



C O N F E R E N C E R E P O R T

**ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTITUTIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE 2030
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



ABBREVIATIONS

ANNHRI – Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions

CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States

CRC – Committee on the Rights of the Child

DEVAW – Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

ENNHRI – European Network of National Human Rights Institutions

GANHRI – Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

ICCPR – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICESCR – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ILO – International Labour Organization

NHRI – National Human Rights Institution

OHCHR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals



OBJECTIVES AND PARTICIPANTS

The overall objective of the one-day consultation was to raise National Human Rights Institutions' (NHRIs) awareness of the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), discuss their possible role and the role of the human rights-based approach in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs (including in regards to several specific goals), and to identify the policy guidance and capacity support NHRIs need to fulfill this particular role. The event also provided a forum for cross-regional consultation of NHRIs from Europe, Central Asia and Arab States.

Participants included representatives of 22 NHRIs from Europe and Central Asia (16), and Arab States (6), as well as representatives of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI), the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), international experts and UNDP and OHCHR practitioners.

BACKGROUND

The SDGs, the 17 global goals approved by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, are closely interlinked with the human rights agenda and will contribute to the realization of human rights. As such, human rights instruments and mechanisms provide an important framework for the implementation of the SDGs. The inclusion of an indicator on the "Existence of independent National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles" under Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions also demonstrates the value the international community attaches to the work and contributions of NHRIs.

NHRIs in particular can play a significant role in the implementation of SDGs, including in analyzing and monitoring their implementation. Concretely, NHRIs are in a position to:¹

¹ Many of the points below on the role of NHRIs in relation to the SDGs come from the report of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, 'Human Rights in Follow-up and Review to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,' published in May 2016.

- Provide advice to national and local governments, parliaments, rights-holders and others, to promote a human rights-based approach to implementation and measurement of the 2030 Agenda, including by assessing the impact of laws, policies, programmes, national development plans, administrative practices and budgets;
- Promote transparent and inclusive processes for participation and consultation in the development of national and sub-national strategies to achieve the SDGs, including by reaching out to those who are furthest behind;
- Assist in the shaping of national indicators and sound data collection systems, including by building on existing international and regional human rights reporting and monitoring mechanisms;
- Cooperate with other national bodies, as well as with civil society, to provide a joined-up approach to the monitoring and implementation of SDGs;
- Monitor progress at the local, national, regional and international levels and disclose patterns of inequality and discrimination, including through innovative and participatory approaches to data collection, and reporting to international fora;
- Engage with, and hold governments to account for poor or uneven progress in implementation, including by reporting on uneven implementation and obstacles to parliaments, the general public, and national, regional and international mechanisms;
- Respond to, conduct inquiries into, and investigate allegations of rights violations in the context of SDG implementation;
- Facilitate access to justice, redress and remedy for those who experience abuse and violation of their rights in the process of development, including by receiving and processing complaints, where NHRIs have such functions;
- Promote awareness of human rights aspects of SDGs among a variety of national and local actors, including duty bearers and rights-holders, through inter alia training and awareness raising;

- Prepare annual status reports on the general human rights situation in their respective country and provide analysis and research on specific human rights topics.

However, there are a number of potential obstacles to the engagement of NHRIs with monitoring and implementing the SDGs. Some NHRIs do not have extensive experience of monitoring economic, social and cultural rights or do not regard the SDGs as being of particular relevance.

Thus, one approach to involve the NHRIs in monitoring of SDGs is by taking equality and non-discrimination, which is an issue that all NHRIs have at the core of their mandate, as an entry point. This principle is also at the heart of the global development agenda, enshrined in the principle: leave no one behind. Inequality was put in front and center of the 2030 Agenda, with explicit reference in three goals:

<p>Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p>Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>	<p>Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 

OPENING REMARKS

During opening remarks, the speakers stressed the important role that NHRIs play in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and the SDGs.

Ms. Shelley Inglis, Team Leader, Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, highlighted that the SDGs include the three pillars of sustainable development: social development, economic development and environmental protection, and have at their core issues of governance and human rights. She stressed that the human rights agenda is reflected in the 2030 Agenda.

Ms. Debbie Kohner, Secretary General of ENNHRI emphasized that the centrality of human rights within the SDGs and the importance of accountability mechanisms for SDGs' implementation, make the 2030 Agenda very important for the NHRIs. She added that the universality of the SDGs, which was missing from the Millennium Development Goals, also means that this is a new field for some European NHRIs. She recognized that the all-embracing SDGs can at times appear overwhelming, and stressed that through effective integration they have the potential to reinforce all aspects of NHRIs work.

