

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
Statement

Joint Declaration by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

Adopted during the Committee's 19th session, held, from 14 February to 9 March 2018 in Geneva

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Committee) and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) held their first half-day annual meeting on 23 February 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The objective of the meeting was to exchange experiences monitoring article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention), including the use of indicators, data and benchmarks, and good practices concerning the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations with independent monitoring mechanisms or monitoring frameworks at the national level.

The meeting was co-organised by the Committee and GANHRI, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Disability Alliance. The meeting took place during GANHRI's annual thematic conference and the Committee's 19th session.

The Committee and GANHRI adopted the following Declaration:

In line with the Convention, State parties are encouraged to designate independent monitoring frameworks at the national level, recognising the status of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) as well as the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in such monitoring frameworks.

In so doing, State parties should take into account the Guidelines developed by the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1 of 10 October 2016) (Guidelines).

The Committee, through its concluding observations, expects to continue contributing to the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs and national monitoring frameworks, in which NHRIs should continue to play a central role.

NHRIs, whether designated as independent monitoring mechanisms under article 33 (2); based on their broad mandate under the Paris Principles; or as part of a national monitoring framework, intend to live up to the maximum of their potential in promoting the implementation of the Convention and its monitoring at the national level.

NHRIs also have a unique and critical role in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities by creating linkages with other monitoring mechanisms at the national level, such as national mechanisms for the prevention of torture or National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up, as well as at the international level, with human rights treaty bodies or other mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council or the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Committee welcomes and further encourages the engagement of NHRIs and their contributions to its work, in line with its Guidelines.

The Committee and GANHRI welcome the organisation of this first annual meeting as an important opportunity for the Committee, NHRIs and independent monitoring frameworks, as well as organizations of persons with disabilities to share experiences and identify opportunities for intensified and sustained collaboration.

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As a follow-up to this meeting, the Committee and GANHRI:

- i) Decide to establish a follow-up group among the independent monitoring frameworks, including NHRIs from all regions, to develop a common framework for monitoring article 19 of the Convention, taking into account already existing human rights-based indicators and benchmarks;
- ii) Resolve to advocate for strengthening data collection and disaggregation efforts in line with article 31 of the CRPD and Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals ensuring informed and effective policy-making by incorporating the Washington Group's Short Set of Questions on Disability for data disaggregation into national statistical instruments, including within the 2020 census round;
- iii) Recommend that OHCHR, in cooperation with independent monitoring frameworks, NHRIs, and their global and regional networks, develop and maintain a repository of good practices in monitoring the Convention;
- iv) Propose that OHCHR, in cooperation with independent monitoring frameworks, NHRIs, and their global and regional networks, continue strengthening the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and children with disabilities, and promote their active involvement throughout internal monitoring processes of independent monitoring frameworks;
- v) Request that international development cooperation efforts enhance and promote, through capacity building programmes, the role of independent monitoring frameworks and NHRIs in monitoring the Convention; and
- vi) Underline their intention to continue the interactive dialogue between the Committee, independent monitoring frameworks, and NHRIs as a standard item on the Committee's agenda.
