2018 Annual Report

25 years
Advancing human rights with National Human Rights Institutions and our partners

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. (Art. 01)

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

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

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

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

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. (Art. 19)

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. (Art. 20)

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement. (Art. 13)

Everyone has the right to education. (Art. 26)

Everyone has the right to the benefit of social security. (Art. 25)

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government. (Art. 21)
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The 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) confirmed that human rights are truly universal, that they are humanity’s shared heritage and the common mission of the international community. The UDHR opened the road to legally binding human rights treaties on the global and the regional levels. It fundamentally changed our understanding of the state: The core function of the state is to realize human rights, so that everyone can live a life of dignity, free from fear or want, and can shape one’s own future as well as that of their community and their state.

The 25th anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights reminded the international community of the need to implement human rights domestically and of the call to establish NHRIs to monitor and support their state in this respect. It also strengthened NHRIs’ resolve to work on all human rights because they are indivisible and interrelated, and to focus on persons in situations of particular vulnerability, such as conflict and post-conflict situations, persons with disabilities, or migrants.

The 25th anniversary of the UN General Assembly’s endorsement of the Paris Principles as the global standard for NHRIs was a testimony to the strength of the idea that every state should have an independent actor mandated to promote and protect human rights. It also illustrated that international standards are a crucial instrument for the realization of human rights at home. For GANHRI, the anniversary provided a good occasion to renew its determination to support states in establishing and strengthening NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles.

The 25th anniversary of the establishment of a global network of NHRIs, today known as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), was a celebration of solidarity. GANHRI members paid tribute to their predecessors’ foresight that a transparent, rigorous, fair and internationally recognized accreditation process under the auspices of OHCHR is the best way to ensure that NHRIs are and remain in compliance with the Paris Principles, for the benefit of the people on the ground. It strengthened NHRIs’ resolve to increase regional and global cooperation to learn from each other’s experience, to share good practices, and to deepen the interaction with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms—serving as a bridge between the domestic and the international human rights system and a bridge between the state and civil society.

The 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders was a reminder of NHRIs’ responsibilities, and an inspiration for further action. The Declaration calls for the establishment of NHRIs as important actors to protect human rights defenders and to promote their work, and as human rights defenders themselves. The Declaration became even more relevant as NHRIs reported an increase
in authoritarian tendencies in their countries, where political opposition is denounced as an enemy of the people, and where governments attack the media and human rights defenders. In such contexts, NHRIs have themselves become victims of threats or attacks, simply for fulfilling their mandate. In its biennial resolution, the Human Rights Council condemned all acts of reprisal and intimidation against NHRIs, their members and staff, and it called upon all states to investigate and prosecute them. In cooperation with its partners, OHCHR and UNDP, GANHRI continued to support individual NHRIs under threat and to raise awareness at the international level on the role of and need for NHRIs in the protection and enlargement of the space for civil society. GANHRI’s 13th International Conference held in Marrakesh, Morocco, was dedicated to this theme and provided guidance for NHRIs on how they can use their specific mandate to contribute to a vibrant and open space for debate and civil society engagement, without which no society can flourish.

2018 was my last year as Chairperson of GANHRI, with my mandate ending in March 2019. The past three years have been an exciting upward journey. Together, we made the Global Alliance of NHRIs stronger than ever, stepping up NHRIs’ substantive contributions to the work of UN bodies and mechanisms, supporting NHRIs’ engagement both internationally and domestically, reinforcing the internationally recognized accreditation procedure, and furthering NHRI cooperation within and across regions. We professionalized the GANHRI head office in Geneva and we strengthened GANHRI’s financial basis thanks to NHRIs members’ contributions and funding from OHCHR, UNDP, the European Union and Norway. All these achievements are the result of collective efforts. I am deeply grateful for the strategic partnership with OHCHR and UNDP and for the dedication of the GANHRI Secretary – the Ombudsman of Colombia, Carlos Negret Mosquera and before him the Ombudswoman of Costa Rica, Montserrat Solano Carboni – as well as the commitment and contributions of the GANHRI Bureau members, the Chairpersons and Coordinators of the four regional NHRI networks, all GANHRI members, GANHRI Special Envoys Florence Simbiri-Jaoko and Professor Alan Miller, the fabulous GANHRI team in Geneva, and my colleagues at the German Institute for Human Rights, in particular its Deputy Director Michael Windfuhr.

With a collaborative spirit, unwavering commitment for human rights, and a strong and experienced GANHRI Geneva office, NHRIs are well prepared to master future challenges for human rights worldwide. Let us not forget, it is the core purpose of GANHRI to serve NHRIs all around the world so that they can contribute to fulfilling the promise of the UDHR: All human rights for every human being in all countries, for a life in peace, dignity, equality, individual and collective self-determination, sustainable development and solidarity so that no one is left behind.