Mr. Sultan bin Hassan Al Jamali, Executive Director of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, highlighted that the SDGs complement the NHRIs work, pushing them to implement their mandates. He added that the NHRIs have a pivotal role in translating the SDGs into practice and in fostering and enabling a transparent process of follow up to development. He elaborated on the fact that if the SDGs are properly implemented, it would lead to proper management of the world's resources, resulting in an environmentally sustainable progress for all.

"We can use the SDGs to put additional pressure on governments to help achieve fair, just, equal, sustainable and healthy societies, where nobody is left behind."

*Ms. Debbie Kohner,
Secretary General of ENNHRI*

SESSION I: THE MERIDA DECLARATION - THE ROLE OF NHRIS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS

Moderator and Introducer: Prof. Alan Miller, Special Envoy, GANHRI

Presenters:

- Mr. Chris Sidoti, International Expert
- Ms. Michael Windfuhr, Deputy Director, German Institute for Human Rights
- Ms. Juliana Cici, People's Advocate, Albania
- Mr. Ammar Dweik, Director, Independent Commission for Human Rights, Palestine

This session focused on discussing NHRIs roles arising from the [Merida Declaration](#), mainly how the SDGs can be used to complement the work of the NHRIs, as well as on the NHRIs' role in SDG implementation.

Merida Declaration

The Merida Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015 in Mexico at the Twelfth International Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (now GANHRI). The declaration explicitly recognizes that human rights instruments and mechanisms will provide an important framework for the implementation of the SDGs and that implementation will contribute to the realization of human rights.

The Declaration underlines that NHRIs are uniquely placed to play a bridging role between stakeholders and to promote transparent, participatory and inclusive national processes of implementation and monitoring of human rights. The Declaration encourages the Regional Networks and individual NHRIs, in line with their mandates under the Paris Principles, to collaborate in mutual capacity building and sharing of experiences, and to consider the practical functions they can assume to contribute to a human rights-based approach to implementation of the Agenda.

The Declaration also affirms the role of civil society and businesses in realizing the Agenda, and emphasizes that strengthening NHRIs in all regions is an effective tool to support the implementation of the SDGs.

WHY ARE SDGS IMPORTANT FOR NHRIS?

Successful implementation of the SDGs will underpin the solution to many of contemporary challenges that NHRIs and people around the world face, such as forced migration, climate change, inequalities of globalization, conflict. Since the 2030 Agenda covers the whole gamut of human rights, including social, economic, cultural and civil and political rights, it is a good reflection of the kind of issues that NHRIs are working on, have been working on and will continue to work on. Therefore both the human rights agenda and the 2030 Agenda are very closely interlinked.

The 2030 Agenda provides a strategic and pragmatic opportunity for NHRIs, especially since most are operating in states where the human rights situation is deteriorating. The SDGs, and their emphasis on human rights, could make work on human rights more palatable to those governments that have committed to the 2030 Agenda more wholeheartedly than they have committed to the human rights agenda. That is, some governments might be more willing to do something if it is framed within the 2030 Agenda and not only as a human rights issue.

HOW CAN NHRIS SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS?

NHRIs' approach towards supporting the implementation of SDGs can be labeled as 'constructive accountability'; i.e. NHRIs should cooperate with the states to ensure the most inclusive, participatory process for the development of action plans for the implementation of SDGs, while at the same time holding the states accountable for implementing their commitments. An example of this was seen in the summer of 2016 at the first High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Several countries presented voluntary reports on their national implementation of SDGs. Considering that human rights and NHRIs could be forgotten in the consideration by the states of the SDG follow-up and review processes, NHRIs from the relevant states each produced a report, adding on to the discussion at the High Level Political Forum. This was well received, and GANHRI will continue doing this annually for the countries that report at the Forum. This action originated from ENNHRI, which has established a formal group to follow up on the SDGs and foster exchange of experience among its member NHRIs. The group has decided to take up monitoring of poverty in 2017, since poverty will be the focus topic at the upcoming High Level Political Forum in July 2017. At the same

time, in some countries NHRIs have already established themselves as important actors in preparing the country's report to the High Level Political Forum, through participating in the national consultations.

NHRIs can also add to the implementation of the SDGs by bringing in the human rights-based approach and its principles: consultation, participation, empowerment and inclusion. Moreover, the NHRIs already have a great deal of experience in advocating economic, social, cultural, civic and political rights, several of which are furthered in the SDGs. Most of the NHRIs are already working on the SDGs, it is just a matter of framing their work within the SDG framework. Those that have a complaint handling mandate should use it not only to ensure justice for the complainants, but also to emphasize the underlying issues and link those to implementing the SDGs.

