May 11, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

GANHRI and partners host staff of NHRIs from all regions in week-long Geneva-based training on United Nations human rights mechanisms

Geneva, 11 May 2018 - From 7 to 11 May 2018, 13 participants from national human rights institutions (NHRIs) from around the globe participated in the training for NHRIs on the international human rights mechanisms in Geneva, Switzerland.

The training, which is co-organised by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (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 provides staff of NHRIs knowledge and skills on:
the functioning of UN human rights mechanisms and concrete opportunities for NHRIs' contribution;
• participation in sessions of UN human rights mechanisms;
• practical activities for an effective engagement, such as report writing and designing a follow-up strategy for implementation of UN recommendations; and
• an opportunity to exchanging experiences and best practices with peer NHRIs participating in the training.

Specifically, the training addresses:

• the international human rights system, the role of NHRIs and GANHRI (in cooperation with OHCHR);
• the treaty body system and the Human Rights Committee specifically;
• 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.

Katharina Rose, GANHRI’s Geneva Representative, emphasized that “This course aims to equip participants with a better understanding of how NHRIs can engage with the international human rights system to improve the human rights situation on the ground. The training also fosters the exchange of good practices and the development of long-lasting networks for NHRIs across regions”.

Viviana Mojico Aurelio, who works with UNITAR’s Peacekeeping Training Programme added that “UNITAR values very much the work done by NHRIs on the ground as this contributes directly to Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goal 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”. Through innovative methodologies and participatory techniques, UNITAR is committed to continue supporting GANHRI’s work in building NHRIs’ capacity and knowledge exchange”.

The training also takes an innovative approach to promote follow-up and 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.

“GANHRI will continue to support the participants in the follow-up to their commitments and in putting the knowledge learnt into practice” concluded Ms Rose.

The training is offered annually and open to all staff of NHRIIs. The next training will take place in April-May 2019 in Geneva. Further information will be made available on the GANHRI webpage at the beginning of 2019.