**Seminar to share experiences to improve national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up**

**Concept Note**

Rev. 23 May 2023

1. **Background**
2. One of the important developments in the field of human rights is the emergence of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs). These are government structures mandated to coordinate and prepare reports to, and engage with, international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the UN Treaty Bodies, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Special Procedures. They also address the implementation gap by initiating, coordinating and tracking national follow-up and implementation of obligations and recommendations emanating from these mechanisms.
3. Although the concept of national mechanisms is not recent, States and the United Nations have in recent years put more focus on establishing and reinforcing these national mechanisms as reflected in OHCHR’s publications on *National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up: A Study of State engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms*[[1]](#footnote-2); and *A Practical Guide to Effective State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms*[[2]](#footnote-3)*,* bothpublished in 2016.
4. The establishment of NMIRFs was a key recommendation of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights’ report on treaty body strengthening in 2012 (A/66/860), paving the way for GA resolution 68/268 on “Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system”. This resolution recognizes the need for improved coordination of reporting at the national level (para.20) and the importance of exchanging on best practices. In the framework of the 2020 treaty body review process provided for in para. 41 of GA Resolution 68/269, a report of the co-facilitators highlighted that the implementation of human rights recommendations would benefit from expanded, institutionalized follow-up at national level, such as through the introduction or strengthening of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up.
5. With resolution 51/33, the Human Rights Council has now adopted four resolutions related to national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up. [Resolution 30/25 (2015)](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/233/48/PDF/G1523348.pdf?OpenElement) encourages States to establish and strengthen national human rights follow-up systems and processes. [Resolution 36/29 (2017)](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/295/81/PDF/G1729581.pdf?OpenElement) underlines the contribution of NMIRFs to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [Resolution 42/30 (2019)](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/42/30) introduces implementation as one of the pillars of such mechanisms. In addition, in 2016 States created a Group of Friends to promote the agenda at the Human Rights Council.
6. **Implementation of HRC resolution 51/33**
7. In October 2022, under the leadership of Paraguay and Brazil, the Human Rights Council adopted HRC resolution 51/33 requesting OHCHR to organize a one-day seminar in 2023 and another one in 2024 in Geneva, to facilitate sharing experiences among States with a view to improving their national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up.
8. The resolution also calls for the creation of a virtual knowledge hub to enable national mechanisms to share promising practices and facilitate the creation of an online community of practice, reflecting one of the recommendations resulting from the regional consultations organized in 2021 and captured in the June 2022 report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/50/64](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3974912)).
9. **Objectives of the one-day seminar in 2023**
10. The one-day seminar which will take place in Geneva on 23 June 2023, during the Human Rights Council 53rd session, and in a hybrid format, will aim to fulfil two main objectives:
11. Participants will be able to provide feedback on the virtual hub, in its mock up version of June 2023, including on how to improve user experience and design;
12. The seminar will discuss lessons learnt and practices shared by NMIRFs and other stakeholders and will identify key characteristics for an effective NMIRF institutional set up and mandate, based on theme 1 of the compilation of practices summarized in annex 1 of HRC report 50/64.
13. **Outputs**
14. The expected outcomes of the seminar are as follows:
15. Feedback provided during the one-day seminar and through a questionnaire sent afterwards will be taken into consideration in the final design of the knowledge hub.
16. Key characteristics for an effective NMIRF institutional set up and mandate are identified based on exchanges among States and other stakeholders, building on practices from different regions and legal frameworks.
17. The findings and conclusions of the seminar will feed into and complement the exchanges which will be held during the second one-day seminar at beginning of 2024. The second seminar will aim at addressing more in depth the coordination and consultation capacities of national mechanisms, the linkage with other implementation and follow-up processes at the national level (see themes 2 and 3 of compilation of practices summarized in annex 1 of HRC report 50/64) as well as any other issues that will have arisen. The outcomes of both seminars will be compiled in the report of the High Commissioner to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its 57th session in September 2024.
18. **Participants**
19. Representatives from Permament Missions to the United Nations in Geneva, some representatives from national mechanisms and other stakeholders will share good practices. A selection of UN independent experts will also be invited. The selection for in-person participation will take into consideration experience with NMIRFs, gender and equitable geographic balance. The seminar will also be opened for remote participation by representatives of States and other relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations Secretariat and relevant bodies, representatives of subregional and regional organizations, international human rights mechanisms, other international organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, and academia.
20. **Date, venue, time, language, and format**
21. The one-day seminar take place on 23 June 2023 at Palais des Nations. It will consist of two hybrid sessions of two hours, from 10am to 12pm and from 3pm to 5pm, Geneva time. Simultaneous interpretation in the six UN official languages will be provided. Remote participation will be made available through Zoom, including with the possibility to interact through the chat of the platform. The seminar will also be webcasted.
1. <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_Study.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)