2017 Annual Report

Advancing human rights with National Human Rights Institutions and our partners
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Dear reader,

Since its establishment as the “International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions” (ICC) in 1993, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) has grown into a worldwide alliance of more than 110 national human rights institutions (NHRIs). Over the past 25 years, GANHRI and its members have witnessed an ever increasing demand for their human rights work in-country and in international fora. This is also reflected in the variety and increasing number of GANHRI’s activities, and in the joint commitment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and GANHRI to step up their Tripartite Partnership. As a step to further increasing its accountability towards its members, partners, and the general public, GANHRI has produced its first-ever public annual report, a copy of which you are now holding in your hands.

States are primarily responsible for protecting and realising human rights. As independent state institutions mandated to promote and protect human rights, NHRIs constitute a central element of the national human rights architecture. Through their unique mandate, NHRIs bring human rights home. NHRIs monitor their state’s compliance with its human rights obligations; they report to their parliament and domestic public as well as to international bodies; they give advice how to make legislation human-rights compliant; and they follow up on the implementation of recommendations made by international bodies to their respective countries. In 2017, in its biennial resolution on NHRIs (A/RES/72/181), the UN General Assembly again recognised the importance of NHRIs and supported their strengthening both domestically and through participation in UN fora. I am extremely grateful to all GANHRI members who contributed, through substantive work and participation, to bringing the perspective of NHRIs to the attention of the international community.

Let me highlight just two among the many topics covered by GANHRI in 2017: The important role NHRIs play in helping to prevent human rights violations and protect human rights in situations of tension, violence or conflict, and their contribution to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda. In 2017, GANHRI dedicated its Annual Conference to the role of NHRIs in early warning, conflict prevention and the re-establishment of peaceful societies. Violent conflict does not happen overnight, but over time. Human rights violations can provide a first indication of an emerging crisis that is likely to deteriorate into tensions, violence and even armed conflict. Their mandate and functions as laid down in the UN Paris Principles put NHRIs in a position to report domestically and internationally on such trends at an early stage, to facilitate a dialogue between the state and civil society, and to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms so as to prevent further deterioration of a violent situation. The exchange between NHRIs, representatives of the UN, its human rights mechanisms, and civil society organisations provided insights and inspiration for GANHRI members.

During the past year, GANHRI continued to strengthen its members’ engagement with the UN 2030 Agenda. This work is based on the understanding that human rights must guide the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve sustainable solutions as well as just, peaceful and inclusive societies. GANHRI and its members are convinced that the ambitious 2030 Agenda will be implemented only if civil society can contribute to the domestic debates on SDG implementation. For this reason, GANHRI again presented a report at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on the status of civic space in the countries under voluntary review.

At the core of GANHRI are its members. Yet, support to NHRIs is not self-serving. It serves to improve NHRIs’ work for human rights in their countries. The legitimacy of our work as NHRIs derives from our commitment to human rights, and to human rights alone. I look forward to continuing GANHRI’s successful work for and with its members for the human rights of all and everywhere.

Professor Dr Beate Rudolf
GANHRI Chairperson
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

WHAT’S GANHRI?

As the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, GANHRI brings together National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and provides leadership in protecting and advancing human rights worldwide. It was founded in 1993 as a membership-based association (nonprofit organisation) gathering independent NHRIs from around the world.

In particular, GANHRI:

- Coordinates its members’ activities to share experiences, and identify collectively good practices and remedy solutions;
- Encourages cooperation and information sharing among NHRIs, including through the General Assembly and Working Groups;
- Undertakes accreditation of NHRIs according to the Paris Principles under the auspices of OHCHR;
- Promotes the role of NHRIs within the UN, with States, and with other relevant actors to show the importance of including them in the development of international human right policies;
- Facilitates NHRI engagement with the UN, including the Human Rights Council and Treaty Bodies;
- Builds capacities through trainings on human rights, often jointly organised with UN agencies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- Provides assistance to NHRIs under threat; and
- Supports governments to establish NHRIs.

“...I therefore commend the association for proving to be a platform for continued cooperation, capacity building, and sharing of experiences among NHRIs - this undoubtedly benefits human rights.”

