GANHRI Statement

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Item 5

Interactive Dialogue on the Secretary-General's report on cooperation with the United Nations

(*A/HRC/63/62*)

Mr. President,

Madam Assistant Secretary-General,

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report and acknowledges the Secretary-General's assessment that reprisals and intimidation continue to undermine effective cooperation with the United Nations.

We are concerned by the continued high number of reported acts of intimidation and reprisals against those engaging with the United Nations in the field of human rights, and by the growing pressures on the civic space necessary for such engagement.

The findings of the Secretary-General's report echo those of GANHRI's 2026 Global Survey on reprisals, which found that human rights defenders and civil society organisations continue to face a broad range of pressures affecting their human rights work, including growing digital threats, smear campaigns and online reputational attacks.

These findings also reflect concerns raised at GANHRI's 2026 Annual Conference on human rights in the digital space, including the use of digital tools to intimidate, monitor or silence critical voices.

NHRIs have an important role to play in addressing such acts through their monitoring, complaints-handling and investigations, among others. That also enables them to collect valuable data and information that can contribute to the preparation of reports such as this one itself. Greater cooperation with NHRIs should therefore be encouraged in this regard.

However, NHRIs are themselves confronted with acts of intimidation and reprisals as a result of their cooperation with the United Nations system and therefore require themselves adequate protection. Such acts can seriously affect the independence of NHRIs and undermine their compliance with the Paris Principles.

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We thank the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General for their important work and call on all States and non-State actors for concrete solutions and a more systematic approach to ensure a safe and enabling environment in which civil society, human rights defenders and NHRIs can operate freely and engage with UN system effectively, both online and offline.