



European Network of
National Human Rights Institutions

Implementing the Council of Europe Recommendation on National Human Rights Institutions: The State of Play

The situation in Azerbaijan



Azerbaijan Country Report

Overview

Name of NHRI and mandate:

- Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan (HRCA)
- NHRI, also: Ombuds institution, NPM, NMM.

Sources:

- NHRI: [ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, Azerbaijan Country Report](#)
- Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA): [SCA May Report \(2018\)](#)

Good practices and improvements:

- **CM Principle 2: Constitutional and broad mandate:** The NHRI's mandate is broad and constitutionally based.
- **CM Principle 3§6 and 8: Strong mandate concerning access to information, policy-makers and legislators:** including the constitutional right to issue fact-finding requests and to receive information from authorities in the context of individual complaints-handling. In practice, the NHRI reports that on some occasions, authorities fail to respond to inquiries on the merits.

Key areas where improvement is needed:

- **CM Principle 1:** Since 2018, the NHRI has been downgraded from A-status to B-status.
- **CM Principle 3§3 & 11: NHRI mandate and environment to independently and effectively address all human rights violations:** In its 2018 report, the SCA found that the NHRI had not adequately spoken out in a manner that effectively promotes protection for all human rights, including in response to credible allegation of human rights violations having been committed by government authorities. In doing so, the SCA deemed that the NHRI had failed to demonstrate sufficient independence.
- **CM Principle 4: selection and appointment:** The HRCA reports an ongoing amendment to the constitutional law of the Commissioner for Human Rights , which would in particular address the prevention of the post of head of institution staying vacant. At the same time, the SCA (2018) finds that the process currently enshrined in the Law is not sufficiently broad and transparent. In particular, it does not: require the advertisement of vacancies; and specify the process for achieving broad consultation and/or participation in the application, screening, selection and appointment process.

Specific findings per Principle

The tables below include data on the assessment of the implementation of each Principle (i.e. the individual parts) within the Recommendation from three sources: the National Human Rights Institutions, the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of GANHRI and the Council of Europe independent bodies. Overall, the findings are considered in four overall groups: the establishment of NHRIs; the strengthening of NHRIs; a safe and enabling environment for NHRIs; and cooperation with and support for NHRIs.

I. Establishment of NHRIs

Principle 1	Member States should ensure that NHRIs are in place and that they are established, accredited and function in full compliance with the Paris Principles
Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI	<i>SCA Report May 2018, p. 42</i> 'In March 2017, the SCA recommended that the HRCA be downgraded to B status.'
Principle 2	Member States should provide a firm legal basis for NHRIs, preferably at the constitutional level, and/or in a law which defines the mandates and functions of such institutions, guarantees their independence and provides them with the means necessary to accomplish their functions effectively, both at national and international levels, bearing in mind existing standards and recommendations on NHRIs, in particular the Paris Principles and their interpretation developed by GANHRI's Sub-Committee on Accreditation.

<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 1</i></p> <p>'The NHRI has a constitutional basis. The national regulatory framework applicable to the institution has not changed since 2021.'</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 3</i></p> <p>'The Constitutional Law on HRCA guarantees the effective and independent functioning of the Ombudsman Institute. The national legislation also guarantees that the Office of HRCA operates duly. According to the national legislation, any obstacles to the work of the HRCA are prohibited.'</p> <p><i>Information Provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>The Constitutional Basis is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan: <p>Article 95 (6) and Article 109 (14);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Constitutional Law on the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan (dated 28 December 2001)
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II. Strengthening of NHRIs

<p>Principle 3.1</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor and analyse the human rights situation in the country, publish reports on these findings and address recommendations to public authorities at national, regional and local levels and, when applicable, to private entities, and present an annual report to the relevant authorities, including before parliament, for its consideration.
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 3</i></p> <p>'In line with the Constitutional Law on the HRCA, the institution includes its relevant recommendations in its annual report, which is submitted to the respective state authorities as well as the Parliament of the country.'</p>
<p>Principle 3.2</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - freely address public opinion, raise public awareness on human rights and carry out education and training programmes;

