

Questionnaire on National Human Rights Institutions and human rights defenders

It would be greatly appreciated if responses were brief. They may be submitted in bullet-point form if preferred.

Please note that responses to the questionnaire will be published on the website of the Special Rapporteur and will be used to inform her next report to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2013. If requested, the response from your organisation will remain confidential.

1.	<p>a) Please indicate if you are aware of any mechanisms that are in place within the National Human Rights Institution (hereafter ‘the Institution’) to ensure that human rights defenders at risk are protected (e.g. through protection programmes, early warning systems or by submitting complaints to regional/international bodies on specific cases).</p> <p>b) Please indicate whether a complaint has ever been submitted to the Institution on your behalf, or that of your organization. If applicable, please outline the Institution’s response to the grievance and whether it met with your expectations in line with international human rights standards.</p> <p>c) Please indicate whether your organisation has ever been consulted by the Institution about protection measures for human rights defenders in your country.</p>
2.	<p>a) Please indicate whether the Institution is perceived to be independent from the Government. If not, please provide details as to why this is the case.</p> <p>b) If applicable, please outline what steps could be taken by the State to ensure that the Institution is allowed to operate effectively to protect and promote human rights.</p>
3.	<p>a) Please describe the general working relationship, if any, between your organisation and the Institution.</p> <p>b) Please indicate what measures could be taken to ensure better cooperation between the Institution and civil society, including human rights defenders. If applicable, please provide examples of good practice.</p>
4.	<p>a) Please indicate whether Institution staff are considered to be human rights defenders in your country.</p> <p>b) If so, please indicate whether any challenges or obstacles exist that may prevent the Institution from protecting and promoting human rights in your country.</p>

