

Thematic forum

**OPPORTUNITIES AND WAYS TO STRENGTHEN NHRIS' INTERACTION
AND ENGAGEMENT WITH UN BODIES AND MECHANISMS**

Conclusions and recommendations of the NHRI panel

Preamble

Recognising and appreciating the Moroccan National Human Rights Council's warm hospitality and efforts in organising the special panel on National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the context of the second World Human Rights Forum;

Welcoming the contributions from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), its four regional networks, and NHRIs from all regions; the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences; as well as states, experts and civil society representatives;

Acknowledging the critical and unique role of NHRIs in the international human rights framework, applying international human rights standards from the international level to domestic level, and providing independent reports from the domestic level, nationally, to international bodies;

Recalling the most recent UN General Assembly resolution on NHRIs (A/Res/68/171), which encourages NHRIs compliant with the Paris Principles to continue to participate in and to contribute to deliberations in all relevant UN mechanisms and processes in accordance with their respective mandates, including the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

Welcoming the most recent UN General Assembly resolution on NHRIs (A/Res/68/171) requests the Secretary-General to focus in his next report to the General Assembly on the current participation of NHRIs compliant with the Paris Principles in the work of the Assembly and related processes, with a view to exploring the feasibility of enabling them to participate independently in relevant UN mechanisms and processes in accordance with their respective mandates;

Recognising the efforts of various organisations and institutions to enhance and facilitate NHRI participation in UN mechanisms;

Participants, who are convening in Marrakech – Morocco, have consensually recommended that:

1. UN member states:

- a. establish independent and effective Paris Principles compliant NHRIs and, where existent, strengthen NHRIs and their independence, including by ensuring that they have broad mandates and powers and are adequately funded;
- b. support and extend the independent and unique role of Paris Principles compliant NHRIs in the UN system and including by supporting the adoption of a NHRI resolution at the General Assembly in 2015 that urges UN mechanisms to formalise participation rights of NHRIs;
- c. Include NHRIs in the negotiations and outcomes for the post-2015 development agenda, as human rights-based accountability bodies; and
- d. In order for NHRIs to be fully functional in accordance with the UN Paris Principles, the state shall fully capacitate NHRIs to dispense with justice without fear, favour or prejudice independently and impartially;

2. The UN:

- a. develop a harmonised approach for its engagement with NHRIs, in their independent capacities as NHRIs, across the UN system based on the rules and practices established by its Human Rights Council, and with a view to ensuring Paris Principles compliant ('A' status) NHRIs' most effective contributions and the accessibility of the UN to NHRIs;
- b. consult with NHRIs, through ICC, on the most effective approach for their participation in UN mechanisms and processes;
- c. support, through OHCHR, the ICC, its regional networks and the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs; and
- d. facilitate NHRI input to the negotiations and outcomes for the post-2015 development agenda;

3. The ICC and the four NHRI regional networks:

- a. advocate for NHRIs' extended and harmonised participation rights UN system-wide, including by contributing to the development of the Secretary General's report commissioned by the General Assembly in resolution A/HRC/68/171;
- b. support NHRIs to build their capacity to promote and protect human rights, including in relation to greater participation in UN mechanisms, and how this can assist in the implementation of human rights standards on the national level;
- c. strengthen the ICC accreditation process; and
- d. Facilitate NHRIs' input to the post-2015 development agenda and advocating for their role in sustainable development goals as human rights-based accountability bodies, including through its working group on sustainable development;

4. NHRIs:

- a. strengthen their engagement in international human rights mechanisms, including Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedures as well as the Treaty Bodies, and particularly through the use of information technologies,
- b. when participating in UN mechanisms, engage and cooperate with other national bodies designated to work on specific mandates in relation to human rights, for which the ICC has committed to develop guidelines, as well as with civil society,
- c. facilitate national dialogue and input to international developments on human rights-based development post 2015; and
- d. advocate individually and collectively through the ICC with their respective state representations in capital, Geneva and New York for extended participation rights UN system-wide, including by contributing to the development of the Secretary Generals' report commissioned by the General Assembly in resolution A/HRC/68/171.