"The 2030 Agenda has been created apart from us, the NHRIs, but it can be integrated into our work."

*Mr. Chris Sidoti,
International Expert*

NHRIs should advocate their respective governments to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is implemented internally as well. This is of particular relevance for NHRIs in developed countries, where the government might be prone to look at the SDGs only through the prism of international development and foreign policy but not as a domestic issue. NHRIs should ensure that the implementation of SDGs within the country becomes part of the national debate, and that the states develop national indicators that encompass all of the goals and reflect the realities inside the countries. This internalization was another reason why ENNHRI's group on SDGs has decided to focus on monitoring poverty, since it is seen as an issue that can be used to advocate for implementation of SDGs in the European countries.

While the discourse around the SDGs emphasizes that all of the goals are interrelated, countries might want to pick and choose which ones to focus on. Many governments might be prone to focus on implementing and measuring those goals that they can achieve the easiest. While all SDGs are important and the NHRIs should advocate for their universality, under the principle of 'leaving no one behind', they can assist the states in strategically prioritizing the SDGs through identifying who is left furthest behind on basis of human rights monitoring. This approach can also identify gaps in the implementation of the SDGs.

SDG Follow-up and review framework

Passing the UN General Assembly resolution on the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1), Member States also “commit to engaging in systematic follow-up and review of implementation... Operating at the national, regional and global levels, [the follow-up and review framework] will promote accountability to our citizens, support effective international cooperation in achieving this Agenda and foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning.” The follow-up and review is to happen at three levels:

- At the national level, states are encouraged “to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven.” This is where the states are directly accountable to their citizens, and where the link between duty-bearers and right-holders is most direct.
- At the regional level, states are encouraged to undertake voluntary reviews with the purpose of learning from each other and sharing best practices. Regional Forums on Sustainable Development, which will serve as hubs for regional follow-up and review, have been established in many regions.
- At the global level, the high-level political forum is the central platform. It meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to keep track of global progress in the implementation of SDGs. It “facilitate[s] sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide[s] political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up.” The forum does this through country and thematic reviews. The reviews are voluntary, state-led, and undertaken by both developed and developing countries. The theme of the 2016 session was “Ensuring that no one is left behind,” while the theme of the 2017 session in July will be “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.”

SESSION II: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND – HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT OF THE 2030 AGENDA

Moderator: Ms. Ana Graca, Policy Advisor, Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights, UNDP, New York

Presenters:

- Ms. Birgitte Feiring, Programme Manager Human Rights and Development, Danish Institute for Human Rights
- Mr. Saranbaatar Bayarmagnai, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR Geneva
- Mr. Richard Carver, International Expert

This session focused on discussing how NHRIs can add to the implementation of the SDGs through the application of the human rights-based approach, and how they can monitor progress towards achievement of the SDGs.

HOW TO APPLY HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO SDGS IMPLEMENTATION?

The 2030 Agenda is a transformative one, but it needs concrete efforts in order to be realized. Moreover, in order to ensure that its pledge of leaving no one behind is followed, human rights implications of the SDGs should be identified and a human rights-based approach should be utilized for implementing SDGs. One way to operationalize such an approach has been developed by the Danish Institute for Human rights, which has developed a database that links the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs with a range of core human rights instruments and international labor standards. Another example is OHCHR's work on making the Universal Human Rights Index searchable by SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda can also be quite overwhelming for Governments as well as for NHRIs, therefore the need to share tools, experiences, challenges, lessons learned, and best practices with NHRIs will be very important to support SDG implementation. Furthermore, regional and international engagement of NHRIs in holding the governments accountable on SDG implementation will also be crucial.

The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs

The Danish Institute for Human Rights has developed the “Human Rights Guide to the SDGs”, a tool to operationalize the human-rights-based approach in the implementation and follow-up and review of the SDGs. The Guide identifies the interlinkages between the SDGs and universal human rights and labor standards. The Guide is constructed as a searchable database in 5 languages (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish) with multiple search functions. In the database, one can select SDG goal, target, human rights instrument, ILO convention or article to get a precise list of matches. The Guide can, inter alia:

- Identify the human rights implications of a given goal and target;
- Show how specific human rights and labour standards link to the goals and targets;
- Identify the implications for specific rights-holders such as women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and migrant workers.

The Guide is available at <http://sdg.humanrights.dk/>

HOW CAN NHRIS SUPPORT MONITORING OF SDGS?

