NHRIs have critical role in supporting follow-up and monitoring implementation of UPR recommendations says GANHRI at HRC 35

Item 6. General Debate on the Universal Periodic Review

“While States have the primary responsibility to ensure follow-up to, and implementation of, UPR recommendations, NHRIs have a critical role in supporting States in this process and in monitoring implementation” highlighted Katharina Rose, Geneva Representative of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) at the Human Rights Council’s 35 session, during the general debate on the Universal Periodic Review.

Welcoming the focus of the 3rd cycle on follow-up and implementation, GANHRI used this opportunity to highlight the role NHRIs play and to share good practices from NHRIs from various regions. GANHRI is collecting examples of NHRIs’ work in supporting, and monitoring, follow-up, to facilitate the exchange of lessons and good practices among peer NHRIs.

The New Zealand Human Rights Commission for example has developed an online tool to monitor the Government’s human rights progress in implementing UPR recommendations and the countries’ human rights action plan.
The South African Human Rights Commission mainstreamed the UPR recommendations within the work of the institution for monitoring. The Commission in its regular reports to Parliament systematically includes information about the state’s compliance with its international human rights obligations and recommendations from the UPR and participates as advisory body in regular meeting.

The National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of France publishes every second year a report on the status of human rights in France. The report records and clusters by theme all recommendations made to France by international, regional and domestic human rights mechanisms, serving as an important monitoring and advocacy tool.

In preparation for the 3rd cycle, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of France is undertaking a range of activities, from mobilisation of civil society through raising awareness about their role or providing advice in drafting stakeholders reports; to participate as observer in the Government’s preparations for the next review; or looking at organising meetings with other states to assist in identifying tailored and specific recommendations to France.

The Council’s General Debate under item 6 served to hear from States on their progress in implementing UPR recommendations.

Speaking during the debate, the Seychelles informed that it is working on strengthening their NHRI to bring it in line with the Paris Principles, Portugal also speaking during the debate has established a national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up with the Provedor de Justiça of Portugal as observer.

GANHRI will continue to provide support to NHRI in all regions in their engagement with the UPR through capacity building and the exchange of good practices.

The full GANHRI statement can be downloaded here.