INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF NMIRFs
PLAN OF ACTION (2026–2030)

I. PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

This Plan of Action (PoA) provides a strategic roadmap for the International Network of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs) for the period 2026 to 2030. It is grounded in the Asunción Declaration (2024), guided by the Marrakech Guidance Framework (MGF), and enriched by context-specific and transferable practices and models from international human rights and development initiatives.

The PoA aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), recognizing that effective implementation and follow-up of human rights recommendations —in partnership with States, UN entities, and other stakeholders— UN entities, civil society organizations (CSOs), national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other stakeholders — are essential for transparent, accountable, and inclusive institutions. The PoA contributes to strengthening global and national frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights through dialogue, structured peer learning, and capacity building.

Facing systemic challenges such as fragmentation, high turnover, weak data systems and limited authority, NMIRFs are supported by the Network through peer learning, digital cooperation and partnerships, with the aim of fostering an enabling environment that strengthens their capacity to implement human rights obligations, improve reporting and follow-up processes, and enhance intergovernmental cooperation through inclusive, coordinated and capacity-oriented actions.

II. VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Since the Network aspires to be a collaborative platform that strengthens the effectiveness of NMIRFs through partnership and institutional innovation, the PoA is driven by the following principles:

- **Inclusivity**: Open to all UN Member States, including those without NMIRFs, which may join as observers.

- **Voluntary Cooperation**: Members participate and contribute on a voluntary, non-binding, basis, fostering trust and collaboration.

- **Complementarity**: The Network complements existing global and regional human rights efforts, promoting synergies rather than duplication.

- **Exchange of Good Practices and Peer Learning**: Mutual learning and capacity enhancement lie at the heart of the Network's operations.

- **Transparency and Accountability**: Actions and outcomes will be documented and publicly shared.

- **Flexibility and Adaptability:** The Network will remain responsive to emerging trends, new priorities, and contextual needs, continuously evolving to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

- **Collaboration with Partners**: Engagement with OHCHR, UN agencies, funds and programmes, regional organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations (CSOs), donors, and other relevant stakeholders will be essential to achieving the Network's goals.

III. MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Eligibility:

- **Members:** UN Member States with established NMIRFs, regardless of their structure.

- **Observers:** UN Member States without NMIRFs.

Participation:

- Each Member shall appoint a focal point entrusted to vote and represent its NMIRF.

- Observers may participate in all activities but do not hold voting rights.

Joining Procedure:

To join the Network (as a Member or Observer), States are invited to submit a formal letter to the Coordinator of the Executive Committee via their permanent missions in Geneva, including:

- The decision to join the Asuncion Declaration.

- The name, position and contact of the designated focal point.

- The name and structure of their NMIRF. (*to join as a Member*)

The Executive Committee will acknowledge receipt within 30 days and include the State in the Network roster and communications via the Network's digital platform.

IV. METHOD OF WORK

To structure the work of the Network and guide its multi-year programming, the following will serve as the basis of the Network's actions:

Governing bodies:

1. **Executive Committee**: Composed of 3–5 regionally representative NMIRFs with renewable three-year mandates, responsible for steering the implementation of this PoA.

2. **Coordinator**: Appointed from within the Executive Committee to act as focal convener and Network spokesperson.

3. **Annual General Meetings**: Convened annually to review progress, adjust strategy, and set priorities. Meetings may be held in in-person, online or hybrid formats to enhance accessibility and participation.

4. **Peer-to-Peer Cooperation**: Includes structured State-to-State and bilateral and multilateral exchanges, including mentorship programmes between NMIRFs, technical assistance, mutual learning, and study visits. These initiatives aim to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and good practices through direct cooperation and institutional dialogue between participating States and other relevant stakeholders.

5. **Digital Tools and Platforms**: A centralized web portal and the OHCHR-supported virtual knowledge hub (so-called NMIRF Hub embedded in the UN Human Rights Knowledge Gateway) will serve as digital backbones for resource sharing, training, and collaboration.

6. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)**: Utilizes periodic reviews, including an initial needs assessment, and a final evaluation to guide adaptive learning and institutional accountability.

7. **Working Groups:** Thematic Working Groups may be established based on identified strategic priorities or technical needs, and may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by any member of the Network. Participation is voluntary and open to both members and observers. Each group will be composed of a lead coordinator, focal points from interested members, and invited technical partners where relevant.

   - **Terms of Reference and Duration:** Each Working Group shall have a written Terms of Reference (ToR) outlining its scope, objectives, deliverables, timeline, and methods of work. The ToR will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. Groups may be time-bound or rolling depending on their function, with progress reviewed at regular intervals.

   - **Reporting and Accountability:** Working Groups will report to the Executive Committee through brief written updates and presentations during annual general meetings. Documentation from each group will be made publicly available via the digital platform.

V. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & KEY ACTIONS

Priority 1: Expansion and Integration of the Network

Objective: *Increase the number of active members and strengthen regional integration.*

Key Actions:

1.1.   Launch a global outreach campaign targeting States that are not members of the network, including promoting the Network in international venues.

1.2. Advocate for the establishment and development of NMIRFs, and joining the Network, including in the framework of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and its Universal Periodic Review, in coordination with the Group of Friends on NMIRFs, namely through side events parallel to the HRC sessions.

1.3. Develop and translate a comprehensive "Welcome and Orientation Kit".

1.4. Organize a minimum of one regional forum per year, rotating across regions.

1.5. Promote regional NMIRF networks and the collaboration with the existing ones.

1.6. Encourage Observers to transition to full membership through channeling customized support for the establishment of their NMIRF.

1.7. <u>Set measurable targets:</u> **e.g.**, aim to increase Network membership by 25% and create 3 regional sub-networks by end of 2027.

