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## Implementation of the GA resolution A//RES/76/170

## Best Practices in 2022-2023 at the Finnish Human Rights Centre (NHRI)

As a reply to the request by the OHCHR National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section (NIRMS), referring to the GA resolution A//HRC/RES/45/22, the Human Rights Centre (HRC), representing Finland’s National Human Rights Institution, wishes to provide following examples of best practices in their work since August 2022.

**Study on national human rights actors**

The Finnish HRC’s extensive study on national human rights actors, including their division of tasks, independence, cooperation and resilience was published in June 2022 (further information in the input to the Secretary-General’s last report).

After publication, the study’s recommendations for the strengthening of human rights structures in Finland have been highlighted in several HRC’s statements for the Parliament and in meetings with ministry representatives. The study and its findings have also been showcased during presentations in different events both nationally and internationally. In 2023, the study will be published in English.

**Strengthening resilience in the changing times**

Following the Finnish HRC’s study, the HRC has focused in strengthening its own resilience. Together with the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the HRC is doing practical level contingency planning that includes identifying critical functions of the NHRI and mapping possible threats and responses to those threats.

The HRC is also carrying out and piloting strategic human rights foresight work (scenarios to year 2040) with the engagement of its Human Rights Delegation. A related publication will be finalised towards the end of the 2023.

**Human Rights database and tool for monitoring and reporting**

For the past few years, the HRC has been developing an online database for efficient human rights monitoring. The database, called *Lempi*, has been in systematic use since the beginning of 2022. The database allows the HRC to collect its monitoring information systematically to a designated tool. Information is collected on 20 themes and over 100 sub-themes that are relevant for the Centre’s work. It allows an easy internal access to information and provides a base for statements and reports.

The HRC is currently in the process of creating its first ever annual human rights monitoring report based on the information collected in the system. The human rights monitoring work, the database and the annual monitoring report will be continually developed based on the HRC’s needs. This development has been a big step forward in the HRC’s successful and systematic monitoring of human rights in Finland and will lead to easier distribution of information nationally.

**Young Experts Program**

In February 2022, the HRC launched its Programme for Young Experts. Through the Programme, two young experts, who are in the beginning of their career and interested in human rights, started working at the HRC. The goal of the Programme is to strengthen the voice of young people in human rights discussions and to increase youth participation in the work of the HRC. The Programme was launched due to an observation that young people in Finland find human rights very important but find it difficult to participate in the human rights discussion.

The Programme for Young Experts focuses on youth-friendly communication in social media channels to make human rights more approachable. In addition, the young experts of the Programme meet young people from different backgrounds to discuss their observations concerning the human rights situation in Finland and what they see that human rights actors should focus on. HRC was the first human rights actor in Finland to launch a Programme for Young Experts, but the practice has already been adopted by the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, for example. It has proven to be a practical way to increase youth participation and to bring more young people into the human rights field.

**Human Rights Delegation**

An integral part of the NHRI in Finland, in addition to the HRC and the Parliamentary Ombudsman, is the Human Rights Delegation with its 20-40 members, who broadly represent the Finnish human rights actors.

The Delegation’s composition is diverse in terms of expertise as well as representative, and the selection process is transparent and based on open call for applications. The Delegation functions as a cooperative body in the field of fundamental and human rights and helps to intensify information flow between different actors. It deals with human rights issues of a far-reaching significance and principal importance. The Delegation contributes to the public discussion and governmental work by issuing statements, organising events and lending the expertise of the individual members to the use of the HRC when needed.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman appoints the Delegation for a four-year term at a time. The director of the Human Rights Centre chairs the Delegation. The Delegation selects its Vice Chair. The Delegation convenes four times in a year.

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Director Expert