Indicators for the SDGs are classified in three tiers: for tier one indicators, the methodology has been developed and the data is being collected; for tier two indicators, the methodology has been developed but there is only sporadic data collection; and for tier three indicators, there is no methodology developed and no data collected yet. Therefore, some indicators will start to be measured only after a few years. This is one of the reasons why NHRIs should link their ongoing monitoring to the SDGs.

Another reason why NHRIs are credible data providers and measurers of progress is also because, considering the overwhelming number of indicators and targets set for the SDGs, it will be impossible for national statistic agencies to monitor all of them. Furthermore, for many countries it not be possible to provide disaggregated data because of anti-discrimination laws in force. At the same time,

for some targets, one indicator might not be enough and the indicators usually measure long term results of complex processes. Moreover, in some cases, the indicators and targets do not match.

Thus, there is a need to develop indicators at the national level that also measure the processes towards achieving the SDGs and hold the governments accountable for meeting benchmarks in their translation of the SDGs to the national context. For some targets, there is also a need to develop new indicators that will better reflect the progress towards achieving the target. Since data collected by NHRIs is usually rather qualitative, it can play an important role in measuring this progress. These limitations have also influenced the trend to move the discussion from strictly statistical data monitoring of the SDGs to looking at more of an ecosystem of data - an ecosystem where human rights mechanisms and NHRIs can make an important contribution.

In addition to monitoring the SDGs' implementation, NHRIs also play an important role in monitoring how the governments are collecting and reporting on the data. Government data is often inaccurate, and governments often portray the situation as better than it is. It is up to the NHRIs to check the quality and content of government provided data, ensuring an accurate monitoring of SDGs implementation.

NHRIs should also engage in budgetary tracking, monitoring the funds that the governments use for SDG implementation. NHRIs, in general, have limited capacities and experience in this area. Hence, they should cooperate with and build partnerships with NGOs and other actors who have been involved in budgetary monitoring and analysis.

"Human rights are the glue that hold the SDGs together."

*Ms. Ana Graca,
Policy Advisor, Rule of Law, Justice and Human*

Global Database of SDG Targets and Indicators

The **Global SDG Indicators Database** is United Nations Statistics Division's dissemination platform that provides access to data corresponding to the global SDG indicator framework that was agreed, as a starting point, by the UN Statistical Commission at its forty-seventh session in March 2016. The database lists country and regional data available per each SDG indicator and can be a useful resource for NHRIs in their monitoring of SDGs implementation. It is available at the link: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

SESSION III: WORKING GROUPS ON SPECIFIC SDGS

During this session, participants broke into smaller groups where they discussed and shared experiences on implementation of SDGs, through focusing on specific goals.

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Moderator: Ms. Ana Graca, UNDP New York

Presenter at plenary session: Ms. Bilge Uz, Ombudsman Institution, Turkey

One of the main challenges for NHRIs, including when it comes to supporting the implementation of SDG 16, is the fact that their recommendations are not binding. This makes it difficult for NHRIs to influence legal frameworks. Another challenge is for NHRIs to convince the governments to adapt SDG indicators to the local context. This in particular is a challenge because some indicators do not necessarily represent the targets, and several are difficult to represent in the context of the country, as they can be very narrow in their focus.

One of SDG 16 Targets - 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

Indicator 16.a.1 Existence of independent National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

This presents a great opportunity for NHRIs to legitimize their role in the 2030 Agenda.

SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Moderator: Mr. Ben Slay, Senior Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Presenter at plenary session: Mr. Abdulla Alderazi, Vice Chairman, Bahrain NHRI

In order for NHRIs to be able to support the implementation of SDGs, they need to have access to statistical information and thus a constructive relationship between the NHRIs and national statistical offices is necessary. NHRIs can collaborate with governments and national statistical offices by helping them to identify the most vulnerable categories of the population and make sure that those categories are included in the statistics so that sufficient data exist for policy design on SDG 10, as well as for the other SDGs with respect to the principle “leaving no one behind.” Such collaboration with national statistical offices is essential if NHRIs would like to influence the SDG implementation through monitoring and reporting publicly on progress. Through their continuous analysis of the human rights situation, in particular with regard to vulnerable groups, NHRIs can also provide qualitative data that is complementary to the quantitative data gathered by national statistical office for SDG 10. Furthermore, through regional and global cooperation among NHRIs, GANHRI, and the regional networks, NHRIs can also make sure that internationally comparable data for SDG 10 indicators are collected.

SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

Moderator: Ms. Marta Vallejo, Justice and Human Rights Advisor, UNDP Amman Regional Hub

Presenter at plenary session: Ms. Adriana Van Dooijeweert, President, Netherlands Institute for Human Rights

No SDG² will be achieved unless there is considerable progress on Gender Equality (SDG 5) which cuts across all other SDGs, affecting at least 50% of the target populations in each one of them. An important area to address to achieve gender equality is the current legal framework, recognizing also that even when gender equality is achieved on paper there is still a big difference between law and practice, and between rural and urban areas. All SDG 5 indicators are currently being reported on through various treaty bodies, most notably but not exclusively CEDAW, ICESCR, ICCPR, CRC and DEVAW, and gender equality features prominently in all UPR reviews and processes. NHRIs should ensure that all those efforts continue and use all those reporting mechanisms to enhance the achievement of SDG 5.

SDGS 1, 8 – NO POVERTY, DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Moderator: Ms. Jasmina Papa, Sustainable Development Team, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Presenter at plenary session: Mr. Dmytro Lyakh, Representative of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights for Observance of Social, Economic and Humanitarian Rights, Ukraine

SDGs 1 and 8 are closely interrelated, as a country cannot reach economic growth and fight poverty without an efficient state policy on employment. In relation to these two goals in particular, NHRIs have to play an active role in monitoring and following up on the social and economic rights of individuals, and especially those of vulnerable groups. NHRIs should reach out to these groups and ensure that their voices are heard. Additionally, there should be advocacy to increase NHRIs' influence over the private sector as well, since many of the violations of rights that relate to these two SDGs occur in this sector. NHRIs should also work on ensuring a realistic minimum wage, as a tool to get people out of poverty.

² Except for SDG 14 and 15

SESSION IV – POLICY GUIDANCE AND CAPACITY SUPPORT TO NHRIS WITH REGARD TO SDGS' IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF SDGS' IMPLEMENTATION

Moderator: Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Human Rights and Rule of Law Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Presenters:

- Ms. Maja Hasanbasic, Ombudsperson's Office, Croatia
- Dr. Alison Hosie, Scottish Human Rights Commission
- Dr. Mousa Buraizat, Commissioner General, Jordanian National Centre for Human Rights
- Mourad Errarhib, Director, Cooperation and International Relations, National Human Rights Council of Morocco

This session focused on specific steps that NHRIs can take to support the implementation of SDGs and on identifying some challenges and obstacles they might face in this.

WHAT ARE CONCRETE STEPS NHRIS CAN TAKE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS?

One concrete step that NHRIs can take to support the implementation of SDGs is to explicitly incorporate SDGs into their ongoing work. One of the first steps for this would be to audit their own work, see how the work that the NHRI is already doing could support the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Most of the 2030 Agenda deals with issues that NHRIs have already been working on and NHRIs should include SDGs into their strategic plans, or develop action plans for implementation of SDGs. Moreover, the 2030 Agenda and the human rights agenda reinforce each other. So, supporting the achievement of SDGs will lead to the full enjoyment of human rights, and vice versa. Thus making explicit references to the SDGs in the NHRI's work, including in the reporting to the UPR and treaty bodies, will lead to the two reinforcing each other. This could also influence the governments to further support human rights, as they have already committed to the 2030 Agenda.

"NHRIs should take an SDG lens in all the work that you do, so that it's there from inception."

*Dr. Alison Hosie,
Scottish Human Rights Commission*

Another step NHRIs should take is to promote the case for human rights indicators in all the monitoring and reporting that the state undertakes, showing how good human rights indicators can be used for many reporting processes: UPR, UN treaties, the SDGs. Moreover, using their own work as an example of how to integrate the SDGs, will help other bodies to integrate them as well.

WHAT ARE SOME CHALLENGES TO NHRIS' SUPPORT FOR THE SDGS' IMPLEMENTATION?

One challenge that NHRIs face in supporting the 2030 Agenda is that they might lack SDG expertise, and most do not have the resources to build up their own capacity on this topic. Hence, knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer support can be very important. Partnerships among NHRIs, but also with other stakeholders like civil society organizations and parliaments, can be of immense value to NHRIs' work on the 2030 Agenda. It is also important that NHRIs utilize resources already developed by others: for example, the tool developed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights that links SDG goals and targets to specific human rights instruments and international labor standards, or the OHCHR's human rights indicators. This knowledge exchange should also be fostered among governments themselves, as they are more prone to listen to their peers.