Joaquin Alexander Maza Martelli
2017 President of the Human Rights Council
National Human Rights Institutions: a brief history

The idea of establishing national human rights institutions emerged in 1946 at the Economic and Social Council where Member States were invited to consider establishing information groups or local human rights committees, in the aftermath of World War II.

In 1978, the Commission on Human Rights organised a seminar which resulted in draft guidelines for the structure and functioning of those institutions. The Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly subsequently endorsed the guidelines and invited States to take appropriate steps to establish these institutions.

In 1991, the first international workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights took place in Paris. A key outcome was the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions.

Following the Vienna World Conference in 1993, and their endorsement by the General Assembly later that year, the Paris Principles have been broadly accepted as the international standard for NHRIs’ legitimacy and credibility.

The importance of establishing and strengthening independent pluralistic NHRIs, consistent with the Paris Principles, has since been reaffirmed by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in various resolution. The most recent ones are resolution A/HRC/RES/33/15 of 2016 (Human Rights Council Resolution) and A/RES/72/181, adopted respectively by the Human Rights Council and by the General Assembly in 2016 and 2017.

Independent NHRIs: complying with the Paris Principles

What are the Paris Principles?

Endorsed in 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly, the Paris Principles were drafted at an international NHRIs workshop in Paris in 1991. They define the role, composition, status and functions of national human rights institutions.

NHRIs must comply with these Principles which identify their human rights objectives and provide for their independence, broad human rights mandate, adequate funding, and an inclusive and transparent selection and appointment process. The Paris Principles are broadly accepted as the test of an institution’s legitimacy and credibility.
Accrediting NHRIs: the Sub-Committee on Accreditation

The accreditation process is at the heart of the mandate of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

Accreditation ensures independence, pluralism, accountability and impartiality of NHRIs, in line with the requirements of the Paris Principles. Accreditation confers national, regional and international recognition, and, importantly, protection of an NHRI and its independence. Uniquely, accreditation provides access to the UN system for NHRIs in their independent capacity as NHRI.

In recent years GANHRI through the SCA, its members and in close cooperation with its accreditation Secretariat hosted within the OHCHR has worked to strengthen the accreditation process to ensure an increasingly robust, transparent and fair process.

The SCA met twice in 2017 and reviewed the accreditation of 23 NHRIs.

The UN Secretary General reports annually on GANHRI’s activities in accrediting NHRIs. The General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in their respective resolutions on NHRIs have continuously welcomed GANHRI’s critical role in accrediting NHRIs.

“This mechanism is very important because it allows NHRIs to comply with the Paris Principles and international standards.”

Madeleine Nirere
Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda
A GLOBAL PRESENCE

In 2017, GANHRI served 111 members:
- 78 ‘A’ status accredited NHRIs
- 33 ‘B’ status accredited NHRIs

1 Accreditation status as of 26 May 2017.
2 In accordance with the Paris Principles and the GANHRI Statute, the following classifications for accreditation are used by the GANHRI: ‘A’ status - Fully compliant with the Paris Principles; and ‘B’ status - Partially compliant with the Paris Principles.
Working with regional networks

GANHRI also works closely with its four regional networks in support of NHRIs: the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), and the Red de Instituciones Nacionales para la Promoción y Protección de los Derechos Humanos del Continente Americano (RINDHCA). By working together at the global level, GANHRI brings together the four regional networks, to develop strategies and cross-regional collaboration, which contribute to strengthening NHRIs and promote exchange among and across regions. GANHRI and the four regional networks also coordinate joint interventions in support of NHRIs, joint positions and common strategies and advances on institutional and organisational development, including a fair, transparent and rigorous accreditation process.

In particular the four regional networks:
- Contribute to the accreditation of NHRIs being observers during the review of the SCA and supporting NHRIs going through accreditation and re-accreditation and implementing the recommendation of the SCA;
- Appoint members to the different governance bodies of GANHRI, in particular the Bureau and its sub-committees;
- Partner with GANHRI in projects aimed at strengthening NHRIs; and
- Co-organise with GANHRI advocacy activities in areas of common interest (women’s rights, rights of older persons, SDGs, etc.)

