NATIONS UNIES
LE HAUT-COMMISSAIRE
AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

UNITED NATIONS
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

14 January 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have the honour to write to you in the context of the approaching fifth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the Human Rights Council, scheduled to start in 2027, with a request for written submissions on your good practices in the third and fourth UPR cycles and on ideas for fifth cycle innovations.

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) systematically contribute to the UPR process through submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information, participation in the adoption of the UPR outcomes, and through monitoring and advocating for the implementation of the recommendations by the Government. The establishment and strengthening of NHRIs and the discharge of their respective mandates in full compliance with the Paris Principles constitute regular recommendations made to States under Review.

The approaching end of the fourth UPR cycle in November 2027 provides for an opportunity to look at NHRI engagement during the past third and fourth cycles, identify lessons learned and good practices and discuss ways to further strengthen NHRI involvement at all stages of the UPR process in the fifth cycle. In that light, we would be grateful to receive your written input on the following:

1. Please provide concrete examples of good, promising and innovative practices[1] by your NHRI during the third and fourth UPR cycles (and their impact if possible). These could include practices related, but not limited, to[2]:
    a. implementation of UPR recommendations (monitoring, cooperation with the executive and legislative branches, cooperation with civil society)
    b. advocacy and awareness raising at all stages
    c. your role regarding Government-held consultations prior to the review
    d. your written submissions for the Summary of Stakeholder Information (process of drafting, structure, contents)
    e. participation in the adoptions.
2. For the upcoming 5th cycle (2027-2032), please provide suggested innovations that could realistically be introduced regarding NHRI engagement at all stages of the cycle (for example, on national consultations with the Government and other stakeholders, standardisation of NHRI submissions, mid-term reporting, follow up modalities, and knowledge sharing).

[1] You may consult the definitions of "good", "promising" and "innovative" practices at https://knowledgegateway.ohchr.org/escr-hub/practices/about

[2] For further examples of NHRI action during all stages of the UPR cycle, you may wish to consult the Tips for engagement at country level for NHRIs, accessible at https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/ngos-nhris

We aim to collect examples of good, promising and innovative practices (item 1 above) and include them in our new UPR Knowledge Hub (https://knowledgegateway.ohchr.org/upr), mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 54/28. The sharing of such practices will promote peer learning and support amongst States and stakeholders. In addition, your input regarding 5th cycle innovations would be instrumental in the ongoing deliberations on this topic amongst Member States.

You are kindly invited to send your submissions in Word format in English, French or Spanish to Mr. Jeroen Klok (jeroen.klok@un.org), copied to Ms. Cynthia Radert (cynthia.radert@un.org), preferably by 27 February 2026. You may wish to aim at 2-3 pages maximum, organized along the 2 items above, and, within those 2 items, organized by the different stages of the UPR cycle.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Juliette de Rivero
Chief, Universal Periodic Review Branch

Vladlen Stefanov
Chief, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section

To: All National Human Rights Institutions accredited with A and B status by GANHRI