2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

Representing more than 115 NHRIs, their members and staff across all regions, GANHRI is one of the largest human rights networks worldwide.

Our vision is a world where everyone, everywhere, fully enjoys their human rights

We unite, promote and strengthen NHRIs to operate in line with the Paris Principles and provide leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights.

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GLOSSARY

GANHRI	GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL H
NHRI(S)	NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUT
OHCHR	OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS H
	(UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE)
UNDP	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PR
UN	UNITED NATIONS

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2020 IN REVIEW

From the start, the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the lives of individuals and communities across the globe. Hard lockdowns and the consequent loss of employment saw many millions of people struggling to survive in situations of acute vulnerability. In their attempts to contain the spread of COVID-19, some States imposed sweeping restrictions on fundamental rights, while others declared states of emergency.

In the midst of this, NHRIs have played a vital and constructive role: to support health planning, implementation and prevention efforts, to counter social conflict and xenophobia, and to be strong advocates for the rule of law, consistent with international human rights standards. Our members have also sought to address the human rights challenges of those most at risk during the pandemic, including people with disabilities, older persons, women, children, migrants, people in detention and indigenous peoples.

Responding to these multiple challenges, while also working within restrictive national settings, has required commitment, strategic thinking and innovation. Collaboration has also been essential. Many of our members asked for support to identify effective approaches they could incorporate into their work during the pandemic.

GANHRI made this practical support on COVID-19 a priority throughout 2020. We redesigned our projects in line with our new Strategic Plan to deliver a comprehensive, integrated and highquality suite of activities in response to requests from our members, including:

• Hosting a series of webinars on the role and experiences of NHRIs to address the human rights dimensions of COVID-19

• Convening an online Community of Practice, involving NHRIs from all regions, to share their experiences and facilitate peer-to-peer advice and support

• Collaborating with UNDP and OHCHR, through our Tripartite Partnership, to conduct a global study on NHRI responses to COVID-19 and publishing a compilation of good practices on our website

• Holding a Knowledge Exchange session as part of the GANHRI 2020 Annual Meeting, involving almost 150 participants

• Addressing international forums on behalf of NHRIs, as well as contributing to the 2020 resolution on NHRIs, adopted by the Human Rights Council, which affirms their vital contribution to uphold human rights during the pandemic

• Responding to cases of intimidation and reprisals against NHRIs, including for their mandated human rights work during the pandemic.

GANHRI is also grateful for the close cooperation of our donors throughout the year. Their support has allowed us to rethink how we work, develop innovative responses and engage with our members in new ways. Strengthening relationships with our members to deepen our human rights impact, especially during these unprecedented times, will continue to underpin every aspect of our work.

Addressing the human rights impacts of COVID-19 will be a priority for our members in the year ahead and we will continue to provide them with practical assistance. However, we know there are other urgent challenges that must be faced, including supporting NHRIs in their efforts on climate change and to protect human rights defenders.

Partnerships are crucial to the effectiveness of GANHRI's work. In 2020, we strengthened our existing partnerships and established new ones, including with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. These partnerships help us respond to the needs of our members, increase our reach and broaden our impact.