Priority 2: Communication, Digital Platform, and Knowledge Tools

Objective: *Provide an infrastructure for communication, coordination, information sharing, tracking, and innovation.*

Key Actions:

2.1. Maintain and update a digital public directory of members and observers with focal point information.

2.2. Design and launch a Network portal.

2.3. Publish a biannual newsletter on Network updates and activities.

2.4. Upload and maintain a dynamic repository of tools, model legislation, and learning resources.

2.5. Coordinate with OHCHR to contribute to and enhance the Human Rights Council mandated virtual knowledge hub.

2.6. Ensure accessibility through multilingual interfaces and compliance with accessibility standards.

Priority 3: Support to NMIRF Establishment and Development

Objective: *Accelerate the establishment and strengthening of NMIRFs.*

Key Actions:

3.1. Disseminate the Marrakech Guidance Framework (MGF) and offer orientation sessions.

3.2. Facilitate the provision of on demand tailored technical assistance missions to States requesting NMIRF setup support, prioritizing Observers of the Network.

3.3. Publish and promote a toolkit including model frameworks, checklists, and country case studies.

3.4. Support members in identifying, adopting, and adapting digital tools for tracking and follow-up of human rights recommendations, including through coordination with OHCHR (e.g., the National Recommendations Tracking Database – NRTD), and by sharing examples of other successful platforms and methodologies used in different national contexts.

3.5. Establish regional support clusters through the sub-networks to facilitate peer-accompaniment.

3.6. Facilitate cross-governmental dialogues to support whole-of-government approaches.

Priority 4: Capacity Building and Peer Learning

Objective: *Improve the knowledge, skills, and operational readiness of NMIRF actors.*

Key Actions:

4.1. Develop a multi-phase training programme tailored to the varying stages of development and institutional maturity of NMIRFs. The programme will be developed in collaboration with OHCHR, UNDP, other relevant UN agencies, academic institutions, and expert partners. It will include foundational modules for newly established NMIRFs, thematic sessions for intermediate structures, and advanced training for mature mechanisms. The training will cover areas such as institutional design, interministerial coordination, engagement with NHRIs and civil society, digital tracking systems, and reporting methodologies. Delivery formats will include in-person workshops, online courses, and peer-learning exchanges.

4.2. Develop thematic training kits covering core areas of NMIRF work such as human rights reporting, data management, follow-up strategies, and stakeholder engagement.

4.3. Deliver capacity-building through a diversified formats including:

- **E-learning modules** accessible via a centralized platform on the Network's portal;

- **Hybrid seminars**, tailored to specific linguistic and regional needs;

- **In-person regional training sessions** organized in partnership with host countries and institutions to promote ownership and context-sensitive learning.

4.4. Institutionalize a regular calendar of technical workshops, thematic showcase panels, and bilateral or multilateral study visits:

- **Technical Workshops** will provide hands-on training on institutional operations, digital tools, and performance monitoring;

- **Showcase panels**, organized during major international or regional human rights events, will highlight innovative NMIRF practices and foster cross-regional dialogue;

- **Study visits**, organized bilaterally or multilaterally, will allow emerging NMIRFs to observe and learn directly from established counterparts.

4.5. Create a mentorship platform pairing newer NMIRFs with experienced ones to facilitate horizontal peer exchanges to share methodologies, challenges, and solutions.

4.6. Implement a monitoring and evaluation framework for capacity building and peer learning activities using a combination of tools such as pre/post-training assessments, feedback surveys, and completion and participation rates.

Priority 5: Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

Objective: *Leverage partnerships for impact, innovation, and sustainability.*

Key Actions:

5.1. Map and engage strategic partners including OHCHR, GANHRI, DIHR, URG, other UN agencies, funds and programmes (e.g., UNDP, UNFPA), regional human rights systems, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

5.2. Draft and implement a Resource Mobilization Strategy to develop partnership proposals and project funding pipelines.

5.3. Advocate for the support of the Network in HRC sessions, in coordination with the Group of Friends on NMIRFs.

5.4. Engage with partners and interested donors on ways to support the Network's priorities through voluntary contributions and strategic cooperation. This may include the possibility of organizing informal dialogues or partnership meetings with donors to align support with capacity-building, peer-learning, and digital innovation priorities.

5.5. Conduct a feasibility study to assess modalities for sustainable and flexible funding approaches in support of the Network's objectives.

VI. MONITORING, REVIEW, AND REPORTING

- **Periodic Implementation Reports**: Coordinated and submitted by the Executive Committee, based on inputs on the implementation of the PoA provided by national focal points

- **National Updates**: Each NMIRF focal point is encouraged to voluntarily share periodic   updates on their NMIRF's progress, challenges, and innovations.

- **Final Evaluation**: A comprehensive evaluation will be conducted at the end of the 2025-2030 cycle. This evaluation will assess results, extract lessons learned, and guide the design of the next Plan of Action.

- **Public Reporting**: Key findings and achievements will be synthesized and published on the Network's digital platform to ensure transparency and accountability.

Intended Outcomes by 2030:

1. More institutionalized NMIRFs with clearer mandates.
2. Improved follow-up rates on UPR, Treaty Body, and Special Procedures recommendations.
3. Enhanced interoperability between NMIRFs and national development and SDG systems.

VII. ADOPTION AND NEXT STEPS

This Plan of Action is scheduled for formal adoption at the 3rd International NMIRF Seminar in Lisbon. It is intended to be a dynamic, living document subject to periodic refinement based on inputs from members, observers, and strategic partners.

Amendments to this Plan of Action may be proposed by members and adopted by consensus during annual meetings, ensuring flexibility while preserving collective ownership.