GANHRI
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE 1993

**SDG SUMMIT 2023** | GANHRI DECLARATION

# DELIVERING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR ALL

## A CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED ACTION

Representing 120 national human rights institutions (NHRIs) across all regions, GANHRI is one of the largest human rights networks worldwide. We unite, promote and strengthen NHRIs to operate in accordance with the Paris Principles and provide leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights.

**We applaud the 2015 commitment of Heads of States and Governments** to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, uniting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development to provide a roadmap for people, peace and prosperity.

**We recognise the transformative approach of the 2030 Agenda** to pursue the rights of people to live in societies free from poverty, discrimination and the scourge of war, and to collectively address the global challenges we face today, including climate change.

**As NHRIs, we play a unique and powerful role** to promote a rights-based and people-centered implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Further, the 'existence of independent NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles' is a global indicator for the achievement of SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

This year is a significant milestone for international human rights. 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the Paris Principles. As we celebrate these historic milestones, we invite States to renew their commitment to the realisation of human rights, peace and sustainable development for all.

**2023 marks the midway point for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite the efforts made so far, progress remains slow or unchanged.**

**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.**

**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 delivering the promise of the 2030 Agenda, GANHRI highlights the importance of upholding these nine key principles.

### 1. Human rights and the SDGs are interlinked and mutually reinforcing

The 2030 Agenda is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties It emphasises the responsibility of States to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind. Realising human rights is intrinsic to achieving sustainable development, and realising the SDGs contributes to the advancement of human rights for all.

### 2. A human rights and people-centred approach, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality, is essential to realise the promise to "leave no one behind"

Integrating human rights considerations into all development policies, programmes and processes is essential to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, States must strengthen their efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and reduce inequalities, including by tackling the structural causes of inequity. It is vital to prioritise and maximise investment in those groups of people and countries furthest behind.

**3. Urgent, collective and long-term action is required to meet all SDGs by 2030**

Multiple contemporary global challenges, including climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, have significantly delayed or reversed progress on many SDG targets. While implementation gaps are universal, they disproportionally affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations. A multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder approach to implementation is urgently needed to meet all SDGs by 2030.

**4. States must ratify and implement all international human rights instruments, and fully cooperate with human rights mechanisms**

International human rights instruments and mechanisms provide a vital framework for reviewing implementation and progress to realise the SDGs. States should swiftly ratify all human rights instruments and engage actively with international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, the treaty bodies and the special procedures.

**5. Reliable data and evidence are key to promoting SDGs and human rights**

The collection and analysis of reliable data, disaggregated by prohibited grounds of discrimination, is critical in formulating the actions that strengthen human rights and realise the SDGs. States must prioritise their investment in data collection and data-driven advocacy to better mobilise and allocate resources to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind.

**6. Meaningful and inclusive participation of rights holders should be at the heart of the Agenda's implementation**

Participation, transparency and accountability are key to implementing the SDGs. States must redouble their efforts to reach out to those groups whose voices are still too often unheard, including women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, refugees, and migrants. When marginalised voices are included in decision-making, development initiatives are more relevant, sustainable, and impactful.

**7. SDG advancement is foundational for promoting gender equality**

Gender equality is both a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development. The SDGs provide a comprehensive framework to address the multifaceted challenges that perpetuate gender inequalities. The 2030 Agenda integrates gender considerations across all goals and targets, which is key to securing gender equality and sustainable development.

**8. Climate change needs urgent attention and action**

The impacts of climate change are felt disproportionally by vulnerable and marginalized communities around the world. A collaborative and rights-based approach to climate action is urgently needed to address the impacts of climate change and realize the 2030 Agenda. States must take immediate steps to fully implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement and ensure human rights considerations are integrated in all adaptation and mitigation measures.

**9. NHRIs, civil society and human rights defenders must be protected**

Across the globe, NHRIs and other human rights defenders are facing threats, intimidation and reprisals as a result of their legitimate work to promote and protect human rights for all. 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, in line with the NHRI Indicator under SDG 16.