Throughout 2017, GANHRI and the four regional networks coordinated joint advocacy initiatives at the UN in Geneva and in New York, supported NHRIs under threat, and partnered in joint activities in the framework of the NHRI EU project and the Tripartite Partnership in support of NHRIs.
THE 2017-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

In March 2017, GANHRI's General Assembly adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2017-19, composed of three pillars that focus on the organisation’s thematic working areas, the communication and the knowledge sharing activities, and institutional development including partnerships.

The first pillar identifies thematic areas with the strategic priority to influence human rights debates at regional and international level. It comprises eight thematic priorities:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Business and Human rights
- Combating gender-based discrimination
- Rights of older persons
- Monitoring functions of NHRIs on the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
- NHRIs in conflict and post conflict situations
- Rights of persons on the move, refugees, migrants, displaced persons
- Shrinking democratic space/human rights defenders

The second pillar concerns knowledge management and communications with the strategic priority to increase and improve cooperation and knowledge exchange among NHRIs and to enhance focused communication. It focuses on five areas:

- Implementation of the knowledge management needs assessment recommendations
- Methodological exchange at the international level
- Communications (including website, social media and other communications tools)
- Training and workshops
- Exchange about NHRI functions

The third pillar is about institutional development with the strategic priorities being:

- Subcommittee on accreditation
- NHRI participation rights
- IT infrastructure
- Governance
- Partners

To support implementation of its strategic thematic priorities, over the years GANHRI has established several working groups that have a specific thematic focus. The purpose of the working groups is to provide a platform for peer learning and exchange of information, to lead on GANHRI's engagement and to coordinate GANHRI members’ engagement on relevant thematic areas. Working groups are composed of representatives of NHRIs that are appointed by their regions and that have expertise in the relevant thematic area of the working group.

There are currently three working groups: one on the Rights of Older Persons, one on Business and Human Rights, and one on the SDGs. There are also task forces that are more limited in time and that are created ad hoc, such as the one on Migration.

The sustaining peace agenda and the 2030 Agenda are inextricably linked and mainstreaming human rights will go a long way towards ensuring progress on both. Strong, effective, inclusive, independent and pluralistic NHRIs are an important means to this end – to ensuring peaceful, just and inclusive societies and sustainable peace and development for all.”

Rastislav Vrbensky
UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS addressing the GANHRI 2017 Annual Meeting
Each year, GANHRI’s annual meeting gathers members and partners for the General Assembly and the Bureau in Geneva. In 2017, GANHRI’s annual meeting took place from 6 to 8 March, including a thematic annual conference.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It is GANHRI’s highest authority and is held once a year in Geneva. All members of the Alliance can participate but only ‘A’ status NHRI have the right to vote.

The 2017 General Assembly took place on 7 March 2017 and brought together more than 220 NHRI representatives from all regions, UN partners and independent experts from the Human Rights Council’s Treaty Bodies, States’ representatives, civil society organisations and academia and the implementation plan for 2017. In a session devoted to an exchange of experiences, participants discussed how to best apply the power of NHRI in the field of business and human rights, and the rights of migrants and refugees. They also adopted GANHRI’s new Strategic Plan for 2017-19.

The duties of the General Assembly include control of the activities of GANHRI, review and control of the activities of the GANHRI Bureau, ratification of the program of GANHRI activities, the amendment of this Statute, consideration of funding issues and the fixing of annual membership subscriptions to be paid by members accredited with ‘A’ status, provided however the decision of GANHRI Bureau on accreditation determinations shall not be subject to review or control by the General Assembly.”

GANHRI’s Statute
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The discussions at the Annual Conference, held on 8 March 2017 focused on “Early warning, conflict prevention and re-establishment of peaceful societies: the role of NHRI. NHRI called for a strengthened respect of the rule of law and human rights as an effective framework to prevent, reduce and combat violence and re-build trust and peace in a post-conflict society.

The conference concluded with the adoption of a Closing Statement in which NHRIs stressed “that whether resulting from armed conflict, civil unrest, or other situations of conflict, occupation, the erosion of peace and security in societies is generally preceded by clearly identifiable patterns of human rights abuses and discrimination”. The closing statement gives guidance to NHRIs and actors willing to support them.

Taking advantage of this international meeting, GANHRI also organised in cooperation with UNICEF an event on the work of NHRIs and children’s rights (9 March). The objective was to exchange information on the different ways NHRIs can contribute to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular SDG 16, also by facilitating access to complaint mechanisms for children.