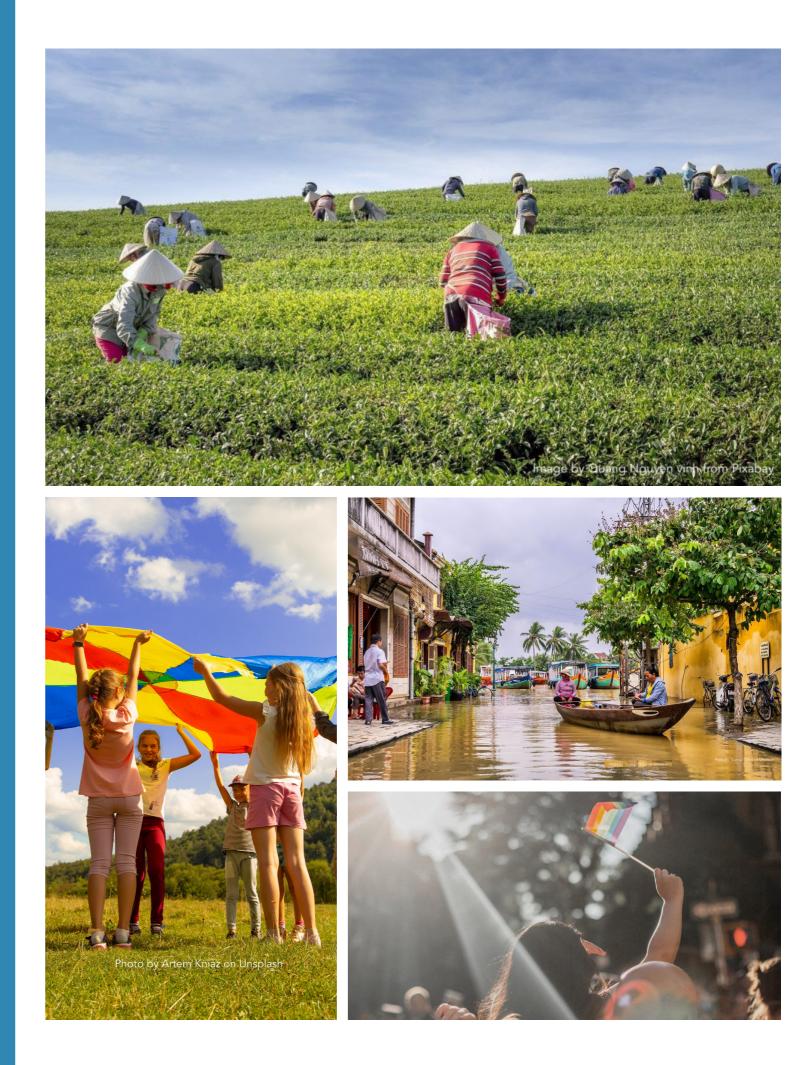
GANHRI Chairperson elected

Dr Freddy Carrión Intriago, Ombudsman of Ecuador, was elected to the role of GANHRI Chairperson in October 2020. He replaced Carlos Alfonso Negret Mosquera, who served in the role from March 2019 until the conclusion of his term as Ombudsman of Colombia in August 2021.

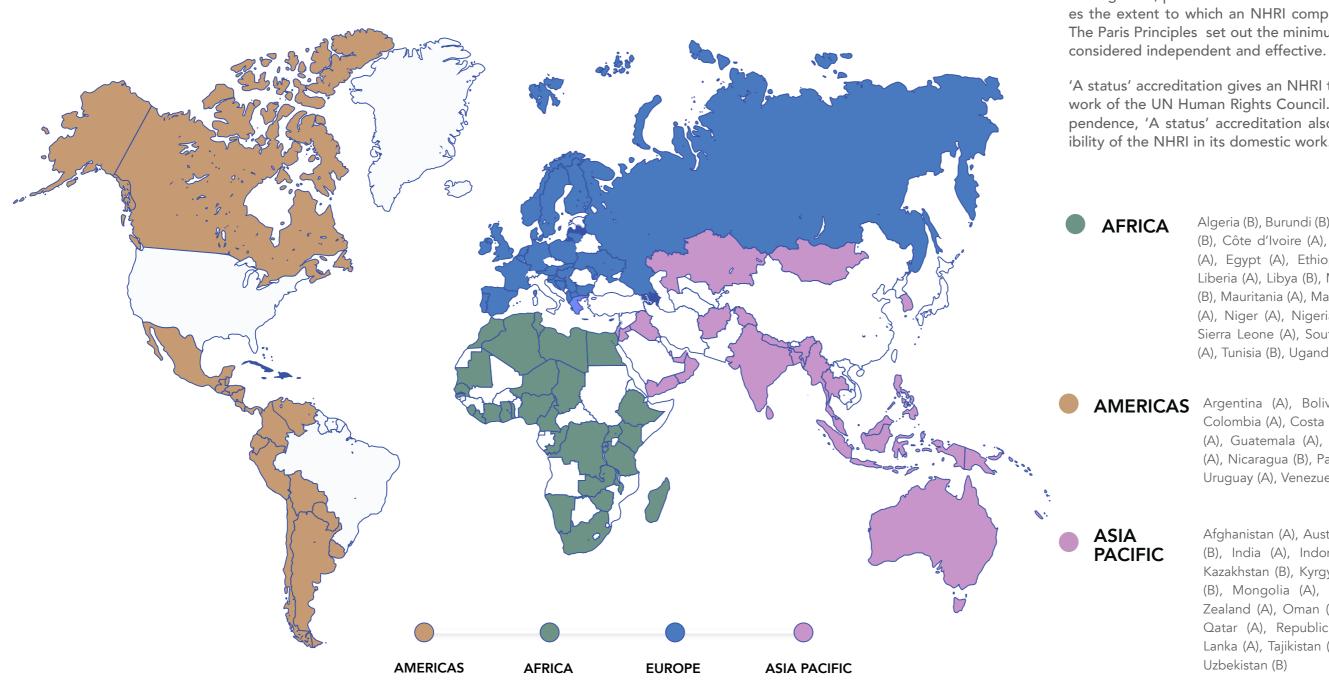
Dr Ali Bin Samikh Al-Marri, Chairperson of the Qatar National Human Rights Committee, continues in the role of GANHRI Secretary.