<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 5</i></p> <p>‘In the reporting year, HRCA continued awareness raising activities for combating maladministration, promotion of good governance, Rule of Law.’</p> <p>‘As an example of such initiatives, it is worth mentioning the series of trainings entitled “The role of the Ombudsman and Civil Society Organizations in Promoting Good Governance”, held in four regions of Azerbaijan with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) country Office. The events were attended by representatives of local state authorities and CSOs.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA report May 2018, p. 44</i></p> <p>‘The SCA further acknowledges the work carried out by the HRCA in particular concerning migrants and IDPs, as well as its advocacy for the release of journalists and human rights defenders. The SCA also acknowledges the difficult political situation in which the HRCA operates.’</p>
<p>Principle 3.3</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <p>- fully address all alleged human rights violations by all administrative authorities, other relevant State entities and, when applicable, private entities</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, pp. 6-7</i></p> <p>HRCA addressed a public appeal to state and local self-government bodies, officials, as well as business entities to effectively implement the social and legal protection of persons with disabilities in</p>

	<p>the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such statements also reflected relevant recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteurs.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report May 2018, p. 43.</i></p> <p>‘The SCA acknowledges that the HRCA did provide some evidence about actions taken in relation to these concerns, including undertaking visits to the detained individuals [...]. However, the SCA is of the view that the evidence provided does not establish that the HRCA has effectively responded to the concerns raised.’</p>
<p>Principle 3.4</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have unfettered access to all relevant premises, including places of deprivation of liberty, and to all relevant individuals, in order to be able to carry out a credible examination of all issues covered by their mandate and to all relevant information, subject to possible restrictions stemming from the protection of other rights and legitimate interests and with due respect for the confidentiality of information obtained;
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 6</i></p> <p>‘Though most of the restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have been phased out, some still remain, such as the prohibition to enter closed facilities without a vaccination certificate and the closure of land borders with other countries. [...] As regards the rights of persons in detention, during its visits to temporary detention facilities, the HRCA observed that the transfer of detainees to pre-trial detention facilities and other facilities was not in compliance with the deadlines</p>

	<p>set by the law, as obtaining responses to COVID-19 tests took up to a week. The Ombudsman expressed concern over these shortcomings, encouraging authorities to take the measures necessary to ensure that the results of COVID-19 tests performed on detainees be provided as soon as possible, given the challenging circumstances and the ongoing pandemic.'</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 7</i></p> <p>In addition, the HRCA continued to undertake visits to places of detention and other closed facilities.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report May 2018, p. 43.</i></p> <p>'The SCA acknowledges that the HRCA did provide some evidence about actions taken in relation to these concerns, including undertaking visits to the detained individuals [...]. However, the SCA is of the view that the evidence provided does not establish that the HRCA has effectively responded to the concerns raised.'</p>
<p>Principle 3.5</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor existing and draft policies and legislation with human rights implications before, during and after their adoption in order to advise the State about the impact of such policies and legislation on human rights and on the activities of human rights defenders, including by making relevant and concrete recommendations.
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 3</i></p>

	<p>'The Ombudsman submits recommendations to the Parliament for adoption of laws for more effective ensuring the human rights in the country on a regular basis. The Office of HRCA closely cooperates with state authorities, sends recommendations in order to increase the effectiveness of their work from the perspective of promotion and protection of human rights.'</p>
<p>Principle 3.6</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contribute to an effective justice system for all, through awareness-raising measures and facilitating access to rights and remedies and, as applicable, by providing legal assistance, being a party before the courts or, when applicable, receiving individual complaints;
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p.2</i></p> <p>The NHRI has the mandate to contribute to access to justice for individuals, including through complaints handling and awareness-raising.</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 3</i></p> <p>'According to the Article 12 of the Constitutional Law of the HRCA, while investigating the circumstances indicated in a complaint on human rights violation, the HRCA has the right to receive necessary information, documents and materials, within 10 days, from any governmental and municipal body, and officials; to obtain court orders (judgments) in force concerning criminal, civil and administrative cases, as well as cases the proceedings in respect of which were terminated; and, during the investigation of a complaint, to receive written explanations from officials. The HRCA has also the power to address fact-finding requests to relevant bodies; such requests however may not</p>

be addressed to a body or an official whose decision or act (omission) is the object of the complaint. In addition, the HRCA may request relevant government bodies and organizations to prepare an expert opinion; and may request to be received without delay by heads and other officials of government and municipal bodies, commanders of military units, the administration of police stations, temporary detention places, investigatory isolators, penitentiary institutions military guardhouses, psychiatric institutions, detention centers for illegal migrants as well as other places, which detained persons cannot leave on their own will.'

ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 4

'According to Article 1.6 of the Constitutional Law on the Ombudsman, the inspection of the activity of judges of the Republic of Azerbaijan does not fall within the powers of the Ombudsman. However, according to Article 1.9 of the relevant Constitutional Law, the Ombudsman has the right to consider complaints about human rights violations related to procrastination and delays of court proceedings, loss and late submission of documents during court proceedings, as well as delays in the execution of court decisions.'

ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 5

'Within its mandate, the HRCA investigated complaints regarding the violation of access to justice and, as a follow-up, submitted appeals to the relevant judicial authorities and the Judicial Legal Council. Complaints which did not fall within the competence of the HRCA were answered by providing complainants with explanations of relevant law requirements. On the basis of complaints addressed to HRCA about delays and their consequences, the Ombudsman addressed inquiries to courts and other relevant bodies. The HRCA observed that in some cases significant shortcomings were identified, and sometimes the relevant authorities failed to answer to its inquiries on the merits.'

<p>Principle 3.7</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that the mandate given to NHRIs to protect and promote human rights is as broad as possible and in full compliance with the Paris Principles and that it allows them, inter alia, to:</p> <p>- encourage the signature, ratification of and accession to international human rights treaties and contribute to the effective implementation of such treaties, as well as related judgments, decisions and recommendations as well as to monitor States’ compliance with them.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023 based on the Annual Reports 2020 (p.83 – 84) and 2021 (p.125)</i></p> <p>In her annual reports, the Commissioner regularly issues proposals and recommendations for signature, ratification or accession to various international treaties.</p> <p>The Ombudsman proposed to accede to international human rights treaties, of which our country is not a party. Thus, the Ombudsman proposed to ratify the following international agreements to more effectively protect human rights and freedoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; • European Social Charter (Revised): Article 2 (right to just conditions of work); Article 3 (right to safe and healthy working conditions); Article 10 (right to vocational training), Article 13 (right to social and medical assistance), Article 15 (right of PWDs to independence, social integration, and participation in the life of the community), Article 17 (right of children and young people to social, legal and economic protection), Article 19 (right migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance), Article 23 (right of the elderly to social protection), Article 30 (right to protection against poverty and social exclusion) and Article 31 (right to housing) (taking into account the economic situation and financial capabilities of the country);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; • ILO Convention C102-Social Security (Minimum Standards); • Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention);
Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI	<p><i>SCA Report May 2018, p. 44.</i></p> <p>'The SCA also notes that the HRCA has not provided contribution to the third cycle of Universal Periodic Review and to the 63rd session of the Committee Against Torture.'</p>
Principle 4	<p>The process of selection and appointment of the leadership of a NHRI should be competence based, transparent and participatory, in order to guarantee the independence and pluralist representation of these institutions. It should also be based on clear, predetermined, objective and publicly accessible criteria.</p> <p>The duration of the appointment should be clearly set out in the founding legislation, so that the leadership posts of the NHRI do not stay vacant for any significant period of time.</p>
Assessment of implementation by the NHRI	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023.</i></p> <p>In relation to the SCA report of May 2018, we should note that in 2019, new Ombudsperson was elected.</p> <p>Currently, the Constitutional Law is in the process of amendment by the Parliament.</p> <p>In 2022, this draft has passed three Parliamentary readings.</p>

