

## **Practice Note 2**

### **Special Reviews**

In accordance with Article 16.2 of the GANHRI Statute, the SCA may initiate a Special Review where it appears that the circumstances of any A-status NHRI may have changed in a way that affects compliance with the Paris Principles.

In practice, this may include, but is not limited to, situations where:

- the enabling law of the NHRI has been amended significantly;
- there has been a significant political change that impacts adversely on the ability of the NHRI to fulfill its mandate;
- the conduct of the NHRI – such as a failure to respond adequately or in a timely manner to serious rights violations – call into question the institution’s independence; or
- the SCA has received credible information from a third party that the circumstances of the NHRI have changed.

Credible third-party information may emanate from a variety of sources including:

- observations and recommendations of the international human rights system, including from the UPR, the Treaty Bodies, and from Special Procedures mandate holders;
- observations and recommendations of a regional human rights mechanism;
- media reports; and
- submissions or public reports made by civil society or other organizations.

The weight given to third-party information is determined on a case-by-case basis by the members of the SCA, taking into account that an effective NHRI can expect to face criticism from a variety of actors.

When considering whether to initiate a Special Review, the NHRI will be provided with reasons, including any information that has been received from third-party sources, and will be provided with an opportunity to respond.

A decision of the SCA to initiate a Special Review is not an accreditation recommendation under Article 12 of the GANHRI Statute. It cannot, therefore, be challenged in accordance with the provisions of Article 12.