



**2024 Annual Review Meeting:
TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions**

**23-24 May 2024
UNDP, FF Building, 11th Floor, Doha Room
304 East 45th Street, Manhattan, New York**

OHCHR| GANHRI |UNDP

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Concept Note

The TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions (TPP) was established in 2011 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) to harness the collective strengths and comparative advantages of each partner in support of national human rights institutions (NHRIs). The TPP seeks to foster closer collaboration between the UN system and NHRIs, their regional networks, and GANHRI. The TPP has also provided programmatic support to NHRIs since 2018, with the support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The TPP, including TPP programming, is underwritten and operationalized by the Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice, and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development.

Objective

The TPP Annual Review meeting is a platform for partners and broader stakeholders in the UN system to support NHRIs and to set joint and complementary priorities for engagement and support to NHRIs in the coming period. Increasingly, the TPP Annual Review meeting has also served as a platform to raise awareness of the important role of NHRIs in advancing human rights including with the development and peace and security pillars of the UN. As the current phase of TPP programming draws to a close in 2024 against a challenging political backdrop with global backsliding of human rights, discussions at the 2024 TPP Annual Review meeting will also focus on identifying current needs of NHRIs and demand for future support and learning from experiences of TPP programming support to NHRIs to catalyze sustainable change.

The 2024 TPP Annual Review Meeting aims to:

1. Strengthen collaboration amongst NHRIs, TPP partners, and the broader UN system to advance human rights, including through the exchange of perspectives and identifying joint and complementary priorities and opportunities for engagement.
2. Raise awareness of the important role and contributions of NHRIs in advancing human rights including in the development and peace and security pillars of the UN.
3. Serve as a platform for peer exchange for NHRIs and consolidation of practical knowledge on leveraging TPP programming for catalytic and sustainable impact, including through the exchange of good practices and reflections on the added value of TPP country support.
4. Utilize a monitoring, evaluation, and learning approach to reflect on the TPP and identify opportunities for innovations and forward-looking priorities for TPP programming.

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 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. *Note: The 14th Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) will be taking place in New York during the same week as the TPP Annual Review Meeting. Relevant NHRIs traveling to New York for the UN Working Group on Ageing will be invited to participate in the TPP Annual Review Meeting.*

Date and Format

The TPP 2024 Annual Review Meeting will take place on 23-24 May 2024 with in-person participation in New York. Online participation can also be accommodated through Zoom. Interpretation during the event will be provided in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Korean. Please reference the event agenda for more details. Participants must register in advance [here](#).

Additional Events

To raise awareness of the important role and contributions of NHRIs in advancing human rights including in the development and peace and security pillars of the UN, participants of the TPP Annual Review Meeting are encouraged to participate in the following additional events taking place in New York:

- The UN President of the General Assembly is convening a High-Level Panel on Public Accessibility and Inclusivity focusing on developing strategic initiatives to raise awareness on the role and work of Ombudsman and mediator institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance, and the rule of law. The Panel will take place on 22 May from 10:00-13:00 at UNHQ in the Trusteeship Council Chamber. For more information, please reference the separate agenda, concept note, and logistics information from OHCHR.

- On the sidelines of the OEWGA, GANHRI is hosting an event entitled, [Bridging the Gap: National Human Rights Institutions Protecting and Upholding Older Persons' Rights](#). The event will take place on 24 May from 13:15-12:30 at UNHQ in Conference Room 2. The event is co-sponsored by the TPP (GANHRI, OHCHR, and UNDP). For more information, please reference the separate agenda, concept note, and logistics information from GANHRI/OHCHR.