	<p>The recommendation about the duration of appointment has also been addressed in this draft version of the Constitutional Law, so that the post of Ombudsperson does not stay vacant.</p> <p>Thus, according to the new amendment, Article 4.3. of the Constitutional Law shall be amended as following:</p> <p>The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan submits nomination of three persons to the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the election of a new Commissioner 30 days before the end of the term of the Commissioner. The Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopts a decision on the election of a Commissioner within 15 days.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA report May 2018, p. 45</i></p> <p>'The SCA is of the view that the process currently enshrined in the Law is not sufficiently broad and transparent. In particular, it does not: -require the advertisement of vacancies; and</p> <p>- specify the process for achieving broad consultation and/or participation in the application, screening, selection and appointment process. [...] However, the SCA notes that there have been no developments since March 2017. The SCA encourages the HRCA to continue to advocate for the election of a new Ombudsperson at the earliest available opportunity. The SCA further encourages HRCA to advocate for appropriate amendments to its enabling law to ensure that this selection and appointment process is sufficiently transparent and participatory.'</p>

<p>Principle 5</p>	<p>To ensure independence, the enabling legislation of a NHRI should contain an objective dismissal process for the NHRI leadership, with clearly defined terms in a constitutional or legislative text. The dismissal process should be fair and ensure objectivity and impartiality and should be confined to only those actions which impact adversely on the capacity of the leaders of NHRIs to fulfil their mandate.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>Article 7 of the Constitutional Law contains the grounds for termination of powers of the Commissioner before expiry of the term of office.</p>
<p>Principle 6</p>	<p>Member States should provide NHRIs with adequate, sufficient and sustainable resources to allow them to carry out their mandate, including to engage with all relevant stakeholders in a fully independent manner and freely determine their priorities and activities.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>The activities of the HRCA are financed at the expense of state budget and the annual expenditure allocated for financing the work of the Commissioner may not be reduced in relation to the previous financial year.</p> <p>Legal basis: Article 19 of the Constitutional Law</p>

<p>Principle 7</p>	<p>NHRIs should have the authority to determine their staffing profile and recruit their own staff, as well as sufficient resources available, in order to fulfil their mandate, so as to permit the employment and retention of staff and to ensure that they receive adequate training.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>According to the Article 18.1. of the Constitutional Law, the staff of the Office and regional centres shall be appointed and dismissed by the Commissioner.</p>
<p>Principle 8</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that NHRIs enjoy adequate access to information and to policy makers and legislators, including timely consultations on the human rights implications of draft legislation and policy strategies.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>See also Principle 3§6 on access to information and authorities while investigating complaints.</i></p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 3</i></p> <p>'[...]the NHRI has adequate access to information and to policy makers and is it involved in all stages of legislation and policy making with human rights implications.'</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report May 2018, pp. 43-44</i></p> <p>'The SCA acknowledges that the HRCA reported that it has:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submitted more than 200 motions to the Government, among which 70% were accepted; - Made several proposals to amend national legislations, which resulted in amendments to the Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Penal Code and Code on Administrative Offences; - Submitted motions which resulted in an Executive Order of the President of Azerbaijan to improve the penitentiary system, humanize the State’s criminal policy and expand alternative sentences;’
<p>Principle 9</p>	<p>Member States should implement the recommendations of NHRIs and are encouraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to make it a legal obligation for all addressees of NHRI recommendations to provide a reasoned reply within an appropriate time frame, - to develop processes to facilitate effective follow-up of NHRI recommendations, in a timely fashion and - include information thereon in their relevant documents and reports.
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 3</i></p> <p>The addressees of the NHRI’s recommendations are legally obliged to provide a timely and reasoned reply.’</p> <p><i>Information Provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>Legal basis: Article 12 of the Constitutional Law</p>

	<p>According to Article 12.2.1. of the Constitutional Law, among other rights, the Commissioner shall have the right to provide relevant recommendations to the competent authorities and to receive responses to these recommendations within the identified time limits.</p>
<p>Principle 10</p>	<p>When member States grant NHRIs additional competences to perform functions foreseen by international conventions in the field of human rights, such as the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the NHRI should have access to sufficient resources to develop the capacity to effectively discharge its functions, including having appropriately qualified and trained staff.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>The HRCA also implements the functions of national preventive mechanism in accordance with the OPCAT.</p> <p>For this purpose, there is a special department functioning in the Office for the Prevention of Torture and a special national preventive group which consists of staff members of the Office, as well as psychologist, doctor, and civil society members.</p> <p>The legal basis for the activity of this group is the Article 18-1 of the Constitutional Law.</p> <p>According to the new amendments proposed to the Constitutional Law, the HRCA will also have an independent monitoring mechanism over the implementation of the CRPD.</p>

