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to the United Nations



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THE UNITED NATIONS



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
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New York



50 Years  
Germany in  
the United Nations  
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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations  
New York



***Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations:***

**Where do we stand halfway to 2030?**

**How national human rights institutions accelerate progress towards the SDGs**

**25 May 2023**

**0900 to 1030 EST**

**Conference Room 6, UN HQ, New York**

Public event

[Register here](#) to participate in person

or

Tune in to UN WebTV [here](#) for live webcast

**Background:**

Adopted by UN Member States in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set 2030 as the target year to achieve the 17 Goals and transform our world. 2023 marks the midpoint towards implementing the [2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), an occasion which coincides with the second SDG Summit, to be convened at UNHQ in September 2023. The High-Level Political Forum in July 2022 called for the Summit to “*mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*”.

At the SDG Summit, Member States will carry out a comprehensive review of the state of implementation of the SDGs, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crisis facing the world, and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the target year of 2030 for achieving the SDGs.

Due to a multidimensional polycrisis of inequality, the aftermath and ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, and ongoing cycles of conflict, we are experiencing a reversal of progress in achieving the SDGs. Yet despite the setbacks, progress is being made on some SDGs and the 2030 Agenda remains our best chance to support achieving sustainable development, all human rights, as well as peace and security for all.

**National human rights institutions (NHRIs) play an integral part in supporting achievement of the 2030 Agenda.** The [Merida Declaration on the role of NHRIs in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable](#)

[Development](#) (2015) convened NHRIs from around the world and reaffirmed the contribution NHRIs can make in support of 2030 Agenda implementation. This includes: promoting and monitoring implementation of the SDGs and international human rights standards; advising the state and its institutions on rights-based implementation and development of policies, planning ,and reporting; report on progress made at national level to Parliament and the public, building bridges between communities and state institutions; and holding governments to account for uneven or poor performance. NHRIs also promote effective and meaningful space for consultation and participation. They give voice to the voiceless and their work is critical in the central promise of the SDGs – to leave no one behind and to reach those furthest behind first.

NHRIs are also increasingly seeking to take part in global policy discussions and decision making around monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The important role of NHRIs in supporting Voluntary National Review (VNRs) processes, along other stakeholders, has been recognized in the [DESA Handbook](#) for Member States as well as in [new guidance](#) for including a rights-based perspective in VNRs.

**More NHRIs need to be established to support achieving the SDGS.** The presence of a functioning, Paris Principles compliant NHRI is an indicator of progress in the global SDG framework for achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In 2015, 70 countries had NHRIs that complied with the Paris Principles – or approximately 35% of Member States. Today, 88 countries benefit from an independent NHRI – or 45%. Whilst this represents important progress, more Member States need to take action to establish Paris Principles compliant NHRIs, and further coordinated support is required to these institutions.

The [Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights](#) continues to guide the efforts of the UN system to accelerate progress on human rights and highlights the role of NHRIs in contributing to SDG implementation and the need for enhanced support to NHRIs.

#### **Objectives:**

At the midpoint for implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, 2023 also 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.

By convening Member States, the UN system, NHRIs and other stakeholders to discuss how the action of NHRIs at all levels – global and local – helps accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, this event seeks to:

1. Demonstrate through examples of practical work the contributions of NHRIs as key actors for sustainable development, human rights, and peace and security.
2. Highlight the importance of establishing more Paris Principles compliant NHRIs to support sustainable development and as an indicator of progress towards the SDGs.
3. Explore opportunities to facilitate and leverage the work of NHRIs in national and global systems for sustainable development.
4. Improve awareness of the challenges and risks NHRIs face in carrying out their mandates, which impedes development progress, and the need to strengthen protection mechanisms for human rights defenders.

## Agenda

### Where do we stand halfway to 2030? How national human rights institutions accelerate progress towards the SDGs

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**0900 – 0905 Welcoming remarks**

- *Trine Heimerback*, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

**0905 – 0920 Opening statements**

- *Maryam Abdullah Al Attiyah*, GANHRI Chairperson (*via video message*)
- *Asako Okai*, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Crisis Bureau, UNDP

**Partners for Good: Celebrating 30 years of the Paris Principles and 75 years of the UDHR, GANHRI's 30 anniversary [Video](#)**

**0920 – 1010 Panel discussion: From local to global - The importance of NHRIs' action for the 2030 Agenda**

Moderator *Trine Heimerback*, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

Panelists

- *Amina Bouayach*, President, National Human Rights Council of Morocco
- *Daniel Zavala Porras*, Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations
- *Mandeep Tiwana*, Chief of Programmes, CIVICUS
- *Neil Pierre*, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

**1010 – 1025 Open discussion**

**1025 – 1030 Closing Remarks**

- *Ilze Brands-Kehris*, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, OHCHR

**Event details:**

This is an in-person public event.

Advance registration is required for in-person attendance [here](#) no later than Wednesday, 24 May COB. The event will also be livestreamed on [UN WebTV](#).

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the event in Arabic, English, Korean, and Spanish.

**Venue access:**

Event organizers will be available 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting to assist registered participants in accessing the conference room. If you do not have a UN grounds pass, please meet event organizers outside the Visitor's Entrance/Security Tent at UN HQ located at 46<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue at 8:30 am EST. Please carry your government-issued ID with you at all times for entrance.

For further questions about the event please contact Mr. Brian Migowe ([Brian.migowe@undp.org](mailto:Brian.migowe@undp.org)).

**About the TPP:**

To amplify the potential of NHRIs, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), UNDP and OHCHR formed the [TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions](#) (TPP) in 2011. The partnership was further operationalized in 2017 and continues to be underwritten by UNDP's Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice, and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development.

The TPP harnesses the collective strengths and comparative advantages of each partner to deliver as one and provides a platform for collaboration across the UN system. The TPP has been lauded by [UN Secretary-General](#), the [General Assembly](#), and the [Human Rights Council](#) as good practice of international cooperation and has contributed to the increased recognition of the important role of NHRIs.

The TPP increases efficiency and effectiveness of international support for NHRIs and leverages complementary mandates to provide high-quality and timely assistance to NHRIs that is jointly planned, delivered and evaluated through a rights-based approach to ensure maximum impact. To date, 23 African countries have benefitted from targeted TPP support to strengthen and establish NHRIs in collaboration with the Network for African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) and with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 2018-2021. With continued support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the TPP is expanding its joint programming and efforts to respond to the needs of NHRIs globally in 2023-2024.