

FINAL VIDEO-STATEMENT (2 MIN)

29 February 2024

**55th session of the Human Rights Council
Item 1: General Segment**

Mr. President,

2024 is a significant milestone for international human rights, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment.

This landmark treaty stands as a testament to our shared commitment to the fundamental principles of human dignity, justice, and the prevention of cruelty. Today, these values are heavily tested by intersecting global crises, resulting in a growing number of cases of torture and other ill-treatment worldwide.

In this context, NHRIs serve as indispensable pillars in our collective efforts to build a world free from the scourge of torture.

NHRIs from across regions unanimously adopted the Kiyv-Copenhagen in which they committed to redouble their efforts to prevent and address torture and other ill-treatment.

This powerful declaration sets out a range of practical actions that NHRIs will take as part of their promotion, prevention and protection work on torture and other ill-treatment, guided by a victim-centered approach and a particular attention to the rights of persons experiencing situations of vulnerability.

Mr. President,

We must all rededicate ourselves to the principles of the Convention.

We reiterate our call to States to protect and strengthen existing NHRIs and to establish Paris Principles compliant NHRIs where they do not yet exist.

GANHRI will continue to support NHRIs worldwide as they fulfill their mandate to uphold the rights and dignity of all.

I thank you Mr. President.