Representatives nominated by the four regional networks of NHRIs, once elected by GANHRI members, serve in the positions of GANHRI Chairperson and GANHRI Secretary on a rotational basis.





OUR MEMBERS



GANHRI's membership includes 117 national human rights institutions from all four regions: 84 'A status' NHRIs and 33 'B status' NHRIs.

'A status':

the NHRI fully complies with the Paris Principles

'B status':

the NHRI partially complies with the Paris Principles

Our rigorous, peer-based international accreditation process assesses the extent to which an NHRI complies with the Paris Principles. The Paris Principles set out the minimum standards for NHRIs to be

'A status' accreditation gives an NHRI the right to participate in the work of the UN Human Rights Council. And, in recognising its independence, 'A status' accreditation also helps strengthen the credibility of the NHRI in its domestic work.

> Algeria (B), Burundi (B), Cameroon (A), Chad (B), Congo (B), Côte d'Ivoire (A), Democratic Republic of Congo (A), Egypt (A), Ethiopia (B), Ghana (A), Kenya (A), Liberia (A), Libya (B), Madagascar (A), Malawi (A), Mali (B), Mauritania (A), Mauritius (A), Morocco (A), Namibia (A), Niger (A), Nigeria (A), Rwanda (A), Senegal (B), Sierra Leone (A), South Africa (A), Tanzania (A), Togo (A), Tunisia (B), Uganda (A), Zambia (A), Zimbabwe (A)

Argentina (A), Bolivia (A), Canada (A), Chile (A), Colombia (A), Costa Rica (A), Ecuador (A), El Salvador (A), Guatemala (A), Haiti (A), Honduras (A), Mexico (A), Nicaragua (B), Panama (A), Paraguay (B), Peru (A), Uruquay (A), Venezuela (B)

Afghanistan (A), Australia (A), Bahrain (B), Bangladesh (B), India (A), Indonesia (A), Iraq (B), Jordan (A), Kazakhstan (B), Kyrgyzstan (B), Malaysia (A), Maldives (B), Mongolia (A), Myanmar (B), Nepal (A), New Zealand (A), Oman (B), Palestine (A), Philippines (A), Qatar (A), Republic of Korea (A), Samoa (A), Sri Lanka (A), Tajikistan (B), Thailand (B), Timor Leste (A), Uzbekistan (B)

Albania (A), Armenia (A), Austria (B), Azerbaijan (B), Belgium (B), Bosnia and Herzegovina (A), Bulgaria (A), Croatia (A), Cyprus (B), Denmark (A), Estonia (A), Finland (A), France (A), Georgia (A), Germany (A), Great Britain (A), Greece (A), Hungary (A), Ireland (A), Latvia (A), Lithuania (A), Luxembourg (A), Macedonia (B), Moldova (A), Montenegro (B), Netherlands (A), North Macedonia (B), Northern Ireland (A), Norway (A), Poland (A), Portugal (A), Russia (A), Serbia (A), Scotland (A), Slovakia (B), Slovenia (A), Spain (A), Sweden (B), Ukraine (A)