I particularly commend the NHRIIs represented here, who in situations of rising crisis and conflict continue to monitor, document, issue public statements and release reports on human rights violations. Your work is fundamental to securing sustainable peace, with sound, transparent and accountable institutions, and a healthy social fabric.”

Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Opening Statement
THE BUREAU’S BIANNUAL MEETINGS

The GANHRI Bureau is the Management Committee of the organisation. It meets twice a year, works to implement the decisions of the General Assembly, reviews the work of the Chairperson and gives strategic guidance. It is composed of 16 members, including the Chairperson and the Secretary, from an ‘A’ Status NHRI, four from each of the four GANHRI regional networks.

The first meeting of the year was held in March 2017 in Geneva during the annual meeting and put a set of procedures in place to make the accreditation process more rigorous, transparent and fair.

The second Bureau meeting was held in Costa Rica in November 2017, hosted by the NHRI of Costa Rica. It adopted the 2018 draft budget and implementation plan, and set out priorities for 2018 among the eight thematic areas identified in the Strategic Plan. Participants also reviewed alarming widespread trends of shrinking democratic space and reprisals, threats, and other acts of intimidation against human rights defenders and NHRI. Because of the relevance and high recurrence among NHRI and civil society, it was decided that the theme of the upcoming 13th International Conference of NHRI to be held in October 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco, would be “Expanding the civic space and promoting and protecting human rights defenders, with a specific focus on women: The role of NHRI.”
SUPPORTING NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

ADVOCACY: RECOGNISING NHRIs AS KEY ACTORS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The aim of GANHRI’s advocacy work is to enhance NHRIs’ access to the UN system, their involvement in the global human rights debate, and their inclusion in the development of international human rights standards.

In August 2017, building on the long-standing cooperation with both GANHRI and NHRIs, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) resolved to hold an annual interactive dialogue with NHRIs. This will be an important occasion to strengthen cooperation between global and national monitoring bodies, and to better address the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

GANHRI offers a better visibility to NHRIs, which increases their impact on global human rights topics. An important progress was made in April 2017 on the issue of international migration, rights of persons on the move and migrants when as a result of GANHRI’s advocacy the UN General Assembly invited NHRIs to participate in the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

To improve NHRIs’ access to Treaty Bodies and ensure their effective contribution to the Treaty Body system, GANHRI, in collaboration with the OHCHR and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, organised a consultation session in March 2017 between treaty bodies and NHRIs. Participants discussed ways to simplify and streamline engagement processes. NHRIs recommended that “the Treaty Bodies’ procedures and working methods be strengthened and be as much as possible aligned and harmonized, with concrete proposals to be developed and considered in a consultative and inclusive process involving both treaty bodies and NHRIs.” The main points of the consultation were submitted to Treaty Body Chairpersons for their consideration.

Still in March 2017, at the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, NHRIs from across the globe, led by the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs and GANHRI, continued their advocacy for independent participation in the work of the UN’s global policymaking body on women and girls. NHRIs do not currently have standing in their own right to participate in meetings of the Commission and can only attend as part of their country’s government or NGO delegation, if they are invited. The Agreed Conclusions issued at the end of the session highlighted the positive contribution made by NHRIs and their relevance “in promoting the economic empowerment of women and their full and productive employment and decent work”.

In December 2016, the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) decided to allow participation rights to NHRIs, thanks in part to the targeted advocacy work done by GANHRI and its members. 2017 has seen an enthusiastic and robust engagement from NHRIs, which have well utilised their newly gained participation right to the debate around the identification of gaps in the international framework of the human rights of older persons. NHRI’s reports from the ground proved highly valuable in the debates.

To contribute to broaden its outreach and improve contacts among its members, GANHRI will launch a new website and a digital knowledge platform in 2018.
Art. 01
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Art. 02
Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind.

Art. 03
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Art. 05
No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Art. 13
Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

Art. 13
Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Art. 18
Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Art. 19
Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
GANHRI’s participation in global events on human rights give more visibility to NHRIs’ work; this is also the time to share experiences and good practices with states, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders in order to improve the human rights situation in the world.

