



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 Ukraine



Ukraine Country Report

Overview

Name of NHRI and mandate:

- Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (UPCHR)
- Multi-mandate NHRI: ombuds-institution, equality body, and NPM

Sources:

- NHRI: [ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, Ukraine Country Report](#)
- Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA): [SCA Report October 2019](#)
- CoE Independent Bodies: [ECRI Country Report on Ukraine \(2017\)](#)

Good practices and improvements:

- **CM Recommendation 1: establishment of an NHRI in full compliance with the Paris Principles:** the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner (UPCHR) for Human Rights is an A-status accredited NHRI.
- **CM Recommendation 2: strong constitutional basis:** The establishment and functioning of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights is entrenched in several provisions of the Constitution and in the enabling law on the UPCHR.
- **CM Recommendations 8 & 9: adequate access to policy makers and legislators, and legal obligation to follow-up NHRI recommendations:** The Ukrainian NHRI reports having good access to information and national authorities. Additionally, NHRI's

enabling legislation makes it an obligation for authorities and national actors to cooperate with the NHRI, including by providing information and considering the findings and recommendations of the institution. Further, it is a legal obligation for addressees of the NHRI's findings to provide a timely and reasoned response.

Key areas where improvement is needed:

- **CM Recommendation 4: broad and transparent selection and appointment:** In line with the recommendations of the SCA (2019) the enabling legislation should be amended to ensure the formalisation and application of a selection and appointment process that is broad and transparent, addressing the recommendations of the SCA in this regard. In particular, it should require wide advertisement of the vacancy for Commissioner, establish clear criteria for assessing applicants and promote broad participation in the process. Moreover, the term of office of the Commissioner should be limited in time.
- **CM Recommendation 6: adequate resources to carry out full breath of mandate:** National authorities should provide the UPCHR with sufficient funding and resources to ensure that the institution is able to fulfil the breadth of its mandate, and to ensure that it can provide adequate training to its staff.

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 October 2019, p. 20</i> The SCA recommends that the UPCHR be re-accredited with A 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.

Assessment of implementation by the NHRI	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>The legal status of the Institution is entrenched in the Constitution (Article 101) as well as in the Law on the UPCHR adopted pursuant to the constitution. The Law of Ukraine "On the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights" is from 23.12.1997.</p>
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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>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>According to the Article 1 Law of Ukraine on the UPCHR parliamentary control over the observance of constitutional human and citizens' rights and freedoms and the protection of every individual's rights on the territory of Ukraine and within its jurisdiction is permanently exercised by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.</p> <p>According to the Article 18 Law of Ukraine on the UPCHR every year the Commissioner submits to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine an annual report on the state of observance and protection of human and civil rights and freedoms in Ukraine by state and local authorities, associations of citizens, enterprises, institutions, organizations regardless of ownership and their officials, who violated by their actions (omission) the rights and freedoms of man and citizen, and the identified shortcomings in the legislation on the protection of human and civil rights and freedoms.</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>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>According to the Article 3(7) of the Law of Ukraine on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Law) mandates the UPCHR to engage in the “promotion of the legal awareness of the population...”.</p> <p>The order of the UPCHR established the Advisory Council under the Commissioner. The Advisory Board includes representatives of civil society organizations, international organizations, human rights activists, scholars and experts in human rights and freedoms.</p> <p>Also, Expert Councils under the Representatives of the Commissioner were created.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report October 2019, p. 20</i></p> <p>Article 3(7) of the Law of Ukraine on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (Law) mandates the UPCHR to engage in the “promotion of the legal awareness of the population...”. The SCA acknowledges that the UPCHR interprets this mandate in a broad manner and that it carries out a wide variety of activities to promote human rights. The SCA encourages the UPCHR to continue to interpret its mandate broadly, and to advocate for amendments to its enabling law to make this mandate explicit.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fully address all alleged human rights violations by all administrative authorities, other relevant State entities and, when applicable, private entities
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>Article 13 of the Law of Ukraine on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights allows Commissioner to address human rights violations by all administrative authorities, other relevant State entities and, when applicable, private entities.</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>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>According to the Article 13 (4) and 13 (8) of the Law of Ukraine on the UPCHR the Commissioner has the right to visit, without hindrance, bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, enterprises, institutions, organizations, irrespective of their forms of ownership, and be present at their sessions and also visit such places without prior notification of purpose and time.</p> <p>Also, according to the Article 19¹ in order to perform the functions of the national preventive mechanism the Commissioner makes regular visits to places mentioned in paragraph 8 of Article 13 of this Law, without prior notice of the time and purpose of such visits and without limits of their quantity.</p> <p>As of today, the right of the Commissioner and the employees of the Secretariat to have unhindered access to places of detention is fully exercised.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by CoE independent bodies</p>	<p><i>ECRI Country Report on Ukraine 2017, p. 14 (Para.17)</i></p> <p>ECRI recommends that the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights is granted investigation powers in order to combat racism and racial discrimination effectively.</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 Institution 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. In accordance with Article 13 of the Law of Ukraine On the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commissioner has the right to make proposals in the prescribed manner to improve Ukrainian legislation in the field of protection of human and civil rights and freedoms. However, the Commissioner does not have the right of legislative initiative.</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. 3</i></p> <p>The Institution has the mandate to contribute to access to justice for individuals, including through complaints handling, strategic litigation before courts, providing legal assistance to individuals and awareness raising.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by CoE independent bodies</p>	<p><i>ECRI Country Report on Ukraine 2017, pp. 13-14 (Para.26)</i></p> <p>ECRI is pleased to note, that powers to prevent and combat discrimination have been granted to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights under Article 10 of the Law on Principles of Prevention and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine. These powers include: exercising control over observance of the principle of non-discrimination in both the public and the private sphere; filing applications on discrimination to court and participating in the judicial proceedings personally or through a representative; examining applications of persons or groups on discrimination issues; making proposals to improve legislation on preventing and combating discrimination and the application and termination of positive actions; and issuing opinions in discrimination cases upon request of the court.</p>

