First of all we would like to thank the OHCHR for organising this seminar and giving us the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practice with all actors engaged in the UPR. As National Human Rights Institutions we recognise that the UPR is a state led process. We believe our added value and role in compliance with the Paris Principles is: to advise the state and monitor its engagement, provide evidence to inform the process and disseminate outcomes, to contribute to the visibility of the process and to support CSO in understanding, engaging and monitoring UPR, as well as to act as mediator between government and CSOs. All this must be done with a view to improve the human rights situation on the ground. In the following, as a concluding statement we do not present a formal commitment by participating NHRI's, but rather offer a set of ideas and actions that could be taken up by NHRI's of all levels of accreditation, depending on their functions.

Role of NHRI in the UPR process
The role of NHRI accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles in the UPR process has been considerably enhanced through the review of the work and functioning of the human rights council. The NHRI's report will in the future be contained in a separate section of the compiled stakeholder report and the respective NRHI will have the right to intervene immediately after the state during the adoption of the UPR outcome. We note these changes with satisfaction, while speaking rights for NHRI in the Working Group itself would have presented another important asset. We acknowledge the important role NGOs have in the UPR process, and emphasize that strengthening of NHRI's position should not lead to undermining the position of NGOs in the process.

These changes offer NHRI's the opportunity to increase their involvement in the UPR, in their role independently from the state. Adequate resources must be provided to NHRI's to embark on that task.

Due to their broad mandate, NHRI's can contribute a holistic human rights approach to ensure that treaty bodies' and special procedures' recommendations are not undermined, but mutually re-enforced by UPR recommendations. European NHRI's should also refer to the judgements and recommendations by Council of Europe human rights mechanisms. At the same time, many NHRI's can offer special expertise in certain fields due their specific mandates, for example women's human rights as equality bodies, as independent monitoring bodies under the UN disabilities convention, as national preventive mechanisms under OPCAT, or from handling individual complaints as ombudsperson’s institutions.

NHRI's in EU member states and candidate countries should in their reports also shed light on the interrelation between EU law and national law in human rights sensitive areas such as migration and security and justice matters, to make sure that states' human rights obligations in these areas are not outside of the focus of the UPR.
Besides reporting to and intervening in the Human Rights Council, NHRIs can play an important role in the UPR preparation and implementation process. This includes

**Advise to governments**
NHRIs should recommend governments
- to prepare and implement the UPR process in a transparent and consultative manner at all stages. Civil society should be broadly consulted during the preparation of the state report, the decision on the acceptance of recommendations, and the implementation.
- in the acceptance of recommendations, to duly consider treaty bodies' and special procedures' recommendations
- to establish inter-ministerial working groups to ensure the commitment of all government departments to the implementation of recommendations; this working groups should consult with the NHRI and CSOs on a regular basis.
- to prepare voluntary mid-term reports to keep the momentum of the UPR

**Involvement of parliaments**
NHRIs can include information on UPR recommendations in their reports to Parliament and encourage parliamentarians to engage in monitoring the implementation process, or encourage governments to involve parliament in the process.

**Informing and capacity building for NGOs**
NHRIs can inform civil society organisations, including organisations specialised on gender and LGBTI, disability, anti-racism, migrant and minority issues, including Roma organisations, on their possibilities to contribute to the stakeholder report, offer training to them and facilitate networking and joint CSO stakeholder reports.

**Dissemination of information**
NHRIs can also play a role in disseminate information on the UPR and the outcome recommendations, inter alia, by training journalists, organizing 'public viewings' of the discussions on the webcast, presenting easy-understandable reports and documentation on their website. In this course, NHRIs can also inform on relevant recommendations that have been rejected by the state. Measures to reach out to local communities should also be considered. NHRI should refer to UPR, treaty bodies' and special procedures' recommendations in their work.

To conclude, NHRI activities as described above can also contribute to better understanding of the independent status and broad mandate of such institutions on the side of states.