GANHRI often together with one or more of the regional networks and through its working groups, the GANHRI Special Envoys and the Head Office, coordinates and leads the engagement of NHRIs. GANHRI supported NHRIs during the three sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva (February to March, June and September 2017). It informed and advised them on development and engagement and partnership opportunities with other stakeholders such as the UN experts, including Human Rights Council’s Special Procedures, NGOs and State representatives to have more influence on human rights mechanisms. GANHRI delivered 12 oral statements to the UN Human Rights Council sessions (34th, 35th and 36th), 6 statements to UN Treaty Bodies various meetings and 4 to other UN processes. GANHRI also submitted 6 written contributions, including in coordination with NHRIs and regional networks, to Treaty Bodies and other human rights mechanisms demonstrating the relevance and role of National Human Rights Institutions in supporting the UN achieve its goals in the promotion and protection of human rights globally.

In November 2017, during the Forum on Business and Human Rights hosted by OHCHR, GANHRI co-organised three events with its Working Group on Business and Human Rights:

- A side-event focusing on “National Human Rights Institutions: reports from the field” presented the recent trends for human rights based on concrete examples of actions and monitoring activities conducted by NHRIs. This showed the relevance of involving NHRIs when discussing human right issues as their national networks make them very well informed of the human rights situation in their countries.

- A side-event that analysed “Merits and demerits of non-judicial remedy” and that was the occasion to evaluate the best responses to NHRIs threats.

- A meeting between NHRIs and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that was conceived as an exchange session to present NHRIs’ activities and enhance collaboration opportunities between them and the OECD, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding renewed in 2017 between GANHRI and the OECD.

At the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York (July 2017), GANHRI convened a side-event with the OHCHR and the UNDP to present and discuss concrete country examples of NHRIs’ engagement that contribute to fulfill the SDGs. With its Working Group on the SDGs, GANHRI published a study showcasing the role NHRIs play in translating the SDGs into reality on the ground. For the second time, GANHRI also published a report on the status of civic space in the countries under voluntary review, as effective SDG implementation requires public participation.

Also in July, at the 8th working session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in New York, GANHRI’s Working Group on Ageing made a statement and organised a side-event on the rights of older persons. The OEWGA is the first subsidiary body of the General Assembly in New York (other than the HRC in Geneva) which allowed for the participation of NHRIs in their own capacity. The statement and the side-event showcased the work of National Human Rights Institutions and the Rights of Older Persons with regards to ‘equality and non-discrimination’ and ‘neglect, violence and abuse’.

In June 2017, GANHRI participated in the 10th session of the
Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It organised a side-event that showcased the relevance of NHRIs’ work monitoring and promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in countries. The Asia Pacific Forum presented its good practice guide on Human Rights and Disability: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions which examines the different tools NHRIs can use to fulfil their unique mandate to promote and protect the human rights of people with disabilities.

At the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migrations (starting in April 2017), GANHRI was actively involved in the discussions, participating in the first and second thematic session and submitting statements on behalf of NHRIs.

In March 2017, GANHRI with APF, contributed to the Commission on the Status of Women to improve global policies for the rights of women and girls. Thanks to the advocacy carried on for the third year in a row, the CSW Agreed Conclusions contain a stand-alone paragraph on encouraging Paris Principles compliant NHRIs participation, including in this year 61st session of the Commission. A short video, produced by APF, shows the work of GANHRI and APF around the CSW.

Watch this short video, produced by APF, that shows the work of GANHRI and APF around the CSW.
STRENGTHENING NHRIs’ CAPACITIES

As independent institutions of the State, NHRIs are mandated to promote and monitor the implementation of international human rights treaties at the national and local level, and are uniquely placed to serve as a bridge between states, civil society and rights-holders on the ground. GANHRI contributes to strengthen their capacities, by promoting the exchange of good practices and debates, and with training delivered in association with its partners. The training sessions can be replicated in countries. Training sessions are also important networking opportunities to share experiences and identify collectively what constitutes good practices for NHRI engagement at home, and at the international level.

