

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to enclose a Guidance Note on National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Transitional Justice for your information and use. This note has been developed by my Office, in consultation with a number of experts and NHRIs.

The Guidance Note, intended to assist NHRIs in their engagement on transitional justice issues, describes challenges and opportunities faced by NHRIs working to contribute to restructuring the rule of law in transitional societies. During transitional periods, NHRIs can be crucial to ensuring accountability; in providing remedies to victims; in promoting respect for the rule of law; and in strengthening democracy and sustainable peace. The Guidance Note highlights the applicable international standards, provides examples of relevant NHRI country experiences and makes recommendations for their engagement.

I invite you all to use this tool and to encourage you and your partners, including civil society organizations, to refer to it in any efforts to promote and protect human rights in transitional societies. For any further information regarding this tool and related issues, please contact Francesca Albanese (OHCHR – National Institutions Unit; falbanese@ohchr.org , + 4122-9289227) or Lucie Viersma (OHCHR – Rule Of Law and Democracy Unit; lviersma@ohchr.org , + 4122-9289380).

With best wishes,



Navanethem Pillay

High Commissioner for Human Rights