



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade,
Simon Harris T.D.
Iveagh House
80 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
D02 VY53

14 July 2025

Email: simon.harris@oireachtas.ie

CC: Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN, Mr Fergal Mythen,
newyorkpmun@dfa.ie

Dear Minister,

I am writing from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) with reference to the intergovernmental negotiations for the revitalisation of the Commissions on the Status of Women (CSW), currently taking place at the United Nations in New York.

IHREC and our network of sister institutions around the world – the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions - view the review process as an important opportunity to maximise the way whereby CSW can make use of the important contributions that national human rights institutions (NHRIs) can offer.

Paris Principles¹ compliant NHRIs have independent status with a number of UN bodies and mechanisms - including the Human Rights Council, the Global Compact processes including the International Migration Review Forum, and, previously, the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing. However, CSW is yet to formalise the participation of Paris Principles compliant NHRIs, GANHRI and NHRI regional networks in their work.

This will also be in implementing General Assembly resolution 78/204 – adopted in December 2023 by consensus and with a large cross-regional co-sponsorship – which calls once again on all relevant UN bodies and mechanisms, including CSW, to enhance NHRI participation in their work.

¹ The [Paris Principles](#) are a set of international standards that define the minimum requirements for the establishment and operation of National Human Rights Institutions. Endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1993, these principles ensure that NHRIs are credible, independent, and effective in promoting and protecting human rights within their respective countries. NHRIs are accredited for compliance with the Paris Principles every 5 years by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.



It will also be in implementing the inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to UN's work, called for in the Pact for the Future.

As UN member states are currently reviewing the work of CSW, I respectfully request you to consider including the formalisation of NHRI participation as a matter of priority into your national position for the revitalisation process.

Our objective will be to secure wording in the outcome resolution that would enable Paris Principles compliant NHRIs, as well as GANHRI and the four regional networks of NHRIs to participate in their independent capacity in CSW along the same lines that they can at the Human Rights Council.

I have included as annex proposed language for your consideration, which has been developed by GANHRI.

I am grateful for your positive consideration of the above and remain available to discuss this matter at your convenience.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Liam Herrick
Chief Commissioner



GANHRI-proposed language for the inclusion of NHRI participation in the CSW Revitalisation Process (rev 1 draft resolution)

OP 2 bis

OP 2 bis includes a reference to allow Paris Principles compliant NHRIs for their participation in the "informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings" prior to each CSW session.

GANHRI welcomes the reference to Paris Principles compliant NHRIs and call for its retention.

New OP 2 ter

GANHRI recommends the inclusion of a new OP 2 ter:

Welcomes GA resolutions 76/170 and 78/204 in which the Assembly encouraged the Commission on the Status of Women to further enhance the participation of NHRIs and to allow for their contribution to its work, and decides to invite National human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles to participate the meetings of the Commission

While OP 2 bis relates to informal meetings of the CSW, the newly proposed OP 2 ter will ensure that the participation of Paris Principles compliant NHRIs will extend to formal meetings of CSW, as also called for in GA resolutions 76/170 and 78/204.

OP 17

GANHRI welcomes the inclusion of the reference to NHRIs in relation to national level consultations and recommends its retention.

Additional references to GANHRI and regional networks

The above-listed paragraphs on NHRIs could be further strengthened, by an explicit reference to the participation of GANHRI and regional networks, next to that of NHRIs, and in line with established practices at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.