Professor Dr Beate Rudolf
GANHRI Chairperson
SINCE 1993:
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

A SIMPLE IDEA: SUPPORT EACH OTHER TO BRING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME

25 years ago, at the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the international community agreed on the importance of bringing human rights home and emphasized the need for national human rights institutions so as to translate the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all human rights treaties into lived realities for the people on the ground. In 1993, the UN General Assembly endorsed the Paris Principles and called on all member states to establish national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (NHRIs). At the same time, at an international workshop in Tunis held on 13 December, a group of NHRIs set the foundations for the global network of national human rights institutions, today known as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). In view of the requirements of the Paris Principles, NHRIs were convinced that they can better succeed domestically in their daunting responsibilities arising from their broad mandate if they work in unison with their peers, whether regionally or globally. They also committed to come to the support of Paris Principles compliant NHRIs under threat.

Today, GANHRI brings together 112 NHRIs from all regions of the globe. We support, strengthen and challenge one another to help realize human rights on the ground.

In particular, GANHRI:
- Coordinates its members’ activities to share experiences, and to collectively identify good practices and solutions;
- Encourages cooperation and information sharing among NHRIs;
- 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 organized 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.

Watch the Leading Change video
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS: A BRIEF HISTORY

The importance of having strong, national human rights institutions to translate international human rights norms and standards to the national level emerged as early as 1946 at the United Nations Economic and Social Council where Member States were invited to consider establishing information groups or local human rights committees.

In 1978, the (then) United Nations Commission on Human Rights organized a seminar which resulted in draft guidelines for the structure and functioning of those institutions. The Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations General Assembly subsequently endorsed the guidelines and encouraged each State to take appropriate steps to establish such institutions. However, despite this international encouragement, progress was slow at the national level.

In 1991, the first international workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights took place in Paris. A key outcome were the Paris Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions. The Paris Principles provide a normative framework for the status, structure, mandate, functions, powers and composition of NHRIs.

Since the Vienna World Conference in 1993 and through their endorsement by the General Assembly later that year, the Paris Principles have been globally accepted as the international standard for NHRIs’ legitimacy and credibility, and the UN continues to call on all states to establish NHRIs in compliance with these principles.

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 resolutions. The most recent ones are resolution A/RES/72/181 adopted by the General Assembly in October 2017 and resolution A/HRC/RES/39/17 adopted by the Human Rights Council in September 2018. Both resolutions underline the value of NHRIs established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles and they recognize the added value of NHRIs’ participation in the international human rights system.

“NHRIs are in a unique position to advise State authorities on their human rights obligations relating to the protection of human rights defenders and civic space.”

Peggy Hicks
Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR (October 2018)
THE PARIS PRINCIPLES IN A NUTSHELL

Endorsed in 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly, the Paris Principles require NHRI to:

• Promote human rights, through education, outreach, the media, publications, training and capacity building, as well as advising and assisting the Government.

• Protect human rights, including by monitoring the human rights situation in the country and reporting on it, mediating conflicts, investigating into situations of human rights violations, bringing cases to courts and, optionally, by resolving complaints.

The Paris Principles set out six main criteria that NHRI are required to meet:
1. Mandate and competence: a broad mandate covering all human rights in all areas;
2. Autonomy from Government;
3. Independence guaranteed by statute or Constitution;
4. Pluralism;
5. Adequate resources; and
6. Adequate powers for promoting and protecting human rights.

“Today, we celebrate our members’ hard work on human rights in states all around the world. I commend all NHRI office holders and staff for their commitment to making human rights a reality for all in their countries, even under the most challenging circumstances. The Paris Principles remain our firm standard, which protects us against government interference and to which we hold each other to account.”

GANHRI Chairperson Dr Beate Rudolf at the Marrakech Conference (October 2018)
Accrediting NHRIsc: the Sub-Committee on Accreditation

It is a core function of GANHRI to review the compliance of NHRIscs with the Paris Principles in an internationally recognized accreditation process designed to ensure independence and effectiveness, and accountability. This work is carried out by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA), under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Paris Principles, GANHRI published a manual on the accreditation process, ‘A Practical Guide to the Work of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA)’. It was prepared by the longest serving SCA member, the Canadian Human Rights Commission, with the support from the SCA Chairperson and members, the regional NHRI networks and OHCHR. The manual takes the reader through the accreditation process step by step, and explains the criteria of the assessment, thus making the SCA’s interpretation of the Paris Principles, the General Observations, better accessible to all stakeholders. In 2018, the SCA held two sessions and reviewed the accreditation of 19 NHRIscs, for example, and the UN Secretary General reports annually on GANHRI’s activities in accrediting NHRIscs (A/HRC/39/21).

The Paris Principles were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993. Since that time, the UN has called for every state to establish NHRIscs that are compliant with the Paris Principles or to strengthen existing ones. In their resolutions on NHRIscs, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council have continuously welcomed GANHRI’s role in accrediting NHRIscs and called upon states to follow up on the recommendations of the SCA.

“

It is the accreditation process that enhances the credibility of national institutions and strengthens their position vis-à-vis their government and within their society.”

