

Chapter VII

Factors which Affect the Operation of National Human Rights Institutions

- NHRIs should provide technical training and expertise to help build the capacity of other democratic institutions.
- NHRIs should work with other democratic institutions and bodies to conduct continuing human rights education campaigns.
- NHRIs should proactively and reactively respond to new challenges as and when they arise, e.g. the human rights implications of the AIDS pandemic, scientific and technological advances and privacy considerations.

NHRIs thrive best in an environment where other national democratic institutions are robust and there is a high degree of human rights literacy. NHRIs are most effective when the nation's democratic institutions operate with a clear understanding of their own roles and functions, when the nation's institutions understand the roles and functions of other democratic national institutions and when the public can command and demand respect for human rights.

The roles of NHRIs will need to evolve as the nature of human rights challenges evolves. New problems will emerge and old challenges will require fresh approaches. This booklet outlines many of the features that will ensure that NHRIs can meet these challenges and are best equipped to protect effectively human rights in view of the challenges ahead.