<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</i></p> <p>Currently, the Law on the UPCHR does not contain opportunities to encourage the signing, ratification and accession to international treaties.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report October 2019, p. 21</i></p> <p>The Law does not provide the UPCHR with an explicit mandate to encourage ratification of or accession to regional and international human rights instruments. While acknowledging that the UPCHR carries out such functions in practice, the SCA encourages it to advocate for appropriate amendments to its enabling law in order to have an explicit mandate to encourage ratification or accession to regional and international human rights instruments.</p>

<p>Principle 4</p>	<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>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>The Law of Ukraine "On the UPCHR" contains a list of conditions under which a candidate can apply for the position of Commissioner. One of these requirements is "experience in human rights protection activity". But the Law does not contain any requirements (which type of experience it should be, how long it should last, what may or may not be considered as human rights protection activity).</p> <p>Also, the Law does not include as a condition for the appointment requirement to pass an independent assessment of the candidate's professional qualities (for example, a commission of independent representatives of civil society, human rights defenders). Also, civil society does not have the right to nominate its candidate for the position of the Ombudsman, since in accordance with Article 6 of the Law on the Commissioner, proposals for candidacy(s) for the position of the Commissioner are made by the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine or at least one fourth of the People's Deputies of Ukraine from the constitutional composition of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine . Currently, issues related to the introduction of more transparent nomination mechanisms, consideration of the issue of appointment and direct appointment the Commissioner are developed</p>

	<p>by a working group formed on the basis of the Commissioner's Office and works on changes to the Law on the UPCHR.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report October 2019, pp. 21-22</i></p> <p>The SCA notes that the process currently enshrined in the Law is not sufficiently broad and transparent. In particular, it does not: require the advertisement of vacancies for Commissioners; establish clear and uniform criteria upon which all nominating parties assess the merit of eligible applicants; and promote broad consultation and/or participation in the process.</p> <p>The SCA notes that the UPCHR has proposed amendments to its enabling law with respect to selection and appointment. However, it encourages the UPCHR to continue to advocate for the formalization of a process that would meet the above requirements.</p> <p><i>[...] p. 22</i></p> <p>In accordance with Article 5 of the Law, the term of office of the Commissioner is five (5) years. The Law is silent on the number of times a Commissioner can be re-appointed, which leaves open the possibility of unlimited tenure. In order to promote institutional independence, the SCA is of the view that it would be preferable for the term of office to be limited to one (1) re-appointment.</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 9 of the Law on the UPCHR provides grounds for termination of powers and dismissal from the position of the Commissioner. The list of these criteria is defined, which does not allow them to be widely interpreted. At the same time, violation of the oath as the first reason for dismissal from the position of the Commissioner before the end of the term for which he was elected needs at least to be specified (this is currently being worked on).</p> <p>Despite the presence of more or less clear criteria for the dismissal of the Commissioner from his position and the existence of a system of checks and balances that should prevent the arbitrary dismissal of the Commissioner, the Law of Ukraine "The legal regime of the Martial Law in Ukraine" provides opportunity for the Ukrainian Parliament during the period of martial law to make a decision on the dismissal the official person from the position, the appointment to which and the dismissal from which are assigned to the powers of the Ukrainian Parliament (Article 12). In fact, this can happen by circumventing the requirements stipulated by the specific Law on the Commissioner. This provision of the Law on the Legal Regime of Martial Law threatens the independence of the Commissioner's institution.</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 state ensures the activities of the Commissioner and the Secretariat within the limits of available financial resources. The main areas of activity of the Commissioner are financed, in particular, the implementation of the obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture</p>