Driss El Yazami
National Human Rights Council of Morocco (October 2018)
### A GLOBAL PRESENCE

In 2018, GANHRI comprised 112 members:
- 79 ‘A’ status accredited NHRIs
- 33 ‘B’ status accredited NHRIs

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| **CENTRAL ASIA**                                       |        |
| KAZAKHSTAN: THE COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS         | B      |

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1. Accreditation status as of 26 December 2018.
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.
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Working with regional NHRI networks

GANHRI also works closely with its four regional NHRI networks: 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).

Working together permits GANHRI and the four regional NHRI networks to align their strategies for engagement in UN human rights bodies and processes, to promote exchange among and across regions, and to coordinate joint interventions in support of NHRI under threat. Further, to provide support for NHRI before, during and after (re-)accreditation, and to advance institutional and organisational development.

In particular the four regional networks:
• Contribute to the accreditation of NHRI by appointing a member for the SCA, by participating as observers in the work of the SCA, and by supporting NHRI from their region to prepare for accreditation, re-accreditation and implementation of the recommendations of the SCA;
• Appoint members to the different governance bodies of GANHRI, in particular the Bureau and its sub-committees;
• Partner with GANHRI in activities and projects aimed at strengthening NHRI in their work on the domestic, regional and international level; and
• Co-organize with GANHRI advocacy activities in areas of common interest as identified in the 2017-2019 strategic plan (such as women’s human rights, rights of older persons, or sustainable development goals).

As in previous years, cooperation and coordination between GANHRI and the four regional NHRI networks increased GANHRI’s impact. Activities were better targeted and NHRI substantive input to the work of international human rights mechanisms was ensured in Geneva, New York and at UN conferences and events elsewhere, such as the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh on the Global Compact on Migration.
IMPLEMENTING THE 2017-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2018, GANHRI continued implementing the 2017-19 Strategic Plan, which is anchored on three pillars; (1) that focuses on the organisation’s thematic working areas, (2) improving communications and knowledge sharing, and (3) institutional development, including further strengthening the accreditation process and deepening partnerships.

The GANHRI Working Groups fulfill an important role in implementing GANHRI’s thematic priorities. They provide a platform for peer learning and exchange of information. On this basis they develop common positions and input to international human rights bodies, they lead on GANHRI’s engagement and they coordinate GANHRI members’ engagement in the respective area. Working groups are composed of representatives of NHRIs that are elected by each of the four regional networks and who have expertise in the thematic area of the working group.

GANHRI currently has Working Groups on the following themes:
- Rights of Older Persons,
- Business and Human Rights,
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Among the GANHRI task forces that are established on an ad hoc basis with a limited mandate in time the task force on the Global Compact on Migration stands out. It ensured continuous engagement of NHRIs in the consultations and negotiations on this important instrument.

Another task force coordinated NHRIs’ engagement in 2018 with the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP CRPD). Following this, the GANHRI 2018 Annual Conference which focused on the rights of persons with disabilities and upon a request from a cross-regional group of NHRIs, the GANHRI Bureau decided to create a new GANHRI Working Group tasked on this issue. The new Working Group on the rights of persons with disabilities will become operational in 2019.

“Nationally grounded and local strategies to achieve the SDGs require being able to bring together a multitude of actors and voices including those of the marginalized and excluded to design these strategies.”

Mohammed Essabbar
Secretary General of the National Human Rights Council of Morocco,
Closing speech of the 13th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, October 2018.
BRINGING NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS TOGETHER

From 21 to 23 February 2018, nearly 300 representatives from national human rights institutions (NHRIs) from all regions, as well as representatives of states, civil society, academia and partners including from OHCHR and UNDP gathered in Geneva to participate in the GANHRI 2018 Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting included the General Assembly, the Annual Conference, the Bureau meeting, regional network meetings and several side events.

THE GANHRI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is GANHRI’s highest authority and takes place once a year, usually in early spring, in Geneva. All GANHRI members can participate, whereas members with ‘A’ status accreditation have the right to vote.

The 2018 General Assembly took place on 21 February 2018 and brought together nearly 300 NHRI representatives from all regions, UN partners and experts from the UN human rights mechanisms, states’ representatives, civil society organizations and academia. The General Assembly included a knowledge exchange session, which focused on NHRIs’ work on:

• Business and Human Rights, especially National Actions Plans, and
• The rights to autonomy and independence of older persons in palliative and long term care.

The knowledge exchange was an opportunity for all participants to share experiences and lessons, and to identify good practices. It served as a basis for NHRIs’ collective engagement in the 9th session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) in New York later in the year.

The GANHRI General Assembly decided on the implementation plan for 2018 and on the annual budget. It also amended the Statute and adopted amendments to the SCA Rules of Procedure.
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 Annual Conference on 23 February 2018 focused on ‘Monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring their participation: the role of National Human Rights Institutions’.

Building on the long-standing and close cooperation between the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) and GANHRI, the Annual Conference was organized jointly by the CRPD Committee and GANHRI. It was the first annual meeting of this kind so as to deepen the exchange and cooperation between the partners.