Another challenge is the possible lack of government commitment to implementing the SDGs. While UN member states have adopted the 2030 Agenda, some governments might still lack the political will to actually put the agenda into practice. Furthermore, there needs to be adequate legal frameworks for NHRIs enforce to enable them to support the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

SESSION V – REGIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR THE SUPPORT OF NHRIS WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS

During this session, the participants separated into two working groups based on the regional NHRI networks. Each group discussed a regional action plan identifying what kind of support NHRIs would need with regard to the implementation and monitoring of implementation of SDGs.

GROUP EUROPE:

Moderator: Ms. Debbie Kohner, Secretary General, ENNHRI

Presenter at plenary session: Ms. Birgitte Feiring, Programme Manager Human Rights and Development, Danish Institute for Human Rights

GROUP ARAB STATES:

Moderator: Ms. Marta Vallejo, Justice and Human Rights Advisor, UNDP Amman Regional Hub

Presenter at plenary session: Mr. Abdulla Alderazi, Vice Chairman of the National Institute for Human Rights in Bahrain

The working groups elaborated a few concrete aspects where they need policy guidance and support, highlighting two areas where most support is needed: i) building up the capacities of the NHRIs to support and monitor the SDGs' implementation; and ii) developing a methodology for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. Both groups highlighted that increased cooperation with each other and other stakeholders, fostering learning through exchange and cooperation, would be of immense help in achieving these. Peer support and cooperation is also important since various NHRIs are at different stages of implementing and monitoring the implementation of SDGs and thus in these early stages exchange of lessons learned and ongoing practices would be important. Elaboration of guidance materials and external capacity building support would also be of help.

Working groups also discussed the cooperation and engagement with regional mechanisms, for example, in Europe with the European Union and the Council of Europe. In this regard, ENNHRI's Secretariat is already working on developing an engagement policy with regional bodies. In terms of cooperation, participants also highlighted the importance of coordination amongst themselves and with various other bodies. A lot of stakeholders are working on SDG implementation, so better coordination and cooperation is crucial to ensure economical use of limited resources.

The representatives of the Arab NHRIs also agreed on the main topics for an action plan on NHRI support to SDG implementation, which will be further developed in the near future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To support the implementation of SDGs in a human rights compliant way, NHRIs should:

- Integrate the SDGs in their action plans, reports and other documents. This could lead to greater domestication of the 2030 Agenda among other state bodies too;
- Advocate with respective governments, especially in Europe, to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is implemented internally as well, and not looked at only through the prism of international development and foreign policy;
- Identify who is left furthest behind through human rights monitoring, and in this way assist the states in prioritizing the SDGs;
- Engage with regional bodies, which should also have a role in implementation of SDGs;
- Cooperate with other stakeholders such as Parliaments and civil society in holding the government accountable to achieving the SDGs;
- Exchange experiences with other NHRIs, governments, parliaments, statistical offices, civil society and international partners as a means to raise awareness on SDGs, build capacities, and maximize limited resources;
- Where appropriate, align their work within the 2030 Agenda framework, as this might increase Governments' commitments to fulfil their human rights obligations.

To support the monitoring of SDGs' implementation, NHRIs should:

- Collect information on the implementation of SDGs and provide it to the follow-up and review mechanisms. This would also serve to check the quality and content of government provided data;
- Develop methodologies on how to monitor the implementation of SDGs;
- Develop action plans for monitoring the implementation of SDGs;
- Use the qualitative data they collect to measure progress made towards achieving SDGs and how governments are translating the SDGs in their national contexts;
- Contribute to the development of new, better national indicators, since some of the current indicators do not match the target they are intended to measure.

To support the NHRIs in their role vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda, international partners and NHRI networks should:

- Support the NHRIs in developing tools, methodologies and capacities to monitor SDG implementation;
- Develop and disseminate global and regional guidance material, elaborating how NHRIs can monitor SDG implementation;
- Develop and disseminate knowledge products showcasing what approaches have been successful;
- Facilitate knowledge sharing among different governments as they might be more prone to listen to their peers;
- Translate the GANHRI, UNDP and OHCHR tripartite partnership into a global programme to strengthen the NHRIs, including the NHRIs' role in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;
- Provide specific support to NHRIs of countries which are up for voluntary reporting to the Working Group in 2017;
- Support GANHRI in becoming a member of the Global Alliance³ established to bring Member States, the private sector and civil society together to advocate for SDGs 16 implementation.

² The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies was established to support "effective and meaningful reporting" on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 and its interlinkages with the rest of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities. It is comprised of representatives from Member States, civil society, and the private sector committed to the furtherance of Goal 16, and is convened by UNDP.

