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PRESS RELEASE

UNDP-GANHRI-OHCHR Tripartite partnership identified as a good example for effective technical cooperation at HRC 35 annual thematic discussion on technical cooperation and capacity building

Item 10. Annual Thematic Discussion on Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building
Theme: A decade of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the Human Rights Council: challenges and the way forward

The Council's annual thematic discussion on technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights reflected this year on the progress and challenges after a decade of technical cooperation and capacity building in the Human Rights Council.

“Effective technical cooperation is one of the keys to prevention. Prevention of suffering; prevention of discrimination and marginalisation; prevention of conflict.” emphasized the High Commissioner for Human Rights in his opening remarks. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has adopted a systematic approach to technical cooperation which involves reaching out to national human rights institutions and civil society, including people from vulnerable and traditionally marginalized groups.

The Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Geneva, Maria Luisa Silva, raised the need for policy and institutional coherence in order to build synergies, identifying the 2030
Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Universal Periodic Review as key entry points to improve coherence.

“Institutional coherence is about more efficient and consistent results. When UN agencies leverage their respective mandates, looking to smart ways in which our approaches can be complementary – the result is more than the sum of its parts. One such example is the strong tri-partite partnership that UNDP enjoys with the OHCHR and GANHRI. It aims to strengthen NHRIs at the national level, as well as to support with knowledge and mutual learning at regional and global levels.”, stressed Maria Luisa, also making reference to the presentation earlier this year, during the Council session in March, of the joint commitment to maximise this partnership which concluded with the signature of a letter of intent between the three organisations.

“(…) as partners we are now working to scale-up our support and leverage our complementary mandates to increase our impact. With enough support from the Council and Member states, we can do more to strengthen the role of NHRIs in advancing peace, human rights, and sustainable development and to achieve more results and impact at the national level. ”, added GANHRI in its statement.

The Tripartite Partnership has been recognized and welcomed by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in recent NHRI resolutions as best practice example of UN coherent approach to cooperation and capacity building efforts.

Areas of joint activities in support of NHRIs include:

• Supporting NHRIs in their bridging role between the state and civil society, and human rights defenders;
• Strengthen NHRIs in supporting Member States to achieve, monitor and report on the Sustainable Development Goals; and
• Providing in-country support and capacity building for NHRIs as early warning mechanisms for conflict prevention and operating in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The Executive Director of the Universal Rights Group, representing civil society in the panel, called on the Council to give serious consideration to using intersessional periods to convene a voluntary platform for human rights dialogue on capacity building and resilience.
The High commissioner’s delegate in her concluding remarks emphasised that the recommendations from the human rights mechanism are the basis of technical cooperation and that the OHCHR will continue to look for new ways of delivering in partnership technical cooperation.

The full GANHRI statement can be downloaded here.