From 1 to 5 May 2017, for the fifth time, a course aiming at increasing NHRIs’ knowledge of the United Nations human rights mechanisms for a more effective engagement was organized by GANHRI in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the OHCHR, and in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It focused on:
- Identifying concrete opportunities and practical ways to engage effectively with the UN human rights bodies, such as report writing and follow-up;
- Participating in sessions of several Geneva-based UN human rights mechanisms; and
- Exchanging experiences and best practices with and among peer NHRIs.

The training included various debates, workshops and presentations from partner organisations including the OHCHR, the Geneva Institute for Human Rights, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights, the Association of Prevention of Torture, Geneva for Human Rights, Child Rights Connect, the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Service for Human Rights.

On 9 March 2017, GANHRI and UNICEF organised in partnership with the OHCHR a seminar on “The role of NHRIs in the promotion and protection of children’s rights: contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”. Around 80 NHRI representatives from all regions attended the event and exchanged views on their specific role in the promotion, protection and monitoring of children’s rights and how this contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Considering NHRIs’ strong interest in children’s rights and the necessity to gather and share good practices especially in the field of children’s rights and SDGs, one of the outcomes of the seminar was the call for an increased collaboration between GANHRI and UNICEF. To that end, a mapping exercise was conducted in 2017 to outline NHRI role, activities and experience in children’s rights. This will be the basis for potential further cooperation in the field of capacity building.

“\nAs soon as I returned to Manila, my learning from the training was put to good use.”

Marizen Santos
Division Chief, International Obligations Monitoring, Human Rights Policy
Advisory Office, Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
In cooperation with all four regional networks, GANHRI continued to lead on implement the NHRI-EU Capacity Project administered and managed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The NHRI.EU project also included online blended learning courses aimed at increasing NHRI’s impact and effectiveness in promoting and protecting human rights, with a specific focus on their activities related to:

- Business and human rights;
- Economic, social and cultural rights;
- Monitoring and reporting to regional and international human rights bodies; and
- Promotion of human rights education into the formal education sector.

The project also foresees follow-up activities at national level on the topics of the blended learning courses through a re-granting process to 16 selected NHRI.

“...The information that I gained from the training will be very useful for me as I am in the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission’s department that conducts trainings and workshops for different stakeholders on human rights issues.”

Sindiso Nkomo
Human Rights Officer, Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
SUPPORTING NHRI UNDER THREAT

“NHRI are under pressure”

In a number of countries around the globe, NHRI face threats and reprisals for their work to promote and protect human rights and for holding governments accountable for their compliance with international human rights obligations, although this is required by the UN Paris Principles and their statutory or constitutional mandate. A vital role of GANHRI, working closely with the four NHRI regional networks, is to support our members to maintain their independence from governments and to be able to fulfil their mandate. In 2017, GANHRI received, and expressed concern over increasing reports of reprisals and other acts of intimidation that NHRI and their staff have faced for undertaking human rights work in accordance with their mandate.

These cases of reprisals or other acts of intimidation from both State and non-State actors may take a variety of forms, including political pressure, intimidation, physical attacks or threats, harassment, travel bans, disproportionate budget cuts, undue interference with the selection and appointment process of the members of a NHRI, arbitrary detention and criminal prosecution, torture and killings.

GANHRI’s Bureau meeting in November 2017 in Costa Rica, focused on this threatening trend against NHRI’s, their members and staff, and discussed specific cases. Some of these cases were reported to relevant UN stakeholders including the UN Assistant Secretary General, the President of the Human Rights Council and UN treaty bodies. The United Nations has specifically called its member States to protect their NHRI and investigate any threats as highlighted in a General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/181, which was unanimously adopted in December 2017.

Addressing threats

GANHRI’s support, in collaboration with the OHCHR, UNDP and the regional networks, proved to be effective in several cases and helped to relieve pressure on the NHRI that were under threat. Beyond support from the UN and other international actors, civil society organisations are also important allies to protect NHRI.

With OHCHR and UNDP, GANHRI has developed Guidelines on Reprisals and Other Acts of Intimidation against National Human Rights Institutions, their Members and Staff. These include the internal procedure to follow to inform all relevant focal points, and propose actions to address threats such as bringing the case to State authorities, to the Human Rights Council or to the Secretary-General, to other relevant international organisations, or informing the media. Coordinated actions, in line with the different mandates, help to ensure the best support possible for NHRI under threat.

