

ORAL STATEMENT - FOR DELIVERY (1.5 MIN)

20 September 2023

**54<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 3 - General Debate**  
**[SDG Summit 2023 | United Nations](#)**

Mr. President,

2023 marks the midway point for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2023 also marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Principles.

Despite the efforts made so far, progress in realizing the SDGs remains slow or unchanged.

Multiple contemporary global challenges, from climate change to the COVID-19 pandemic, have significantly delayed or reversed progress on many SDG targets.

While implementation gaps are universal, we are concerned they disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

The SDG Summit provides States with a critical opportunity to rebuild trust, galvanize efforts and mobilise political commitment to accelerate collective, sustained and transformative solutions and deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Human rights and the Agenda 2030 are intrinsically linked, and mutually reinforcing.

We call on all States to accelerate efforts to meet the SDGs by 2030 – and to adopt and reinforce a human rights and people-centered approach to SDG implementation, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality, to realise the promise to “leave no one behind.”

National human rights institutions play a crucial role in advancing a rights-based implementation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The very existence of a Paris Principles compliant NHRIs is a global indicator for SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

As NHRIs, we reaffirm our commitment to work in partnership with States, and all stakeholders, using our broad and independent mandate, to help deliver the people-centered and rights-based vision of the 2030 Agenda.

In line with the SDG 16 indicator on NHRIs and as we mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paris Principles, we urge States to protect and strengthen existing NHRIs, including by providing them with adequate technical and financial resources, and to establish independent NHRIs in those countries where they do not currently exist.

I thank you Mr. President.