ANNEX I: AGENDA OF THE MEETING

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

REGIONAL CONSULTATION, EUROPE AND ARAB STATES

5 DECEMBER 2016, ISTANBUL

8:45- 9:00	Registration
9:00- 9:30	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Shelley Inglis, Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster Lead, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub • Ms. Debbie Kohner, Secretary General ENNHRI • Dr. Issa bin Saeed Al Kiyumi, Chairman of Oman Human Rights Commission, President of ANNHRI
9:30- 11:00	<p>SESSION I - The Merida Declaration - The Role of NHRIs with Regard to the Implementation of SDGs</p> <p>Objective: Awareness-raising on Merida Declaration and NHRIs' role in SDG implementation, including by assessing the impact of laws, policies, programmes, national development plans, administrative practices and budgets on the realization of all human rights for all.</p> <p>Moderator and Introducer: Prof. Alan Miller, Special Envoy, GANHRI</p> <p>Representative for Central Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chris Sidoti, International Expert • Ms. Michael Windfuhr, Deputy Director, German Institute for Human Rights • Ms. Juliana Cici, People's Advocate, Albania • Mr. Ammar Dweik, Director, Independent Commission for Human Rights, Palestine <p>Q&A</p>

11:00- 11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:45	<p>SESSION II - Leaving No One Behind - Human-Rights-Based Approach to the Implementation and Measurement of the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Objective: Discussion on the application of HRBA to SDGs, the links between the recommendations of international human rights bodies and SDGs. Discussion on the need of indicators of progress towards the equality and non-discrimination aspects of the SDGs. How do NHRIs collaborate with government institutions and other partners and stakeholders?</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Ana Graca, Policy Advisor, Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights, UNDP, New York</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Birgitte Feiring, Programme Manager Human Rights and Development, Danish Institute for Human Rights • Mr. Saranbaatar Bayarmagnai, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR Geneva • Mr. Richard Carver, International Expert
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
12:45 – 13:45	<p>SESSION III – Working Groups on Specifics SDGs</p> <p>Objective: Small group discussions and experience sharing on the four topics. Identification of challenges and needs for further support by UNDP and regional networks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) SDG 16 – Moderator Ms. Ana Graca, UNDP New York 2) SDG 10 – Moderator Mr. Ben Slay, Senior Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub 3) SDG 5 – Ms. Marta Vallejo, Justice and Human Rights Advisor, UNDP Amman Regional Hub 4) SDGs 1, 8 – Moderator Ms. Jasmina Papa, Sustainable Development Team, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

14:45 – 15:15	<p>Report Back in Plenary</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Marta Vallejo, Justice and Human Rights Advisor, UNDP Amman Regional Hub</p> <p>Presenters/Report-back</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mr. Zaur Valimammadli, Head of the International Relations Department, Ombudsman of the Republic of Azerbaijan (tbc) 2) Mr. Abdulla Alderazi, Vice Chairman, Bahrain NHRI 3) Ms. Adriana Van Dooijeweert, President, Netherlands Institute for Human Rights 4) Mr. Dmytro Lyakh, Representative of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights for Observance of Social, Economic and Humanitarian Rights, Ukraine
15:15 – 15:30	<p>Coffee break</p>
15:30 – 16:30	<p>SESSION IV – Policy Guidance and Capacity Support to NHRIs with Regard to SDGs’ Implementation and Monitoring of SDGs’ Implementation</p> <p>Objective: Identify detailed needs for policy guidance and support, such as development of indicators of progress towards the equality and non-discrimination aspects of the SDGs.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Human Rights and Rule of Law Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maja Hasanbasic, Ombudsperson’s Office, Croatia- <i>The role of NHRIs in implementation (doing)</i> • Dr. Alison Hosie, Scottish Human Rights Commission- <i>The role of NHRIs in monitoring and accountability (reporting)</i> • Dr. Mousa Buraizat, Commissioner General, Jordanian National Centre for Human Rights - <i>The role of NHRIs in international forums on the SDGs</i> • Mourad Errarhib, Director, Cooperation and International Relations, National Human Rights Council of Morocco – <i>Current and future plans of the GANHRI working group dedicated to SDGs</i>

<p>16:30 – 17:45</p>	<p>SESSION V – Regional Action Plans for the Support of NHRIs with Regard to the Implementation and Monitoring of Implementation of SDGs</p> <p>Objective: Development of Regional Action Plans according to the Merida Declaration.</p> <p>Group Europe: Moderator: Ms. Debbie Kohner, Secretary General, ENNHRI</p> <p>Group Arab States: Moderator: ANNHRI</p> <p>Report Back in Plenary by Moderators</p>
<p>17:45 – 18:15</p>	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Alan Miller, Special Envoy, GANHRI • Ms. Ana Graca, Policy Advisor, Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights, UNDP, New York
<p>19:30</p>	<p>Dinner at “Hamdi” restaurant</p>