The Annual Conference was also an opportunity to share experiences with and among NHRIs on monitoring and data collection under the Convention, other international human rights treaties and the SDGs. In addition, the sharing of good practices in ensuring the meaningful and effective involvement of persons with disabilities and doing so across all stages of monitoring the implementation of these instruments.

Specifically, the debates included sharing experiences and good practices with and among NHRIs:
- On the development and use of data collection tools in the context of monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities;
- On monitoring Article 19 of the Convention (‘living independently and being included in the community’), including the use of indicators, data and benchmarks; and
- On how to promote and ensure the meaningful participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring mechanisms and at the national level.

At the close of the Conference, participants adopted a landmark joint Declaration on behalf of the Committee and GANHRI. The Declaration sets out commitments and next steps moving forward, including to:
- Establish a follow-up group among the independent monitoring frameworks to develop a common framework for monitoring Article 19 of the Convention;
- Advocate for strengthening data collection and disaggregation efforts in line with Article 31 of the CRPD and Goal 17 of the SDGs to ensure informed and effective policymaking; and
- Invite OHCHR, in cooperation with independent monitoring frameworks, NHRIs, and their global and regional networks, to develop and maintain a repository of good practices of monitoring the Convention and continue strengthening the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities.

As is established practice, the Annual Meeting was enriched by side events and meetings organized by GANHRI in partnership with the UN, regional networks, NHRIs and other relevant partners that showcased the work of NHRIs at the national level and the importance of partnering with the United Nations and exchanging good practices with other NHRIs.

The side event on ‘Protection of the Human Rights of
Internally Displaced Persons and the Role of NHRIs in the Implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement’ aimed to discuss and share good practices on how the scope of the NHRIs work could be strengthened to advance the rights of people who were forced to flee within their countries due to conflict, violence, human rights violations and disasters. The event was co-convened by the Austrian Permanent Mission, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, UNHCR, OHCHR and GANHRI.

Another side event presented the Strategic Tripartite Partnership of GANHRI, UNDP, OHCHR in support of Central Asian NHRIs. GANHRI Special Envoy Alan Miller moderated a panel of five ombudsmen from the region, APF Envoy Rosslyn Noonan, OHCHR and UNDP, who discussed the progress made, lessons learnt and next steps.

Together with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), GANHRI organised a working meeting on NHRIs with a mandate of National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. For NHRIs, this new role offers both opportunities and challenges. Participants discussed how to integrate a prevention-focused and fieldwork-based mandate into their existing work.

To implement this modern human rights instrument at the national level demands paradigm shifts with respect to law and policy and monitoring mechanisms. NHRIs have to be pioneers, and together with DPOs they have to develop new human rights-based methodologies to monitor the implementation of the CRPD.”

Committee Chairperson Theresia Degener at the opening of the GANHRI 2018 Annual Conference.

Protecting the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with NHRRs.

Supporting Central Asian NHRRs.
THE GANHRI BUREAU BIANNUAL MEETINGS

The Bureau is GANHRI’s Management Committee. It is mandated to ensure and oversee the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly. The Bureau is comprised of 16 members, four from each of the four GANHRI regional networks, among them the GANHRI Chairperson and the GANHRI Secretary. All come from an ‘A’ Status NHRI.

The Bureau meets twice a year, once in Geneva and once in one of the regions. In 2018, the Bureau met on 21 February, in Geneva, and from 8 to 9 October in Marrakech, Morocco, at the sidelines of the 13th International Conference of NHRI. At both meetings, the Bureau evaluated progress made under the current Strategic Plan (2017-2019) and discussed future activities that will drive GANHRI’s work in support of NHRI in 2019 and beyond. The Bureau also expressed concern at continuing cases of reprisals and threats against NHRI and reviewed implementation of the joint GANHRI-OHCHR-UNDP Guidelines for NHRI under Threat.

In February 2018, the GANHRI Secretary, Montserrat Solano Carboni (NHRI of Costa Rica) informed the GANHRI Chairperson of her resignation to take effect in March 2018. At the GANHRI General Assembly, the GANHRI Chairperson warmly thanked the outgoing GANHRI Secretary for her outstanding contribution to GANHRI, her leadership in the regional and the global network, and for her unwavering commitment to human rights and the Paris Principles. The position of GANHRI Secretary remained vacant until the election of Carlos Alfonso Negret Mosquera (NHRI of Colombia)—at the extraordinary General Assembly of the Network of NHRI of the Americas on 13th October in Marrakech—as the new GANHRI Secretary and candidate of the regional network for GANHRI Chairperson for the regular elections in March 2019.
NHRIs have a unique role to play in promoting and defending human rights in their respective national jurisdictions, at regional and global levels. GANHRI brings NHRIs together, to discuss, debate and identify collectively how they can apply their mandates and functions to help ensure that international human rights norms and standards are translated into reality for the people on the ground.