EUROPE

SUPPORTING NHRIs AT EVERY STAGE

ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING NHRIS WORLDWIDE

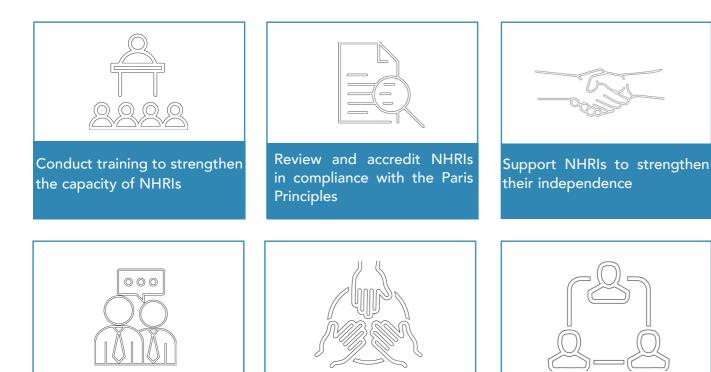
Independent NHRIs play a vital role to promote and protect the fundamental rights of all people in their countries.

They support victims to seek justice, they hold governments and other powerful groups to account, they advocate for changes to laws and policies, and they lead outreach programs to counter the attitudes that can fuel violence and discrimination.

However, NHRIs need support to do this work and deliver on their mandate.

That is why GANHRI was established. It is a network of NHRIs, created by NHRIs, to support, strengthen and connect NHRIs.

We assist at each stage of an NHRI's development so it can be a strong and effective human rights defender. We also work closely with the four regional NHRI networks in Africa, the Americas, the Asia Pacific and Europe.



Assist NHRIs to engage with the international human rights system



We work with our partners to establish strong and independent NHRIs in countries across the globe.

We build the capacity of our members so they can tackle pressing human rights challenges and be effective advocates for justice.

When NHRIs face threats or reprisals, we provide practical support to uphold their independence.

OUR OBJECTIVE: GANHRI – in cooperation with regional networks and UN partners – contributes towards the establishment, strengthening, accreditation and ongoing capacity development of NHRIs, as well as their protection when under threat.



Bring NHRIs together to

discuss, debate and collaborate

BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NHRIS

During 2020, we continued to build momentum for the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs, including in countries such as Sudan, Switzerland and Italy.

As part of our Tripartite Partnership with UNDP and OHCHR, and in collaboration with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), we provided support for the establishment, strengthening and accreditation of the NHRIs of Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania and Mozambique.

While some in-country activities for 2020 were postponed because of COVID-19 restrictions, we continued to liaise with country partners and other stakeholders to provide information and support.



SUPPORTING NHRIS DURING COVID-19

When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, NHRIs in all regions had to contend with a raft of new human rights challenges and a vastly changed operating environment.

Throughout the year, GANHRI organised a series of webinars and other online activities to support NHRIs respond to the pandemic. We also established an online community of practice on human rights and COVID-19, involving more than 120 active participants.

Through our Tripartite Partnership, we conducted a global study of NHRI responses to COVID-19. We also published a compilation of NHRI good practices on our website.

> An average of **150 participants** took part in our online activities on **NHRIs** and COVID-19 responses



COVID-19 travel restrictions meant we were unable to hold regular sessions of the Sub-Committee for Accreditation (SCA) in Geneva. After engaging with the GANHRI Bureau and regional NHRI networks, we developed a process to hold SCA sessions remotely.

The first virtual session was held from 7-18 December 2020, with the SCA making recommendations in relation to 13 NHRIs: one new NHRI was accredited with 'A status' and three NHRIs were upgraded to 'A status'.

We are grateful for the close cooperation of NHRIs, regional NHRI networks and SCA members as we worked across multiple time zones to conduct the session, as well as the support of the SCA Secretariat hosted within the UN Human Rights Office.

The SCA report provided to NHRIs at the conclusion of the SCA session outlines the practical steps they can take to strengthen their independence. Where possible, GANHRI - in partnership with OHCHR and UNDP - supports members in their efforts to implement the SCA recommendations.

In January 2020, GANHRI participated in a workshop on the accreditation process organised by the Asia Pacific Forum and involving 11 NHRIs from that region.

72% of NHRIs globally are accredited with 'A status'





PROTECTING NHRIS UNDER THREAT

Threats, reprisals and other acts of intimidation against NHRIs are occurring in all regions. They have been increasing in their number and intensity, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and constitute an attack on the independence and effectiveness of NHRIs.