Background Information

Priority themes for NHRIs: Regional networks of NHRIs will be invited to present on trends and experiences engaging with NHRIs on priority thematic areas in need of increased attention and support. The priority thematic areas (non-exclusive) are outlined below:

- **Climate Change and the Environment:** NHRIs play a critical role in the implementation of the newest internationally recognized human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. Their contributions in monitoring, reporting and advising governments and other stakeholders on rights-based climate action are recognized in the Human Rights Council October 2022 [resolution](#). TPP partners are currently developing a tool to support NHRIs in monitoring the right to a healthy environment.
- **Digitalization:** In the context of rapid digitalization, NHRIs are being called upon more and more to engage in the protection and promotion of human rights in the online space, for example on the right to privacy, freedom of expression and non-discrimination. NHRIs themselves are also users of technology and need to ensure safe channels of communication and secure archiving of sensitive material as well as leverage digital opportunities to facilitate the functions of NHRIs. TPP partners are currently developing a toolkit to support NHRIs in assessing and improving their digital readiness.
- **Human Rights Defenders and NHRIs at Risk:** NHRIs play an important role in contributing to protecting human rights defenders and safeguarding and promoting civic space, including as outlined in the [Marrakech Declaration](#). Members and staff of NHRIs are human rights defenders themselves by the virtue of their mandate and are [increasingly facing](#) sophisticated forms of reprisals, including threats, intimidation, harassment and attacks. In 2022, GANHRI launched the [Global Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space](#) setting out how GANHRI will continue supporting its members implement the Marrakech Declaration and strengthen efforts in protecting its members under threat or at risk. The TPP has also worked to sustain global and regional attention on this issue, and support implementation of the Marrakech Declaration. The TPP developed and operationalized a protocol to support NHRIs under threat, however it is no longer applicable following UN reforms. The protocol dates back to the 5th annual TPP meeting in June 2015 when a decision was taken to develop a common understanding on how to address reprisals and other acts of intimidation against NHRIs' members and staff. As a follow up, in October 2016, the GANHRI Bureau adopted the "Guidelines of the UNDP, OHCHR and GANHRI on Reprisals and Other Acts of Intimidation against NHRIs, their Members and Staff." They apply to situations

of reprisals and other acts of intimidation against all NHRIs, regardless of whether they are accredited by GANHRI's Sub-Committee on Accreditation. The Guidelines support coordination and communication amongst the partners and provide guidance to them on ways to effectively respond, jointly or individually. In 2019, following UN system reform, UNDP no longer hosts the RC system in the UN system. Discussions in 2023 TPP Annual Review Meeting therefore focused on the role of DCO and the wider UN system architecture.

NHRIs and the UN: During the 2024 TPP Annual Review Meeting, a dedicated session will be organized to strengthen collaboration amongst NHRIs, TPP partners, and the broader UN system to advance human rights. UN system actors will be invited to reflect on the priority themes for NHRIs above (where relevant with their mandates), share experiences supporting NHRIs, and outline opportunities for strengthened UN- NHRI engagement at global, regional, and country levels. Updates will also be provided on the 2024 High-Level Political Forum, Summit of the Future, and Call to Action for Human Rights. All partners will have the opportunity to share their perspectives through open discussion.

The UN has increasingly recognized the important role of NHRIs including in key documents such as the Secretary-General's [Call to Action for Human Rights](#) and by Member States in resolutions at both the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.¹ There has also been expanded support and partnership with NHRIs across the UN system, which reflects heightened opportunities for cooperation and coordination with the UN system.²

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 under SDG16. SDG 16 will be under review at the [UN High-Level Political Forum](#) in July 2024. In addition, building on the SDG Summit in 2023, Member States will meet in September 2024 at the [Summit of the Future](#) to adopt a 'Pact for the Future' to promote more effective global cooperation to address today's challenges as well as new threats in the future.

NHRIs in crisis and sustaining peace contexts: During the 2024 TPP Annual Review Meeting, a dedicated session will be organized to discuss challenges and contributions NHRIs make in prevention and response to crisis and sustaining peace contexts and inform joint and complementary priorities for engagement and support to NHRIs in the coming period including by drawing on experiences of NHRIs working in partnership with the UN.

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. NHRIs face unique challenges in these contexts and also provide valuable contributions towards early warning, safeguarding human rights, strengthening civic space,

¹ Latest resolutions include [A/HRC/51/31](#); [A/RES/76/170](#); [A/RES/74/156](#)

² See latest reports of the Secretary General on National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights [A/HRC/51/51](#); [A/78/182](#)

protecting human rights defenders, and supporting conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The TPP has seen demand for support to NHRIs in these areas through the conceptualization of TPP country level programming in 2023-2024. In addition, the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has conducted a Thematic Review on Human Rights and Peacebuilding (report forthcoming) which highlights the significant role that NHRIs play in countries implementing support from the PBF. In addition, NHRIs at the [14th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions](#) in November 2023 adopted the Kyiv-Copenhagen Declaration, which 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.