GANHRI’s 25th birthday was the occasion to celebrate achievements, reflect on challenges, and to discuss on how to work together to meet these challenges so as to effectively drive change to make a difference in peoples’ lives. There was broad consensus that strengthening ties to civil society, in particular those representing the most marginalized in a society, is one key factor. In addition, GANHRI, OHCHR and UNDP agreed to step up their strategic partnership so as to strengthen NHRIs, further to work towards better responsiveness of governments and parliaments to the recommendations of NHRIs and the requirements of the Paris Principles.

Every three years, GANHRI holds an international conference dedicated to a subject of particular relevance for NHRIs. This three day conference is intended to give space for intensive exchange and to develop guidance for NHRIs and their global and regional networks. Past international conferences dealt with the SDGs and the role of NHRIs (2015, Mérida, Mexico), women’s human rights (2012, Amman, Jordan) or the role of NHRIs with respect to business and human rights (2010, Edinburgh, Scotland).

In light of the worrying global trend of civic space being undermined by governments or non-state actors, of the rise of populist and authoritarian governments - as well as of the manifold reports of intimidation, persecution and violence directed against human rights defenders - GANHRI dedicated the 13th conference to this subject. This included a special focus on women human rights defenders, who are facing gender-specific threats and violations. The conference was co-hosted by GANHRI and the National Human Rights Council of Morocco, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It took place from 10 to 12 October in Marrakech, Morocco, and brought together more than 260 NHRI representatives alongside representatives of international organizations, UN experts, human rights defenders and civil society organizations. The programme alternated between plenary sessions with panel discussions and contributions from the floor, and group
Human rights defenders have a positive, important and legitimate role in contributing to the realisation of all human rights, at the local, national, regional and international levels, including by engaging with Governments and contributing to the efforts in the implementation of the obligations and commitments of States in this regard.”

Paragraph 9 of the Marrakech Declaration adopted on 12 October 2018.
“NHRIs should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation”

The Human Rights Council resolution adopted in September 2018 specifically expressed concern at cases of threats or reprisals against NHRIs. The inclusion of this paragraph was strongly supported and advocated by GANHRI and its members. In a number of countries around the globe, NHRIs face threats and reprisals for their work to promote and protect human rights and for holding governments accountable for their international human rights obligations, in accordance with their legal or constitutional mandate.

A vital role of GANHRI, working closely with the four NHRI regional networks, is to support GANHRI members that face or risk reprisals or other acts of intimidation from both State and non-State actors. Such acts of intimidation 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 members of a NHRI, arbitrary detention and criminal prosecution, torture and killings.

GANHRI’s support, in collaboration with the OHCHR, UNDP and the regional networks, proved to be effective in a number of cases and helped to relieve pressure on the NHRIs that were under threat. In addition to the support from UN and other international actors, international and domestic civil society organisations proved to be important allies to protect NHRIs.

With UNDP and the OHCHR, GANHRI agreed on 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 organizations, or informing the media.

The report of the UN Secretary-General on cooperation with the United Nations its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, which was presented to the 39th Session of the Human Rights Council, reaffirms that “addressing reprisals and intimidation against those cooperating with the United Nations in the field of human rights continues to be a priority and a core responsibility of the Organization as a whole”.

“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

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2 Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights:
ADVOCACY: PROMOTING NHRI’S AS KEY ACTORS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The aim of GANHRI’s advocacy work is to positively influence the substantive outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms, bodies and processes, including the Human Rights Council resolutions, through bringing the voice and experience of NHRI’s to the discussions. In 2018, GANHRI continued working to enhance NHRI’s access to the UN system to inform the global human rights debate, and develop sound international human rights standards and targeted recommendations.

In partnership with UNICEF, GANHRI in May 2018 released a report on Children’s Rights in National Human Rights Institutions. The report was informed by desk research and a survey with GANHRI members, conducted in 2017. A particular interest behind this study was how NHRI’s can be supported in linking their work to the 2030 Agenda when they work on children’s rights. The GANHRI Chairperson and UNICEF presented the report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its 81st session, in May 2018.

As part of its advocacy efforts to increase the visibility of GANHRI members’ work to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls at the international level, GANHRI published with the Asia Pacific Forum a report on the role of NHRI’s in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in rural areas. This was the priority theme of the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2018 in New York, where the report was presented at a side event. The report documents how NHRI’s by applying their mandate and functions under the UN Paris Principles can contribute to removing barriers that hinder women and girls from fully enjoying their human rights. The report also identifies the variety of challenges that women and girls face in rural areas, including the lack of participation in decision-making processes accessing affordable public services; violence and other harmful practices; income security and social protection; and protection of land rights and access to productive resources.

“
It has become clear that NHRI’s, through their monitoring and complaints handling functions, play a vital role in identifying the problems that women and girls in rural areas face and in understanding them as human rights issues. If women and girls in rural areas continue to be left behind, this is not only a failure to deliver on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, but a form of discrimination and a violation of the provisions of CEDAW and other applicable human rights treaties that a state has ratified.”

GANHRI was also actively involved in the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Global Compact adopted at the Marrakech Intergovernmental Conference (10-11 December 2018) broadly reflects the states’ human rights obligations towards migrants.