GANHRI is also closely collaborating with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and the Assistant Secretary General on Human Rights to address cases of reprisals against NHRI.
“National human rights institutions and their respective members and staff should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of activities undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting on serious or systematic violations in their countries, and calls upon States to promptly and thoroughly investigate cases of alleged reprisal or intimidation against members or staff of national human rights institutions or against individuals who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them”.

UN General Assembly Resolution, December 2017

“...In many countries, NHRIs are under pressure. They are threatened, sometimes harassed, and the most active are the most in danger.”

Michel Forst
UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders
DEVELOPING KEY PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS

GANHRI’s strength relies greatly on the solidity of its partnerships. As a convener between NHRIs and United Nations mechanisms, GANHRI has built strong bonds with several organisations over the years to maximise synergies and bring NHRIs’ expertise to develop sound international policies on human rights.

OHCHR AND UNDP SUPPORTING GANHRI

OHCHR, through the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section (NiRMS), supports the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs and works closely with NHRIs to support them in the implementation of their broad mandates to promote and protect human rights.

GANHRI’s partnership with OHCHR is a longstanding one. The relationship between the two organisations is, in fact, manifold and spans from the organisation of GANHRI’s General Assembly and International Conferences, to servicing with secretariat support the Sub-Committee on Accreditation and GANHRI’s head office. In 2017, OHCHR also supported GANHRI through a small grant to partially fund its new communication strategy and website.

UNDP has granted GANHRI a micro-capital fund to support its mandate with three outputs:
- The capacity of GANHRI strengthened to fulfil its mandate in regard to its key strategic goals;
- Improved institutional effectiveness and knowledge service management of GANHRI with the regional networks of NHRIs; and
- Evidence and knowledge created to promote NHRIs (including NHRI impact in countries and NHRI support for implementation of the SDGs).

In 2017, UNDP’s support allowed for GANHRI’s Special Envoys to represent NHRIs and their standpoint at international meetings and UN mechanisms.
STRENGTHENING A MAJOR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OHCHR AND UNDP

GANHRI, OHCHR and UNDP have been working together to strengthen NHRIs’ capacities in different regions since 2011 under the strategic Tripartite Partnership Programme (TPP).

In October 2016, the three partners agreed a vision for scaling up joint support to NHRIs. Building on this vision, the GANHRI Chairperson, the UNDP Administrator, and the OHCHR Deputy High Commissioner signed a Letter of Intent in February 2017 expressing their intention to further strengthen their cooperation to support NHRIs at global, regional and national levels. In New York in July 2017, the three partners met to define their respective priorities based on each organisation’s core missions and specialties, and to mobilise resources.

The main objective of the TPP is to strengthen NHRIs in their capacity to promote and protect human rights individually, and through their regional and global networks, which results into increased fulfilment of human rights for all people. The TPP has identified common thematic priorities that include:

- Support NHRIs efforts towards the 2030 Agenda and efforts to Leave No One Behind;
- Strengthen NHRIs’ role in sustaining peace, including prevention and early warning;
- Enhance country support and capacity building to equip NHRIs to optimally fulfil their mandate, including engaging with International Mechanisms;
- Enhance effectiveness of the four Regional Network of NHRIs; and
- Strengthen GANHRI’s Institutional capacity and ability to achieve its strategic goals.

GANHRI is opening doors where we can participate and then come back and influence what is happening within the country.”

Bongani Christopher Majola
Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission
In 2018, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Paris Principles and of GANHRI. It will be the opportunity to reflect on our past and be inspired and energised for the future.

We will also celebrate, on 20th December 2018, the anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Principles: this set of principles has guided national institutions to promote and protect human rights.

Human Rights Day 2018 will mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and will conclude a yearlong anniversary commemoration led by our partner: the OHCHR.

We will take advantage of these important anniversaries to reaffirm the universal values and enduring principles enshrined in the Declaration, to inform people about our members’ work, and to raise awareness about the impact that NHRI s have on the communities and people they serve.

As GANHRI, we will engage in a series of commemorating activities. They will take place, for the most part, during our three main international meetings: our General Assembly in February in Geneva, our annual Tripartite Partnership meeting with the OHCHR and UNDP in June in New York, and our triennial International Conference in October in Morocco.