We act strategically to protect NHRIs under threat, in close coordination with the concerned NHRI, the regional NHRI network, UN partners and others. During 2020, we supported a number of NHRIs - including Afghanistan, Bolivia, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, the Philippines and Poland - with actions to uphold their independence and help prevent further attacks.

We also engage with UN mechanisms in Geneva and in New York to draw attention to reprisals against NHRIs, which are now routinely included in reports of the Secretary-General.

GANHRI advocated for the inclusion of a strong statement on the responsibility of States to protect NHRIs from threats and reprisals in the annual resolution on NHRIs, adopted by the Human Rights Council in September 2020.



BRINGING NHRIS TOGETHER

Collaboration between NHRIs is essential to address today's human rights challenges, many of which cross borders and regions.

We bring NHRIs together to share ideas, develop strategies and build partnerships that drive positive change.

We have responded creatively and strategically during COVID-19 to ensure this vital exchange can continue.

OUR OBJECTIVE: GANHRI brings its members together at the global level to collaborate, to engage with and support one another, and to develop joint learning and experiencebased knowledge to inform global policy debate and effective action at the national level.

STRENGTHENING AND CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS

In 2020, we organised a wide range of activities to support our members and link them with UN bodies and other partners to magnify their impact.

Partnerships are crucial to our collective efforts. We continued our collaboration with regional NHRI networks and the Danish Institute of Human Rights, as part of the NHRI.EU capacity building project; and with OHCHR and UNDP, under the Tripartite Partnership.

We also joined forces with key UN agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Drawing on these partnerships, we developed activities on the:

• 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the development of online toolbox through the NHRI.EU capacity building project

• Rights of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, to coordinate NHRIs' engagement with the UN Network on Migration and, in partnership with UNHCR, to publish a guide for UNHCR personnel on collaborating with NHRIs

• Rights of women and girls, including publishing a guide with UNFPA on the role of NHRIs to end female genital mutilation

• Rights of persons with disabilities, to coordinate NHRI engagement with Human Rights Council sessions and the 13th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We also facilitated online workshops for our members led by GANHRI's working groups on business and human rights, on persons with disabilities, and on ageing.



FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

More than 300 participants from our members, regional NHRI networks, UN agencies and other partners met online for the <u>GANHRI 2020 Annual Meeting</u>, held on 3-4 December. It was the first time we have held the Annual Meeting virtually, with a dedicated Sharepoint platform developed for voting, documentation and dialogue.

Our <u>2020-2022</u> Strategic Plan was formally adopted by the GANHRI General Assembly. The meeting also included a <u>Knowledge Exchange</u> session, with NHRIs sharing innovative approaches they had developed to safeguard human rights during COVID-19. In addition to NHRI participants, some **1,600** people followed our live events on social media.

• HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Discussions at the 2020 Annual Meeting focused on the role and contributions of NHRIs to address the human rights impacts of climate change.

NHRIs from all four regions shared examples and gave their perspectives on:

- Integrating human rights in national climate commitments, policies and laws
- Supporting climate litigation
- Monitoring and reporting processes related to human rights and climate change.

GANHRI members adopted forward-looking <u>Statement</u>, which will serve as a guide for the individual and collective actions of NHRIs on climate change. Members also agreed to establish a caucus of NHRIs to develop and lead our engagement with international mechanisms.



NHRIs have a critical role to play. You are independent, you are that voice advocating for human rights, for climate justice and for international equity.

Inger Anderson - Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



• COLLABORATING TO **PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

Over the past decade, human rights defenders across the globe have faced mounting threats, including shrinking democratic spaces and an erosion of the rule of law. These challenges were compounded in 2020, when many governments imposed sweeping restrictions on fundamental rights as part of measures to counter the spread of COVID-19.

This year, GANHRI began developing a <u>Global Action Plan</u> to support NHRIs implement the provisions of the Marrakech Declaration adopted in 2018 and support their work with human rights defenders.

The Global Action Plan will build the capacity of NHRIs to monitor civic space and the situation of human rights defenders; support the establishment of protection mechanisms; and promote positive narratives on the work of human rights defenders. A gender perspective will be integrated across the Action Plan. The Global Action Plan will complement action plans being developed by the four regional NHRI networks, as part of the NHRI.EU capacity building project.

AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF NHRIS

NHRIs are respected partners of the international human rights system. They speak with credibility and authority at the UN Human Rights Council and other UN fora.

Through GANHRI, NHRIs speak with a powerful and unified voice on the international stage, amplifying our impact.

We also support our members in their individual advocacy efforts.

OUR OBJECTIVE: GANHRI, complementing individual representation rights of its member NHRIs, brings the voice of its member NHRIs, in relevant UN fora, enhancing the space for NHRIs engagement and contributing to relevant UN mechanisms and processes.



PROMOTING NHRI INSIGHTS AT THE UN

During 2020, GANHRI delivered nine statements to the Human Rights Council. Our statements drew on the fact-based expertise of our members and contributed to global discussion and policy making on key human rights issues.

These statements addressed a broad range of themes, including:

- COVID-19 and its impact on human rights
- Situation of human rights defenders
- Human rights and the environment
- Business and human rights
- Persons with disabilities, in the context of internal displacement
- Cooperation with the United Nations, its mechanisms and representatives.

SUPPORTING MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

During 2020, a growing number of NHRIs took advantage of GANHRI support to deliver written or video statements to the Human Rights Council. We assisted 40 NHRIs to deliver statements to the Council, as well as two statements by the GANHRI Working Group on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and one by the GANHRI Working Group on Ageing.

While the postponement or cancellation of some treaty body sessions meant there were fewer opportunities for NHRIs to report on the human rights situation in their country, **GANHRI still assisted approximately 50 members to engage with treaty bodies in 2020**, either with direct support or through the assistance we provided to OHCHR. This support including advising NHRIs of the new working methods adopted for online meetings.



ADVOCATING FOR NHRIS

We continued our advocacy for enhanced NHRI participation rights in UN bodies and processes, especially those under the General Assembly. We also advocated for a strong resolution on NHRIs, which was adopted by the Human Rights Council in September 2020.

The resolution highlights the vital contribution made by NHRIs to uphold human rights during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and calls on States to support their NHRIs in these efforts. It also reaffirms that NHRIs should not face reprisals for work done in accordance with their mandate. Further, the resolution urges States to make greater efforts to investigate and respond to threats and reprisals against NHRIs and those who cooperate with them.

SUPPORTING AND SHARING NHRI EXPERTISE

We provided ongoing to support for GANHRI's four working groups, which comprise representatives from NHRIs with expertise across a broad range of human rights themes.

We also helped share NHRI expertise with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, including:

- UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
- UN Network on Migration
- UN mechanisms in support of the Sustainable Development Goals
- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency
- Special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur displaced persons and the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders.

STRENGTHENING HOW WE CONNECT

Communicating with members, partners and stakeholders is a vital part of our strategi even more important in 2020, when COVID-19 travel restrictions and lockdowns made engagement impossible.

We developed new ways to connect online with our members, across regions and across part of our new communications strategy. We also launched a process to drive our digit tion and streamline our knowledge management.

We continued to build a content-rich website - www.ganhri.org - and strengthened our Facebook and Twitter.



27% increase in engagement rate **on Twitter**

16% increase in Facebook followers

OUR FINANCES

Summary Profit and Loss Statement (at 31 December 2020: all figures in CHE)

(a	(at 51 December 2020, all lightes in CHF)		
Income			
	Contributions from members	325,000.	
	Contributions from donors	292,384.2	
	Other incomes, including expenses rebilling		
_	TOTAL INCOME	617,384.	