GANHRI welcomes the states’ commitment to implement the Global Compact in cooperation and partnership with NHRIs. NHRIs stand ready to bring their expertise to anticipate human rights related risks and threats linked to migrations, establish gender-responsive and child-sensitive referral mechanisms, monitor human rights violations (such as denial of access to basic services or racial profiling by public authorities). This includes investigation of such complaints. Throughout 2018, GANHRI participated in all stages of the Global Compact development.

“NHRIs input into the Global Compact on Migration, through the GANHRI task force, has been key in securing that national human rights institutions are once more recognised as important domestic actors that help guarantee the respect of the human rights of migrants.”

Florence Simbiri-Jaoko, GANHRI Special Envoy and member of the GANHRI task force.
We will implement the Global Compact in cooperation and partnership with migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, faith-based organizations, local authorities and communities, the private sector, trade unions, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, academia, the media and other relevant stakeholders.”

Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, United Nations General Assembly Marrakech, Morocco, 10 and 11 December 2018
GANHRI’s participation in global events on human rights gives more visibility to NHRIs’ work; this is also the time to share experiences and good practices with states, other organizations and activists in order to improve the human rights situation in the world.

GANHRI supported NHRIs during the three sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in 2018 Geneva (March, June and September). At the 39th session in September 2018, members of the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted by consensus and with a large cross-regional co-sponsorship the Australia-led resolution on national human rights institutions (NHRIs). The resolution:

• Acknowledges the contributions of NHRIs in fostering the establishment and maintenance of inclusive societies and in doing so, contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
• Calls on states to establish effective, independent and pluralistic NHRIs in accordance with the Paris Principles or, where they already exist, to strengthen them to enable the effective fulfilment of their mandate, and stresses the importance of NHRIs’ financial and administrative independence;
• Welcomes the participation of NHRIs UN-system-wide and calls on those mechanisms that have not yet done so to strengthen the participation of NHRIs in their work; and
• Encourages greater efforts to investigate and respond to increasing cases of reprisals against NHRIs, whilst stressing that NHRIs should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation and that any such cases should be investigated by states, with perpetrators brought to justice.

The resolution is an important acknowledgment of the contributions that NHRIs make in realizing human rights for all, which helps implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda. We thank Australia for their leadership and support, and the many UN member States in all regions that have co-sponsored the resolution. GANHRI looks forward to working with all States, civil society and partners, in implementing the resolution.”

Beate Rudolf, GANHRI Chairperson
exchange with and among NHRI experiences and practices
in working to support the establishment and maintenance
of inclusive societies and the implementation of the 2030
Agenda.

From 12 to 23 March 2018, GANHRI and NHRI representatives
from all regions participated in the 62nd session of the UN
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York,
showcasing how their work contributes to protecting the
rights of women and girls in rural areas. They presented
their work and experiences at the CSW high level interactive
dialogue on “Accelerating implementation of the Beijing
Declaration and Platform for Action and achieving concrete
results by 2020”. NHRI also held a side event on the priority
theme of the session on “Challenges and opportunities in
achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural
women and girls”. The Agreed Conclusions adopted at
the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of
Women encourage the CSW Secretariat to “continue its
consideration of how to enhance the participation, including
at the sixty-third session of the Commission, of national
human rights institutions that are fully compliant with the
principles relating to the status of national institutions
for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris
Principles), where they exist, in compliance with the rules of
procedure of the Economic and Social Council”.

From 11 to 14 June 2018, NHRI met in New York for
the 11th Session of the Conference of State Parties to
the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
(COSP11), the UN-hosted annual meeting to consider
matters relating to the implementation of the Convention on
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A key goal for NHRI
is to contribute to the debates with their experiences, raise
awareness among the delegations attending COSP of the
contributions that NHRI can offer to promote and protect
the rights of persons with disabilities. As independent
bodies, NHRI also have a role to play in monitoring the
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. During
COSP11:

• GANHRI presented a statement to share experiences,
  lessons and good practices of NHRI in monitoring the
  Convention;
• GANHRI, in partnership with the Committee on the
  Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the OHCHR, the International
  Disability Alliance (IDA), UNDP and the Permanent Missions
  of Australia and Mexico, hosted a side event on monitoring
  the Convention. The event was an opportunity to further
  expand on the outcomes of the first annual meeting
  between the Committee and GANHRI, on 23 February in
  Geneva; and
• GANHRI organized a NHRI caucus meeting for NHRI
  participating in COSP 11. Part of the meeting was joined
  by representatives of the CRPD Committee, IDA and
  UNDP, to share experiences, and discuss opportunities for
  cooperation.
On the occasion of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York (July 2018), GANHRI published its third report on Space for Civil Society in SDG Implementation. The report shows that even in countries where civil society still operates in an enabling environment, it faces numerous challenges on a variety of levels: from the legislative level (laws regulating the space for civil society actors), to the policy level and the ability of civil society to participate in political decision-making processes to the de facto treatment of civil society actors, including human rights defenders and journalists. Especially worrying are the increasing hostility and threats against independent media and journalists in the majority of countries covered in this report. The same trends that affect or restrict the space for civil society organizations (CSOs) also have an adverse impact on the activities of the media and/or NHRI. To inform the report, GANHRI conducted a survey among those NHRI, whose countries volunteered to be reviewed on their progress on SDG implementation during this year’s High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including Albania, Australia, Colombia, Greece, Egypt, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania.

