

High-Level Panel on: “International Network of NMIRFs: Strengthening Cooperation, Promoting Membership, and Disseminating the Marrakech Guidance Framework”

**On the margins of the 58th session of the Human Rights Council
February 25th, 2025 from 2PM to 3PM in Room XXIV, Palais des Nations**

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Context

National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up (NMIRFs) are instrumental to effective reporting and follow-up of international human rights obligations and recommendations at the national level. These mechanisms serve as key versatile government institutional frameworks that facilitate the interaction between States and the international human rights mechanisms, while ensuring systematic follow-up on recommendations from treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and Special Procedures.

Recognizing the key role of NMIRFs, the international community has increasingly emphasized the importance of their establishment and strengthening, including through the work of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs, led by Portugal, and an increased number of recommendations issued to this effect in the context of the UPR. This has been reflected in several Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions, the most recent being HRC resolution 51/33, co-sponsored by Paraguay and Brazil. This resolution emphasizes experience-sharing among States and calls for the creation of a virtual knowledge hub to facilitate knowledge exchange and sharing of good practices.

Building on these efforts, and following the groundwork laid by the **Marrakech Declaration**, adopted in December 2022 at the 1st international Seminar on NMIRFs in the Kingdom of Morocco, the **International Network of NMIRFs** (the Network) was officially established through the **Asuncion Declaration**, adopted in May 2024 at the 2nd International Seminar on NMIRFs, hosted by Paraguay. The Network, currently comprising 24 member States, aims to foster collaboration, exchange best practices, and promote the establishment of effective NMIRFs globally.

The **10th Glion Human Rights Dialogue** (October 2024) marked a significant milestone with the adoption of the **Marrakech Guidance Framework** (MGF), a guidance document based on international good practices and a reference tool to assist States in establishing and reinforcing effective NMIRFs.

In this context, the Moroccan Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights, in its capacity as Coordinator of the Executive committee of the International Network of NMIRFs¹, is organizing, in partnership with the Permanent Missions of the Kingdom of Morocco, Paraguay, and Portugal, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Universal Rights Group, a High-level Panel on the International Network of NMIRFs, established in Asuncion, to present the Marrakech Guidance Framework, and introduce next steps.

¹ The members of the Network's Executive Committee currently include the NMIRFs of Morocco, Paraguay, and Portugal.

2. Objectives

- Follow up on the establishment of the International Network of NMIRFs adopted in Asunción;
- Follow up on the outputs of the 10th Glion Dialogue and presentation of the Marrakech Guidance Framework as a reference document;
- Exchange on the way forward, including the 3rd International Seminar on NMIRFs in Lisbon this year, the second one-day seminar and the virtual knowledge hub requested by HRC resolution 51/33.

3. Format (Panel discussion followed by an interactive Q&A session)

Opening Remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Abdellatif Ouahbi**, Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **H.E. Mr. Mario Raúl CANO RICCIARDI**, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Paraguay
- **H.E. Mr. Volker Türk**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights **(TBC)**

Panelists:

- **Ms. Fatima Barkan**, Secretary General, Interministerial Delegation of Human Rights, Kingdom of Morocco
- **Mr. Mahamane Cissé-Gouro**, Director, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, OHCHR

Closing remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Nuno Sampaio**, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal

Moderator: **Mr. Marc Limon**, Executive Director, Universal Rights Group

The working languages of the event will be English and French with simultaneous translation provided.