Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution on national human rights institutions (NHRIs).\(^1\)

The resolution reaffirms the critical role of NHRIs and the importance of the Paris Principles, in ensuring NHRIs’ independence and effectiveness, 20 years after their adoption by the General Assembly.

The resolution welcomes the participation of NHRIs in United Nations mechanisms and processes, both Geneva and New York-based, including the Commission on the Status of Women and the treaty body strengthening process. The resolution takes the landmark step to request the UN Secretary General to present in his next report to the General Assembly a vision for NHRIs’ participation UN system-wide, on the same basis that they do at the Human Rights Council.

The resolution addresses the role of NHRIs in relation to reprisals. It sends a strong signal to the international community that NHRIs should not be subjected to any form of reprisals nor intimidation as a result of their mandated activities. This includes reprisals or intimidation in the form of budgetary restraints.

Building on the 2013 Human Rights Council resolution on human rights defenders and on the report of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, the NHRI resolution also addresses the role of NHRIs in relation to the protection of human rights defenders.

\(^{1}\) Resolution A/RES/68/171
The resolution is an important step in promoting the role of NHRIs domestically and UN system-wide. The ICC therefore strongly supports the resolution and echoes its call to States to:

1. Establish effective, independent and pluralistic national human rights institutions and to strengthen the existing ones in line with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Paris Principles;
2. Guarantee financial and administrative independence and stability in order for the NHRIs to fulfill their respective mandates; and
3. Ensure that NHRIs and their staff are not subjected to reprisals or any acts of intimidation as a result of their mandated activities.

The ICC thanks Germany as the main sponsor of the resolution as well as UN Member States and non-governmental organisations for their support, and looks forward to cooperating with all stakeholders in implementing the resolution.

Finally, the ICC stands ready to assist States where requested when establishing NHRIs, and to provide capacity building to strengthen existing NHRIs in line with the Paris Principles.

The ICC welcomes this landmark resolution and looks forward to working together with stakeholders in order to give effect to the opportunities that it presents.

Thank you.