Also in July, at the 9th working session of United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in New York, GANHRI, the Asia Pacific Forum, and the NHRI of Korea helped improve the understanding of the rights of older persons in relation to autonomy and independence and long-term care and palliative care by demonstrating the work of NHRI in this respect.
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 the State, 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. They are also important networking opportunities to share experiences and identify collectively what constitutes good practices for NHRI engagement at the international level.

From 7 to 11 May 2017, 13 participants from NHRIs from around the globe participated in the training for NHRIs on the international human rights mechanisms in Geneva, Switzerland. The training, which was co-organized by GANHRI, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), builds NHRI capacities to effectively engage with the United Nations human rights mechanisms in their independent capacity as NHRIs.

The training which is an opportunity to share experiences with peers provides staff of NHRIs knowledge and skills on:
- The functioning of UN human rights mechanisms and concrete opportunities for NHRIs’ contributions;
- The participation in sessions of UN human rights mechanisms; and
- Effective engagement, such as report writing and designing a follow-up strategy for implementation of UN recommendations.

Specifically, the training addresses:
- The international human rights system, the role of NHRIs and GANHRI (in cooperation with the OHCHR);
- The treaty body system;
- Torture prevention, in cooperation with the Association of the Prevention of Torture;
- The Human Rights Council and its mechanisms including the Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review, in cooperation with UPR Info; and
- Cooperation with NGOs.

The training also takes an innovative approach to promote follow-up and to support capacity building, by inviting the participants to take home a commitment relating to torture prevention such as advocating for ratification of the Convention Against Torture; advocating for law reform; undertaking capacity building within the NHRI.
DEVELOPING KEY PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS

HELPING NHRI’s FULFILL THEIR MANDATE WITH THE NHRI.EU PROJECT

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

2018 was the last year of the grant by the European Commission under the European Instrument for Development and Human Rights (EIDHR). For this grant, GANHRI is in partnership with the four regional networks and the Danish Institute for Human Rights as the grant holder. The NHRI.EU project includes 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.

In 2018, GANHRI, the four regional networks and the DIHR started developing the application for a second phase of the project, which, if approved, will commence in 2019 for three more years. It will look into strengthening GANHRI and the regional networks in their efforts to support NHRI’s in the area of human rights defenders and expanding democratic space. This incorporates a human-rights based approach to SDG implementation and capacity building of NHRI’s in core mandate areas, especially through the development of the Fuse Universal knowledge exchange platform.

“All national human rights institutions, GANHRI and OHCHR need to work together to engage in the pledge to stand up for human rights.”

Peggy Hicks, Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR (February 2018).
THE TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

GANHRI, UNDP, and OHCHR\(^1\) have been working together to strengthen NHRIs’ capacities in different regions since 2011 under the strategic Tripartite Partnership Programme (TPP). The TPP-NHRIs is a foundation to build a unique, collaborative and coherent framework to strengthen support to NHRIs and the global and regional networks. Working together the three partners can increase efficiency and leverage the complementarity of the respective mandates.

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 NHRI network; and
- Strengthen GANHRI’s institutional capacity and ability to achieve its strategic goals.

The TPP-NHRIs has enabled more coherent and coordinated UN system-wide support to NHRIs. It has been recognized by the UN Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council as an example of good practice. In 2018, the three partners adopted a work plan for the period 2018-19 and received the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway focusing on strengthening NHRIs in Africa. This support also helped realize the 13th International Conference of NHRIs in Marrakesh.

\(^1\) GANHRI’s partnership with OCHCR goes beyond the scope of the TPP. The relationship between the two organizations dates back 25 years and is, in fact, manifold. It spans from the organization of GANHRI’s General Meeting to the secretarial support to the Sub-Committee on Accreditation to NHRIs’ engaging with UN human rights bodies in Geneva.
UNDP and OHCHR support for GANHRI

UNDP has granted GANHRI a micro-capital fund to support its mandate with three objectives. That is, to:

- Strengthen the capacity of GANHRI to fulfil its mandate in regard to its key strategic goals;
- Improve institutional effectiveness and knowledge service management of GANHRI with the regional networks of NHRIs; and
- Capture evidence and knowledge to promote NHRIs (including NHRI impact in countries and NHRI support for implementation of the SDGs).

