GANHRI Statement

17 September 2026

63rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3

High-Level Panel on the 60th Anniversary of the International Covenants on Human Rights

(HRC res. 61/7)

Mr. President,

GANHRI welcomes this opportunity to mark sixty years of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

The Covenants remain fundamental to the protection of human dignity. However, their greatest significance must be measured not only by the rights they enshrine, but by their effective implementation in people's everyday lives. The universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights require us to address civil and political rights together with economic, social and cultural rights, including where inequalities and discrimination prevent people from fully enjoying those rights.

National Human Rights Institutions play a critical role in translating these commitments into national practice and bringing national experience and expertise to international human rights processes. Through monitoring, complaints-handling, investigations, advice to public authorities and engagement with international human rights mechanisms, NHRIs can identify gaps between international obligations and their implementation, support access to remedies, and promote accountability.

As we look ahead, GANHRI encourages States to strengthen the national implementation and follow up of the Covenants, ensure effective remedies for violations, and provide NHRIs with the independence, mandate and resources necessary to fulfil their functions in line with the Paris Principles.

The sixtieth anniversary should therefore be not only a moment of commemoration, but a renewed commitment to the effective implementation of the Covenants and making all human rights a reality for all.

Thank you.

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
United Nations Office in Geneva | Palais des Nations, H building | 1211 Geneva 10 | Switzerland
info@ganhri.org | www.ganhri.org