III. Safe and Enabling Environment

<p>Principle 11</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that NHRIs can operate independently, in an environment which is conducive to them carrying out their mandate in an effective manner and in a climate of impartiality, integrity, transparency and fairness.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report May 2018, p. 43</i></p> <p>‘In view of all of the material before it, the SCA is of the view that the HRCA has not spoken out in a manner that promotes protection for human rights in response to credible allegations of serious human rights violation having been committed by government authorities. The failure to do so demonstrates a lack of its independence. Therefore, the SCA is of the view that the HRCA is acting in a way that has seriously compromised its compliance with the Paris Principles.’</p>
<p>Principle 12</p>	<p>Member States should foster awareness and the co-operation of all relevant public authorities in relation to the mandate, independence and role of NHRIs, including through training and awareness-raising activities.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 3</i></p> <p>The HRCA considers that the relevant state authorities have good awareness of the NHRIs’ mandate, independence and role,[...]’</p> <p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 1</i></p>

	<p>'During the reporting year, as in previous years, the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) (hereinafter HRCA) and its 4 regional centres continued to conduct awareness raising activities on the mandate of the Ombudsman, on different matters related to human rights and other topics. Governmental bodies as well as civil society organizations (CSOs) actively participated in such activities.'</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report May 2018, p. 44</i></p> <p>'Organized various awareness raising activities for police officers, judges, as well as for the penitentiary and medical services.'</p>
<p>Principle 13</p>	<p>Member States should take all measures necessary to protect and support NHRIs against threats and harassment and any other forms of intimidation, including through ensuring functional immunity. Any cases of alleged reprisals or intimidation against NHRIs, their membership and staff, or against those who co-operate or seek to co-operate with them, should be promptly and thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, p. 3</i></p> <p>'The necessary measures to protect and support the NHRI, its head of institution and staff against threats and harassment and any other forms of intimidation are in place.'</p>
<p>Principle 14</p>	<p>Member States should ensure that confidential information collected by NHRIs in the context of their mandate is privileged and is not unduly made public.</p>

Assessment of implementation by the NHRI	<p><i>Information Provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>According to the Article 18-1.3. of the Constitutional Law, member of the National preventive group cannot be forced to testify about the facts that became known to them in relation to execution of their duties or to reveal these facts by any other method. This guarantee shall remain in force in respect of those persons who have ceased their membership with the national preventive group.</p>
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IV. Co-operation and Support

<p>Principle 15</p>	<p>Member States should take effective measures to enable NHRIs to communicate and co-operate with, in addition to the various levels of administration in the member States, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. counterpart institutions, where appropriate through networking and exchange of information and practices, as well as through regular meetings such as those taking place within the framework of ENNHRI and GANHRI; b. civil society stakeholders, in particular non-governmental organisations and human rights defenders, who should enjoy easy and safe access to NHRIs as part of an enabling environment; c. other human rights structures, including regional, local and/or specialised institutions, notably Ombudsman institutions and equality bodies and their respective networks, where appropriate through jointly organised activities; d. international and regional organisations working in related or similar fields.
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023.</i></p> <p>The HRCA co-operates with different stakeholders, including the ENNHRI and GANHRI, as well as other international and regional organizations.</p>

	<p>In practice, we don't face any barriers for such cooperation.</p> <p>As a good practice, we can add that in 2021 a unit was re-structured in the Office and was renamed as the Department for Cooperation with International and Civil Society Organizations which is intended to strengthen the relations between the HRCA and civil society stakeholders.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA report May 2018, p. 45</i></p> <p>'[the SCA] encourages the HRCA to cooperate with and seek assistance from OHCHR, GANHRI and ENNHRI to address the issues noted above.'</p>