In 2018, UNDP’s support allowed for GANHRI’s Special Envoys to represent NHRIs and their standpoint at international meetings and UN mechanisms and to engage with the UN, member states, and other stakeholders. Special Envoy Florence Simbiri-Jaoko, former Chairperson of the NHRI of Kenya and former GANHRI Secretary, particularly focuses on Migration, the rights of older persons, as well as women’s human rights, and serves as liaison to the African NHRIs. Special Envoy Professor Alan Miller, former chairperson of the Scottish NHRI and of the European Network of NHRIs, and former GANHRI Secretary, has a special focus on the SDGs, business and human rights, as well as the rights of persons with disabilities, and serves as liaison to NHRIs the Asia-Pacific region. Both Special Envoys give strategic advice on enhancing NHRIs’ engagement with UN human rights bodies and processes.

OHCHR supports GANHRI by hosting its Secretariat. Thus, OHCHR supports and advises the Subcommittee on Accreditation (SCA), GANHRI governance meetings, as well as communication and engagement with treaty bodies, special procedures. In addition, the respective OHCHR sections and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) section. OHCHR also supported the 13th International Conference and provided a grant for further developing GANHRI’s communication.
In 2019, we will:

1. Follow-up the Marrakech declaration with regional action plans;
2. Support NHRI engagement after the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration;
3. Evaluate the current and develop the new Strategic Plan (2020-2022);
4. Elect the new GANHRI Chairperson and GANHRI Secretary;
5. Expect to start the new phase of the NHRI.EU project in partnership with the regional networks;
6. Launch our brand-new website and knowledge management platform;
7. Advance the partnership with UNDP and OHCHR;
8. Continue and further increase the participation of NHRIs and GANHRI in UN human rights mechanisms and processes; and
9. Continue supporting NHRIs, including through the accreditation process.
### BUDGET, BUREAU MEMBERS, STAFF AND WORKING GROUPS

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018 CHF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from members</td>
<td>351'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from donors</td>
<td>302'361.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other incomes, including expenses rebilling</td>
<td>131'785.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>785'146.48</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel and Related costs</td>
<td>361'996.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects related activities, representation, coordination, lobbying and advocacy</td>
<td>131'596.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office costs</td>
<td>35'350.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, legal, accounting and consulting</td>
<td>82'195.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>16'803.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>627'943.39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Profit for the year**  
157'203.09

**Total Income**  
785'146.48

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2018 CHF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>633'941.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>3'662.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>637'604.05</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>87'892.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>549'711.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>637'604.05</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income by sources**

- Donors (EU-EIDHR/UNDP/OHCHR) 45%
- Subscription fees 38%
- Other revenue 17%

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

- NHRI of Germany, Professor Dr Beate Rudolf (GANHRI Chairperson)
- NHRI of Costa Rica, Montserrat Solano Carboni (until March), NHRI Colombia, Carlos Alfonso Negret Mosquera (from October) (GANHRI Secretary)
- NHRI of Croatia, Lora Vidovic (Regional Chairperson ENNHRI)
- NHRI of Finland, Sirpa Rautio
- NHRI of Georgia, Nino Lomjaria
- NHRI of Rwanda, Madeleine Nirere (Regional Chairperson NANNHRI)
- NHRI of Cameroon, Chemuta Divine Banda
- NHRI of Malawi, Justin Goodwin Kusamba Dzonzi
- NHRI of Mauritania, Irabiha Abdel Wedoud
- NHRI of Ecuador, Ramiro Rivadeneira Silva (until May) and Gina Benavides Llerena (Regional Chairperson Network of the Americas)
- NHRI of Chile, Consuelo Contreras
- NHRI of Mexico, Luis Raúl González Pérez
- NHRI of Mongolia, Jamsran Byambadorj
- NHRI of India, Justice HL Dattu
- NHRI of Afghanistan, Sima Samar (Regional Chairperson APF)
- NHRI of Australia, Rosalind Croucher

SUB-COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION (SCA)

- NHRI of Canada, Marie Claude Landry
- NHRI of France, Dr Magali Lafourcade (Chairperson of the SCA)
- NHRI of Morocco, Driss El Yazami
- NHRI of Philippines, Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- NHRI Mexico, Luis Raúl González Pérez (Chairperson)
- NHRI India, Justice HL Dattu
- NHRI Morocco, Driss El Yazami
- NHRI UK - Equality Human Rights Commission, Rebecca Hilsenrath

WORKING GROUPS

Working Group on Business and Human Rights
- NHRI Morocco (Chair until end of August)

Working Group on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- NHRI Germany (GANHRI Chairperson’s representative; Chair as of December)

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 (GANHRI Chairperson’s representative)

TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION

- NHRI Mexico
- NHRI Morocco
- NHRI Philippines
- NHRI Germany

GANHRI STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

- Katharina Rose, Geneva Representative
- Agnès Gràcia Corberó, Assistant Geneva Representative (until October 2018)
- Ileana Bello, Operations Manager
- Stéphanie Louvier, Finance and Administration Officer
- Stéphane Riquez, Communications Intern (until February)
- Martina Favaretto, Project Assistant
- Nour Lashuel, Intern
- Florence Simbiri-Jaoko, Special Envoy
- Alan Miller, Special Envoy
Advance human rights with us!

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