide identified both opportunities and challenges, in promoting and protecting human rights, and those who defend them, in the digital space. Building NHRI capacities

to promote, protect, and monitor human rights in the context of digitalization is a priority focus area of the TPP- Norwegian Agreement (2022-2024).

NHRIs and climate action: The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment was recognized by the General Assembly in resolution [76/300](#) and the Human Rights Council in resolution [48/13](#). The resolution encourages states to enhance cooperation with NHRIs (among other key actors) on the implementation of the right. In addition, the Human Rights Council adopted a [resolution](#) in October 2022 recognizing the critical contributions of NHRIs in monitoring, reporting and advising governments and other stakeholders on rights-based climate action. This pivotal role of NHRIs was further highlighted in a [symposium](#) supported by the TPP in advance of COP27 in November 2022. GANHRI has also issued [Practical Guidance for NHRIs on Addressing Human Rights and Climate Change](#). In addition, UNDP, OHCHR and UNEP jointly issues an Information Note [What is the Right to a Healthy Environment?](#), which emphasizes the important role of NHRIs in supporting the realization of this right. Building NHRI capacities to promote, protect, and monitor, human rights in the context of climate change is a priority focus area of the TPP- Norwegian Agreement (2022-2024).

The Call to Action on Human Rights and NHRIs: The [Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights](#), issued in February 2020, is the guiding framework for accelerating human rights efforts across the UN system. The Call to Action highlights the role of NHRIs in contributing to SDG implementation, in crisis contexts and in to support the rights of future generations including climate justice, emphasizing the need for enhanced support to NHRIs. Supporting the delivery of the Call to Action on Human Rights will help provide sustained support to NHRIs and further recognition of their role as a strategic priority. Significant opportunity exists to strengthen collaboration between the UN system and NHRIs at global and country levels to advance implementation of the Call to Action.

Shrinking civic space and reprisals against NHRIs and human rights defenders: In the present era of '[polycrisis](#)', the global landscape is characterized by an unprecedented strain on human rights, with the shrinking of civic spaces and backsliding of human rights in many regions. Members and staff of NHRIs are human rights defenders by the virtue of their mandate and are [increasingly facing](#) sophisticated forms of reprisals, including threats, intimidation, harassment and attacks. Despite being targeted themselves in some circumstances, NHRIs have been active in strengthening protections for human rights defenders and expanding civic space, including by serving as a bridge between communities and the state, monitoring and reporting on violations, and engaging in advocacy with national authorities.

The TPP has worked to sustain global and regional attention on this issue, including through the 2021 and 2022 Network of African National Human Rights Institutions - TPP Symposium for African NHRIs and supporting implementation of the [Marrakech Declaration](#). Following the UN reform, the TPP protocol to support NHRIs under threat was no longer functional. A process of review and formulation of principles for a new UN system partnership protocol is under development following a consultative process with relevant partners, NHRIs, and their networks in the context of current roles and responsibilities in the UN system. To inform this process and contribute to broader UN coherence on responses to human rights defenders facing acts of intimidation and reprisals, and upon the request of the UN Development Coordination Office, a comparative analysis of the various UN protocols on reprisals against human rights defenders was also completed. GANHRI also launched the [Global Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders](#)

[and Civic Space](#) in 2022, setting out how GANHRI will continue supporting its members implement the 2018 Marrakech Declaration and strengthen efforts in protecting its members under threat or at risk.

Target Audience

Participation in the TPP Annual Review meeting is through invitation only. The TPP Annual Review Meeting aims to engage GANHRI and regional networks of NHRIs including NHRI Chairs and network directors, UNDP global and regional advisory teams working with NHRIs and on relevant themes, and OHCHR global and regional advisory teams working with NHRIs and on relevant themes. The meeting is also open to NHRIs globally to join and participate as well as donor partners to the TPP. UN system actors and other experts working with NHRIs and on priority themes are also invited to participate in relevant sessions.

Date and Format

The TPP 2023 Annual Review Meeting will be held in person on 24-25 May 2023 in New York. Interpretation during the event will be provided in Arabic, English, and Spanish.

To inform the discussions at the Annual Review Meeting, relevant documentation will continue to be made available on the invite only [SparkBlue page](#) and are recommended as pre-reading for all participants. Participants can also upload documents or relevant material for meeting participants including any presentations to be shared during the TPP Annual Review meeting.

To access the [event webpage](#) you will need to create a Spark Blue profile (and click the confirmation link in your email) / or log into your account if you already have a Spark Blue profile and select the red "Request to Join" button on the [event webpage](#) (top left). To submit any materials for background documents, presentations etc. or other information for specific sessions please send them to Dezhi Cao (dezhi.cao@undp.org) specifying which session the material is relevant for.

For questions regarding the 2023 TPP Annual Review Meeting, please contact Brian Migowe (Brian.migowe@undp.org).