

Declaration Establishing the International Network of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up

« Asunción Declaration »

Participants in the second international seminar on National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up (NMIRFs), held on May 8 and 9, 2024, in Asunción, Paraguay,

Aware of the importance of NMIRFs for the coordination and preparation of reports submitted to international human rights mechanisms, as well as for the national implementation and follow-up of recommendations, commitments, and obligations emanating from international human rights law and the international system for the protection of human rights,

Referring to the UN Human Rights Council Resolutions 30/25, 36/29, 42/30 and 51/33 on NMIRFs, as well as the conclusions of the regional consultations organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) captured in the June 2022 report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/50/64),

Considering the recommendations emanating from the Universal Periodic Review and the United Nations Treaty Bodies, pertaining to the establishment and strengthening of NMIRFs,

Commending the efforts of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs in Geneva to promote the establishment and strengthening of these mechanisms,

Referring to the Marrakech Declaration adopted at the first international seminar on NMIRFs held in Marrakech on December 7 and 8, 2022, by which the participating NMIRFs agreed to establish an international NMIRFs network,

Commit to establishing, through this declaration, an International NMIRFs Network (the Network), in accordance with the following:

Guiding Principles

- **Non-binding:** To ensure broad adherence, the Network is non-binding, with no accreditation process for members.
- **Inclusive:** The Network is aimed to involve representatives of all types of NMIRFs, as well as representatives from UN Member States that have not yet established a NMIRF.
- **Complementary:** The Network does not aim to replace existing initiatives related to NMIRFs, but to strengthen them.



Appellation

English: International Network of NMIRFs.

French: Réseau International des MNMRS.

Vision

The Network aims to be a sustainable community of practice of NMIRFs that seeks to institutionalize cooperation, partnership, dialogue, and the exchange of expertise and experiences among NMIRFs.

A primary objective of the International Network of NMIRFs is to facilitate identification, documentation and sharing of effective NMIRF best practices among practitioners. It also seeks to foster regular engagement and collaborative efforts among practitioners to globally enhance the implementation of recommendations, commitments, and obligations emanating from international human rights law and the international system for the protection of human rights.

This initiative aims to complement and support other initiatives regarding NMIRFs, including the UN Human Rights Council's efforts in the framework of its Resolutions on these mechanisms, and the efforts to strengthen the international system for the protection of human rights. In synergy with these efforts, the Network will promote the exchange of best practices and knowledge sharing among NMIRFs, and encourage establishing and strengthening NMIRFs for compliance with human rights obligations, while promoting a cohesive and unified approach to NMIRF mandate implementation.

In addition, the Network's mission will be inclusive and will invite UN Member States that do not yet have a NMIRF to its meetings to encourage the creation of such mechanisms.

Nature

The Network is an informal structure. It may be formalized depending on its evolution and the needs identified by its members.

Objectives

1. **Promote and encourage** the creation of NMIRFs;
2. **Contribute** to strengthening the capacities of Network members;
3. **Promote** the exchange of experiences, challenges, and best practices and the development and sharing of knowledge related to the missions, roles, and contributions of NMIRFs;
4. **Encourage** partnerships and bilateral and multilateral cooperation between members of the Network, and with other relevant stakeholders;



- 5. Strengthen** cooperation and partnerships with the international human rights system, namely by collaborating with initiatives taken by this system, particularly those of the Human Rights Council, including the Universal Periodic Review and the Special Procedures, and the UN human Rights Treaty Bodies;
- 6. Contribute** to the virtual knowledge hub for national mechanisms as provided for in resolution 51/33 of the Human Rights Council, by sharing practices, reporting on events, and participating in other activities.

Membership

Types of Members :

- 1. Members:** Representatives of UN Member States that have a NMIRF, regardless of their type, structure, or legal form.

Each Member shall designate a focal point to the Network, who must be in a position to adopt decisions and vote on behalf of their respective NMIRFs.

- 2. Observers:** Representatives of UN Member States that do not yet have a NMIRF.

Any UN Member State that has not joined the Network during the Seminar in Asunción and wishes to join it, as a Member or as an Observer, must formally communicate to the Executive Committee its interest to join the Network and its decision to adopt the present Declaration.

Decision-Making Procedure

Decisions shall be made by consensus of the Network's members. In absence of consensus, decisions shall be put to a vote, and shall be made by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting.

Operational Mechanisms

Executive Committee: An Executive Committee consisting of 3 to 5 representatives of Member States, representative of different geographical regions, for a mandate of 3 years, will be appointed during a Network's meeting.

Coordinator: The Executive Committee will appoint one of its members as a Coordinator.

Network Meetings

Frequency: An annual meeting will be organized to review the Network's activities and discuss future directions.

Agenda: The agenda will be prepared by the Executive Committee and sent to Network members at least one month before the meeting date.



Partnerships

The Network commits to fostering partnerships and cooperative efforts among NMIRFs, and with international human rights bodies, UN agencies, funds and programmes, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and its members, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders. The Network welcomes partnerships that align with and support its objectives, aiming to create a collaborative environment that facilitates the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and resources. Such collaborations are crucial for ensuring effective implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights obligations, commitments and recommendations, as well as strengthening the global human rights framework, in conjunction with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and commitments from other United Nations conferences and summits.

Key to this effort is the Network's relationship with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The OHCHR will play an integral role, providing expert guidance, advice, and potential technical support. To ensure the effective participation of the OHCHR, the Network will advocate for and facilitate the allocation of adequate resources.

By adopting this declaration, NMIRFs and UN Member States participants in the second international seminar on NMIRFs, held on May 8 and 9, 2024, in Asunción, Paraguay, along with those not present but that have formally communicated their decision to adopt this declaration, hereby establish the International Network of NMIRFs, and are henceforth members of the Network.