	<p>and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment is separately financed in the implementation of the NPM function by the Commissioner.</p> <p>At the same time, the Institution of the Commissioner works under conditions of extremely limited funding due to the martial law in Ukraine.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>SCA Report October 2019, p. 22</i></p> <p>The SCA notes, that the UPCHR reports a need for greater capacity to provide training to its staff.</p> <p>The SCA encourages the UPCHR to continue to advocate for adequate funding to effectively carry out the full extent of its mandate, and to provide necessary training for staff.</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>In accordance to the Article 10, the Secretariat shall be established in order to provide the activity of the Commissioner. The Secretariat is a legal entity and has its own bank account and established seal. The structure of the Secretariat, distribution of duties and other issues concerning the organization of its activity shall be regulated by the Regulation on the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as «Regulation»). The Law of Ukraine «On Civil Service» shall apply to the Secretariat staff members. The Regulation and the budget of the Secretariat shall be approved by the Commissioner within the scope of budget expenses allotted for the Commissioner's activity. The appointment and dismissal of the Secretariat staff members shall be</p>

	<p>exercised by the Commissioner. A board of advisors (which can also operate on a voluntary basis), made up of persons having practical experience in the area of protection of human and citizens' rights and freedoms, can be established under the Commissioner with the aim of providing consultation, conducting scientific investigations as well as considering proposals on how to improve the situation with regard to the protection of human and citizens' rights and freedoms.</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>ENNHRI, State of the Rule of Law in Europe in 2022, pp. 3-4</i></p> <p>The Institution has adequate access to information and to policy makers.</p> <p>According to Article 22 of the Law public and local authorities, associations of citizens, enterprises, institutions, organizations regardless of ownership, officials addressed by the Commissioner are obliged to cooperate with him/her and provide him/her with the necessary assistance, in particular: to provide information and provide explanations regarding the factual and legal basis of their actions and decisions; to consider the proposals of the Commissioner to improve their activities in the field of protection of human and civil rights and freedoms and within one month from the date of receipt of proposals to provide a reasoned written response to them.</p> <p>Refusal of public and local authorities, associations of citizens, enterprises, institutions, organizations, regardless of ownership, to cooperate, as well as intentional concealment or provision of false information or any other illegal interference in the activities of the Commissioner for the purpose of counteraction entail responsibility according to the current legislation</p>

<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>Addressees of the Institution’s recommendations are legally obliged (Art. 22 of the Law) to provide a timely and reasoned reply.</p> <p>The UPCHR monitors the implementation of the recommendations provided to state authorities and local governments and, if necessary, sends repeated requests. In the case of non-compliance with these recommendations, the UPCHR may apply to the court as a public law body.</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 main areas of activity of the Commissioner are financed, in particular, the implementation of the obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment is separately financed in the implementation of the NPM function by the Commissioner.</p>
<p>Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI</p>	<p><i>For details, see the SCA recommendation outlined under Principle 6.</i></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 the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>Conditions of the full-scale war in Ukraine cannot contribute to the effective operation of any government bodies. At the same time, the Commissioner has enough tools to implement his mandate</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 relevant state authorities have good awareness of the Institution’s mandate, independence and role.</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. 4</i></p> <p>Measures necessary to protect and support the Institution, heads of institution and staff against threats and harassment and any other forms of intimidation are in place.</p> <p>They are similar to the provisions in place for heads and staff of other state authorities.</p> <p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>In accordance with Article 20 of the Law, the Commissioner endowed with the right of immunity for the entire period of his powers. He cannot, without the consent of the Ukrainian Parliament, be held criminally liable or subject to administrative sanctions imposed in a court of law, detained, arrested, subjected to a search, as well as a personal inspection. However, it is advisable to maintain immunity even after the Commissioner's mandate ends or after employees have ceased to work in the Commissioner's office. Such immunity shall also extend to the luggage, correspondence and means of communication of the Commissioner.</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>
<p>Assessment of implementation by the NHRI</p>	<p><i>Information provided by the NHRI in 2023</i></p> <p>Currently, it cannot be claimed that these requirements have been fully implemented. Despite the general requirements for information protection, the information received by the Commissioner in the course of his activities must be given the highest degree of protection.</p> <p>According to the legal opinion of the Venice Commission, the Law on the UPCHR must be amended by adding a clause stating that the premises of the Commissioner are inviolable. It is necessary to ensure the inviolability of archives, files, documents, means of communication, property, funds and assets of the Commissioner, regardless of where and by whom they are located and stored, as well as guarantee</p> <p>immunity from search, seizure, requisition, confiscation, expropriation or any other form of interference, whether by the executive, administrative, judicial or legislative branches of government.</p>

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>No limitations regarding the cooperation with different type of institutions, civil society, NGOs, NHRIs of foreign countries, international organizations, etc. are applied to the Institution of the UPCHR.</p>

Assessment of implementation by Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of GANHRI	<p><i>SCA Report October 2019, p. 23</i></p> <p>Article 22 of the Law requires various State bodies and civil society organizations to cooperate with the UPCHR, and the SCA notes that the UPCHR reports it cooperates with civil society organizations in practice. However, the SCA received information that the extent of this cooperation could be further improved.</p> <p>The SCA encourages the UPCHR to continue and strengthen its cooperation with civil society organizations and human rights defenders.</p>
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