Expenses

Personnel (advocacy and support to NHRIs)	337,951.75
Personnel (admin support)	92,533.50
Projects and related activities, representation, coordination, advocacy, capacity building	22 642 20
	23,643.39
Office costs	31,118.32
Communication, legal, accounting and consulting	13,376.77
Other expenses	26,010.11
Differential Profit	92,750.39
TOTAL EXPENSES	617,384.23

Summary Balance Sheet

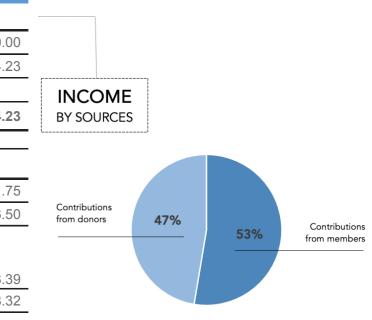
(at 31 December 2020, all figures in CHF)

Assets		
Cash & Cash equivalents	813,889.89	
Fixed Assets	1,318.48	
TOTAL ASSETS	815,208.37	

Liabilities

Current liabilities	130,828.38		
Equity	684,379.99		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	815,208.37		





GANHRI ended 2020 in a sound financial position. There was a significant reduction in expenditure in response to COVID-19 restrictions. We are grateful for the support and cooperation of our donors as we made necessary adjustments to continue implementing our projects during the pandemic.

We also acknowledge the pro bono contribution of UN online volunteers and the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

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OUR PEOPLE

GANHRI Bureau

Freddy Carrión Intriago	NHRI Ecuador GANHRI Chairperson (from October 2020)
Carlos Alfonso Negret-Mosquera	NHRI Colombia GANHRI Chairperson (to August 2020)
Ali Bin Samikh Al-Marri	NHRI Qatar GANHRI Secretary
Mohamed Fayek	NHRI Egypt Regional Chairperson, Africa
Marie Claire Mukasine	NHRI Rwanda
John Robert Walters	NHRI Namibia
Mwamba Mwamus Mushikonke	NHRI Democratic Republic of Congo
José Apolonio Tobar Serrano	NHRI El Salvador
Branislav Marelic Rokov	NHRI Chile
Maria del Rosario Piedra Ibarra	NHRI Mexico
Rosalind Croucher	NHRI Australia Regional Chairperson,
Alaa Al Armouti	NHRI Jordan
Justice H.L. Dattu	NHRI India (until October 2020)
Choi Young-ae	NHRI Korea (from October 2020)
Caroline Fennell	NHRI Ireland Regional Chairperson, Europe
Maria Gavouneli	NHRI Greece
Lora Vidovic	NHRI Croatia
Erinda Ballanca	NHRI Albania

Sub-Committee on Accreditation

Magali Lafourcade/Cécile Riou, NHRI France, Chair Amina Bouayach, NHRI Morocco Marie Claude Landry, NHRI Canada Ammar Dwiak, NHRI Palestine

Permanent observers to the Sub-Committee include representatives from GANHRI and the regional NHRI network secretariats. OHCHR acts as secretariat to the Sub-Committee.

Finance Committee

NHRI India, Chair (from October 2020) NHRI Mexico, Chair (until July 2020) NHRI Chile (from July 2020) NHRI Morocco NHRI United Kingdom

Working Group on Business and Human Rights

NHRI Germany, Chair NHRI Bolivia NHRI Ecuador NHRI India NHRI Malawi NHRI Malawi NHRI Morocco NHRI Philippines NHRI Portugal

Working Group on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

NHRI New Zealand, Chair NHRI Canada, Vice Chair NHRI El Salvador NHRI Finland NHRI Georgia NHRI Kenya NHRI Philippines NHRI South Africa

Working Group on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

NHRI Denmark, Chair NHRI Argentina NHRI Indonesia NHRI Ghana

Working Group on Ageing

NHRI Republic of Korea, Chair NHRI El Salvador NHRI Georgia NHRI Germany (until November 2020, then NHRI Poland) NHRI Kenya NHRI Nigeria NHRI Peru NHRI Philippines

GANHRI staff and consultants

Katharina Rose Geneva Representative

Ileana Bello Operations Manager

Laia Evia Human Rights Officer

Stéphanie Louvier Finance & Admin Officer (until April 2020)

Christine Beglinger Finance Officer (until September 2020)

Julia Griffiths Finance Officer (from October 2020)

Lara Stoppini Communications and Knowledge Management Officer (until May 2020)

Joana Sabra Communications and Digital Event Organiser (from October 2020)

Valeria Veroes Intern

Jonathan Cave Organisational development (consultant)

Michel Forst Global Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space (consultant)

James Iliffe Senior Communication Adviser (consultant)

Lone Lindholt Strategic planning (consultant)

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Special thanks to Claver Pierre Nsanzumuhire