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

5 DECEMBER 2016, ISTANBUL
VENUE: RADISSON BLU HOTEL

Country delegations	
Albania	
1	Ms. Juliana Cici, People's Advocate
2	Ms. Mimoza Morina, People's Advocate
Azerbaijan	
3	Mr. Zaur Valimammadli, Head of the International Relations Department, Ombudsman of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Bahrain	
4	Mr. Abdulla Alderazi, Vice Chairman of the National Institute for Human Rights
5	Mr. Mohamed Yopusif Al Marafi, Member of the Parliament
6	Mr. Osama Al Khaja, Member of the Parliament
7	Mr. Fahad Albaker, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
8	Mr. Ljubinko Mitrović, Ombudsman
9	Mr. Haris Šahbaz, Chief of Cabinet of the Institution of Human Rights Ombudsman
Croatia	
10	Ms. Maja Hasanbasic, Office of the Ombudswomen
Denmark	
11	Ms. Birgitte Feiring, Programme Manager for Human Rights and Development for the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
12	Mr. Marijan Ponjavikj, State Counselor
Jordan	
13	HE Dr. Mousa Buraizat, Commissioner General of the National Centre for Human Rights

Kazakhstan	
16	Ms. Dinara Ospanova, Head of Expert Division of the National Centre for Human Rights
17	Mr. Daniyarkhan Shormanov, Expert of the Ombudsman Office
Kyrgyzstan	
18	Mr. Yerlan Alimbaev, Deputy Ombudsman
Moldova	
19	Mr. Dumitru Roman, Deputy Head of Policies Reform and Reporting Division, People's Advocate Office (Ombudsman)
Morocco	
20	Mr. Khalid Ramli, National Human Rights Council
21	Mr. Abdelaziz Karraky, Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights (DIDH)
Netherlands	
22	Ms. Adriana van Doijeweert, President, Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (NIHR)
Palestine	
23	Mr. Ammar Dweik, Director of the Independent Commission for Human Rights
Qatar	
24	Saad Al-Abdulla, National Human Rights Committee
Scotland	
26	Dr. Alison Hosie, Research Officer for the Scottish Human Rights Commission
Serbia	
27	Ms. Ivana Bosiljic, Senior Adviser, Office of the Protector of Citizens
Tunisia	
28	Dr. Taoufik Bouderbala, President of the Comité Supérieur des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales

Turkey

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| 30 | Ms. Ekin Bozkurt Şener, Expert, Human Rights and Equality Institution |
| 31 | Ms. Bilge Uz, Ombudsman Institution |

Ukraine

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| 32 | Mr. Dmytro Lyakh, Representative of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Observance of Social, Economic, and Humanitarian Rights |
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Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)

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| 33 | Professor Alan Miller, Special Envoy |
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European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

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| 34 | Ms. Debbie Kohner, Secretary General, ENNHRI |
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The Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI)

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| 35 | Dr. Issa bin Saeed Al Kiyumi, President of ANNHRI and Chairman of Oman Human Rights Commission |
| 36 | Mr. Sultan Al Jammali, Executive Director |

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

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| 37 | Mr. Saranbaatar Bayarmagnai, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR Geneva |
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International Experts

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| 38 | Mr. Chris Sidoti, International Expert |
| 39 | Mr. Richard Carver, International Expert |

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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| 40 | Ms. Ana Graca, Policy Advisor, Rule of Law, Justice and Human Rights, UNDP, New York |
| 41 | Ms. Shelley Inglis, Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster Lead, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub |
| 42 | Mr. Ben Slay, Senior Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub |
| 43 | Ms. Jasmina Papa, Sustainable Development Team, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub |

44	Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Human Rights and Rule of Law Advisor, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
45	Ms. Marta Vallejo, Justice and Human Rights Advisor, UNDP Amman Regional Hub
46	Ms. Ainura Bekkoenova, Human Rights and Rule of Law Expert, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
47	Ms. Nita Gojani, Communications for Human Rights and Rule of Law, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
48	Mr. Mehmet Iskin, Programme Associate, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
49	Ms. Gulgun Sahin, Programme and Administration Clerk, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
50	Ms. Zeynep Temel, Intern, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS




Human Rights and SDGs

CONFERENCE REPORT

ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

REGIONAL CONSULTATION, EUROPE AND ARAB STATES
5 DECEMBER 2016, ISTANBUL