Identifying collectively what is a good practice and sharing experiences among our members and civil UN bodies, states and civil society is key to advancing human rights. As a network, we are going to deploy a brand-new knowledge management platform and a new website. We are confident that both will represent an invaluable resource for all our members and will contribute to create this sense of belonging to a global alliance!
FINANCIAL REPORT, BUREAU MEMBERS AND STAFF

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017 CHF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from members</td>
<td>323'273.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from donors</td>
<td>226'584.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other incomes, including expenses rebilling</td>
<td>55'912.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit for the year</td>
<td>68'602.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>674'373.02</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel and Related costs</td>
<td>359'738.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects related activities, representation, coordination, lobbying and advocacy</td>
<td>232'861.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office costs</td>
<td>39'611.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, legal, accounting and consulting</td>
<td>36'386.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>5'775.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>674'373.02</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GANHRI is grateful for the contributions of the UN online volunteers.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2017 CHF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>500'228.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>5'200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>505'428.86</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>112'920.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>392'508.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>505'428.86</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income by sources

- **Donors**
  - (EU-EIDHR/UNDP/OHCHR): 37%
  - Other revenue: 10%
- **Subscription fees**: 53%

Other revenue:

- Donors (EU-EIDHR/UNDP/OHCHR): 37%
- Other revenue: 10%

Subscription fees: 53%
BUREAU MEMBERS

Beate Rudolf, GANHRI Chairperson, NHRI of Germany
Montserrat Solano Carboni, GANHRI Secretary, NHRI of Costa Rica

AMERICAS

David Alonzo Tezanos Pinto Ledezma, NHRI of Bolivia
Branišlav Marelic Rokov (from March 2017), NHRI of Chile
Ramiro Rivadeireira Silva (elected in March 2017), Regional Chair Americas, NHRI of Ecuador
Luis Raúl González Pérez (from March 2017), NHRI of Mexico
Corina Centeno Rocha (until March 2017), NHRI of Nicaragua

AFRICA

Chemuta Divine Banda, Regional Chair NANHRI, NHRI of Cameroon
Mohamed Fayek, NHRI of Egypt
Bongani Christopher Majola, NHRI of South Africa
Cisse Alliou, NHRI of Togo

ASIA-PACIFIC

Sima Samar, NHRI of Afghanistan
Rosalind Croucher/Gillian Triggs, NHRI of Australia
Justice HL Dattu, NHRI of India
Jamsran Byambadorj, Regional Chair APF, NHRI of Mongolia

EUROPE

Lora Vidović, Regional Chair ENNHRI, NHRI of Croatia
Ucha Nanuashvili, NHRI of Georgia
Sirpa Rautio, NHRI of Finland

SUB-COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION (SCA)

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NHRI of France, Magail Lafourcade (Chair of the SCA from November 2017)
NHRI of Mauritania, Irabiha Abdel Wedoud / NHRI of Morocco, Driss El Yazami
NHRI of Philippines, Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon

FINANCE COMMITTEE

NHRI Mexico, Luis Raúl González Pérez (Chair)
NHRI India, Justice HL Dattu
NHRI Morocco, Driss El Yazami
NHRI UK, Rebecca Hilsenrath

WORKING GROUPS

Working Group on Business and Human Rights
NHRI Morocco (Chair)

GANHRI STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

Ileana Bello, Operations Manager
Martina Favaretto, Project Assistant
Agnès Gràcia Corberó, Assistant Geneva Representative
Stéphanie Louvier, Finance and Administration Officer
Alan Miller, Special Envoy
Stéphane Riquez, Communications Intern
Katharina Rose, Geneva Representative
Florence Simbiri-Jaoko, Special Envoy

Working Group on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
NHRI Denmark (Chair)

Working group on Ageing
NHRI Republic of Korea (Chair)
NHRI Northern Ireland (Vice-Chair)
NHRI Croatia
NHRI Kenya
NHRI Nigeria
NHRI Bolivia
NHRI El Salvador
NHRI Philippines
NHRI Germany

FINANCE COMMITTEE

NHRI Mexico, Luis Raúl González Pérez (Chair)
NHRI India, Justice HL Dattu
NHRI Morocco, Driss El Yazami
NHRI UK, Rebecca Hilsenrath

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