

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM 2022**

**Side event:**

**“The Role of National Human Rights Institutions  
in Advancing Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration”**

**Hosted by:**

**GANHRI (Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions) and co-sponsored  
by OHCHR and the Kingdom of Morocco**

**18 May 2022, 9:00-10:00 am EDT – Online**

**Summary Interventions**

**Overview**

This side event provided a platform for NRHI representatives from GANHRI’s four regional groups to discuss opportunities and challenges for engagement in implementing the GCM. Central to the discussion was the need to maintain a human-rights based approach to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration and the necessity to respect and protect the human rights of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination. NHRIs must ensure that States do not lose sight of this approach. Member States have recognized NHRIs’ vital role in the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM, and have committed to ensure their meaningful participation in these phases. NHRIs also have a vital role to play in assisting migrants to access essential services and justice in destination countries, and to combat xenophobia and discrimination.

Opening remarks were offered by Ms. Amina Bouayach, GANHRI Secretary and Chairperson of the Conseil National des Droits de l’Homme (Morocco) and Ms. Carolina Hernandez, OHCHR Advisor on Migration and Human Rights.

The moderation of the event was conducted by Ms. Patricia Barcena Garcia, Adjunta Segunda Defensor del Pueblo of Spain, who also offered closing remarks on behalf of GANHRI.

Closing remarks were also offered by co-sponsor Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Chekkouri, Directeur des Questions Globales, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères du Maroc .

## Summary of interventions

*Mr. Edgar Corzo Sosa, Chair of the UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families*

- The GCM puts migrants and their human rights in the centre- this provides many opportunities for both NHRIs and UN Committees
- The GCM has a clear human rights vision in four dimensions:
  - human rights as guiding principles;
  - direct references to human rights, such as the right to privacy and protection of personal data;
  - generic references to non-violation of rights;
  - express references to UN human rights documents.
- One of the main calls made to NHRIs in GCM is to fight xenophobia and discrimination, as per objective 17
- The Committee works to fulfil its mandate in collaboration with NRHIs in three ways:
  - inviting submissions on State's respect for international human rights obligations;
  - follow-up on implementation of concluding observations;
  - Committee also contributes to the strengthening of NRHIs.
- The Committee also draws on the standard outlined in the GCM of immigration detention as a last resort

*Mr. Apolonio Tobar, Procurador of the Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos of El Salvador*

- Recognises the important contribution migrants make to sustainable development in destination countries
- Migration itself is a human right, but many countries do not put measures into place to ensure this migration is safe
- Calls on States to adopt legislation and policies to guarantee the principles outlined in GCM
- Labour migration program has been developed between el Salvador and US & Canada to facilitate exchanges and regular migration between these countries
- El Salvador NRHI has developed an early warning system for vulnerable communities and calls on authorities of Central American States to respect the integrity of all migrants, particularly those most vulnerable (women, children, LGBTQ+ persons)
- NHRI of El Salvador is also part of the forensic bank for missing or disappeared migrants and have contributed to pushing for recognition and reparations for the family members of missing or disappeared, such as those massacred in Tamaulipas in 2010

- the NHRI of El Salvador recently published a report alongside those of Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico on the need for States to recognise these victims
- coordination and sharing of best practices between NHRIs and government authorities is essential to facilitate this work

*Ms. Priscilla Mbanga, Director Monitoring and Inspections, Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission*

- Country has seen some progress- 2020 policy on migration was adopted; inter-ministerial committee has been established; Zimbabwe underwent 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of UPR this year and topic of migration was addressed (NHRI submitted report to UPR)
- NHRI carries out monitoring visits to prisons, refugee camps and care institutions to assess living conditions of migrants in these facilities
- NHRI plays advisory role to government and works on awareness raising of human rights situation
- NHRI has carried out research into challenges faced regarding access to documentation and the subsequent risk of statelessness- currently ensuring recommendations of this report are being implemented
- Commission calls on State to ratify international human rights instruments e.g. ICMW
- Zimbabwe needs an action plan and this requires greater coordination between stakeholders in Zimbabwe, including NRHI

*Ms. Vanja Bakalović, Advisor on Migration of the Office of the Ombudswoman of the Republic of Croatia*

- NHRI is promoting the narrative that migration is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development
- Recent public health crisis highlighted the need to provide basic services to all migrants- also highlighted that this is often lacking
- NHRI works closely with CSOs and regional agencies, such as ENNHRI
  - In 2020, ENNHRI made written submission to regional review of GCM and European NRHIs cooperated on monitoring and alerting human rights concerns at borders regarding treatment of migrants
- NHRIs in Europe are often hampered by State authorities when working on migration issues on borders
- European NHRIs have called for alternatives to immigration detention, particularly the detention of children

*Ms. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, Executive Director, Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines*

- Government has engaged in consultations- including with NHRI- on the development of a national action plan to implement GCM
- How NHRIs support monitoring and implementation of GCM:
  - advise State on how to fulfil their obligations regarding GCM and assist them in the review of national policies
  - engage in consultations to localise GCM objectives
  - monitor and assist in cases of rights violations of migrants and families
  - promote awareness and positive narratives about the contributions of migrants to society
  - submit reports to UN and regional human rights mechanisms
- CHRP best practices in assuring access to justice for migrants and families:
  - “bridge the implementation gap” between rights holders and duty bearers and creating a safe space for dialogue between migrants and other actors
  - Commission has established a migrants’ rights observatory- enables overseas Filipino workers to report violations by both State and non-State actors and coordinates with human rights bodies in other States and regions
- Recommends that the contribution of NHRIs to the implementation of the GCM be reflected throughout the process of the IMRF.