Capacity Assessments: During the 2024 TPP Annual Review Meeting, a dedicated session will be organized to discern the added-value for NHRIs in undertaking Capacity Assessments in line with the [Global Principles for the Capacity Assessment of National Human Rights institutions](#), including by drawing on experiences of recent assessments and follow-up efforts, and to support coordination amongst TPP partners through discussion of current and anticipated requests.

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, 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 continue to overcome obstacles in order to assess and support NHRI's key capacities.

Support to the TPP: The TPP, including TPP programming, is supported and operationalized through the UNDP Global Programme on the Rule of Law and Human Rights alongside dedicated funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

TPP Programming: Between 2018-2021, 23 NHRIs in the African region benefitted from TPP support in collaboration with the Network for African National Human Rights Institutions. In 2022, the TPP entered into a new agreement with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support NHRIs around the world until the end of 2024 through the three output areas below:

- Output 1: Establishment and strengthening of NHRIs institutional frameworks and capacities, in line with the Paris Principles as cornerstones of national human rights systems.
- Output 2: Advanced efforts of NHRIs to promote and protect, as well as monitor, human rights in the context of digitalization and climate change.
- Output 3: Enhanced engagement and recognition of NHRIs to influence rights-based policymaking and implementation for human rights and a human rights-based approach to sustainable development, including in relevant international fora.

Among other achievements, this has enabled the TPP to expand its demand-driven assistance to reach NHRIs across all regions. The TPP is currently supporting 13 NHRIs to build and assess their capacities as well as developing practical tools for NHRIs on digital readiness and the right to a healthy environment and supporting the voice of NHRIs in key policy fora. During the 2024 TPP Annual Review Meeting, an update will be provided on progress achieved in implementing TPP programming.

Monitoring, evaluation, and learning: The 4th phase of UNDP's Global Programme on the Rule of Law and Human Rights (2022-2025) has brought increased investment in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), including by establishing a dedicated MEL Unit to improve capture and communication of impact through a more systematized and targeted approach to data collection, analysis and reporting to better inform programming, advance thought leadership and strengthen policy influence. TPP programming is leveraging UNDP Global Programme's MEL Unit to foster stronger outcomes including by:

- Injecting lessons learned from previous TPP programming in Africa into the development and operationalization of the 2022-2024 TPP-Norway agreement.
- Supporting TPP programming in 2023-2024 to better capture, understand and showcase impact and enable continuous learning and adaptation, including through mid-term and final reporting.

During the 2024 TPP Annual Review Meeting, UNDP/ the MEL Unit will design and facilitate a Learning Exchange to enrich TPP programming implementation in 2024 and inform TPP programming in the future through the exchange of good practices, reflections on the added value of TPP country support, and identification of strategies to maximize the sustainable and catalytic potential of TPP support. The Learning Exchange will also serve as a platform for peer exchange for NHRIs and consolidation of practical knowledge on leveraging TPP programming for advancing human rights. The primary objective of the Learning Exchange is to hear from NHRIs who have benefitted and are currently benefiting from TPP support as well as partners involved in implementation. In addition, UNDP/ the MEL Unit will design and facilitate a session to dive deeper into the areas of greatest impact, challenges and gaps, and recommendations for innovation for TPP programming, including by reflecting on TPP priorities and processes.

The lessons and recommendations gleaned from these sessions will be further complemented by the information gathered through TPP reporting on support provided in 2023-2024. The 4th phase of UNDP's Global Programme will undergo a final evaluation in 2025, which will include the support provided through the TPP in 2023-2024.

For questions regarding the 2024 TPP Annual Review Meeting, please contact Chelsea Shelton (chelsea.shelton@undp.org) and Julie van Dassen (julie.vandassen@undp.org)