



**Network of African National  
Human Rights Institutions  
(NANHRI)**

**Annual Report 2015**



## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

The report covers activities carried out by the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) between January and December 2015. It is aimed at informing stakeholders about the nature of NANHRI's work, achievements and impact made within the reporting period.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APT	Association for the Prevention of Torture
AU	African Union
BHR	Business and Human Rights
CRC	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DPA	Department of Political Affairs (of the African Union)
EAC	East African Community
EU	European Union
GIZ	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i>
ICC	International Coordination Committee for National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
NANHRI	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
OHCHR	Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
OIF	<i>Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie</i>
OSIWA	Open Society Initiative for West Africa
OSJI	Open Society Justice Initiative
PwDs	Persons with Disabilities
RWI	Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
SCA	Sub-Committee on Accreditation
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGPs	United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



*Dr. Chemuta D. Banda  
Chairman a.i., NANHRI*

In 2015, the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) made significant strides towards fulfilment of its core mandate of supporting the establishment and strengthening national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the continent. NANHRI's Secretariat remained dedicated to serving the 44 member NHRIs while keenly pursuing the goals of the 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan. The strategic plan, the third since NANHRI's inception was launched at the margins of European Development Days (EDD) in Brussels, Belgium on 4th June 2015.

The Network worked closely with NHRIs to identify and address gaps that hinder them from effectively pursuing their mandates, organized capacity building activities to foster learning and exchange of good practices and promote stronger linkages among NHRIs. There was also increased engagement between NHRIs and other key human rights actors

at the regional and international level.

The achievements presented in this report would not have been possible without the contribution and dedication of the Secretariat staff, member NHRIs, stakeholders and development partners. I wish to acknowledge and appreciate the support received from MacArthur Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the European Union (EU) through the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN-OHCHR), Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) and University of Bristol whose financial and technical contributions enabled NANHRI to achieve numerous milestones in 2015.

I thank you most profoundly for your continuous support and generosity.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Gilbert Sebihogo*

*Executive Director – NANHRI*

At NANHRI, we are passionate about human rights in Africa and playing our part to provide solutions to the many human rights challenges. NHRIs, being neither NGOs nor governments, but independent, public bodies with a specific human rights focus, are central to the building of a true and effective human rights culture in Africa.

Over the past eight years that NANHRI has been in existence, the Secretariat and membership has grown in leaps and bounds; from 23 to 44 member NHRIs of whom 18 are now accredited as A status NHRI by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (ICC).

NANHRI has the largest and most diverse membership of the four regional human rights networks in the world. In recognition of its contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights in the continent, the Network was accorded Observer Status by the African Commission on Human

and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in November 2010 during the 48th Ordinary Session of the African Commission.

The period between January and December 2015 was momentous, marking the first year of implementation of NANHRI's third Strategic Plan (2015-2019). Overall, the Secretariat working closely with member NHRIs achieved the targeted activities for the year. This report comprises the Network's achievements, challenges and lessons learnt during the year 2015 in both programmatic and institutional aspects.

Adoption of innovative and robust programmatic approaches has led to development of materials to support NHRIs in their work of monitoring states' compliance with regional and international human rights instruments. Notably, the Network developed Guidelines for Monitoring the Implementation of Decisions (recommendations) of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and a Guide for Monitoring Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with a specific focus on Article 33(2). Another key achievement was the adoption of a Declaration by the member NHRIs committing themselves to prioritize torture prevention. This was accomplished during the 10th Biennial Conference held on 21 to 23 October 2015 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

# INTRODUCTION

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) is a not-for-profit-organization and regional umbrella body that brings together 44 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Africa. NANHRI, whose Secretariat is based in Nairobi, Kenya, is registered under Kenyan laws as an independent legal entity and has been operational since 2007. NANHRI through a host country agreement with the Republic of Kenya obtained in 2012 continues to enjoy privileges and immunities thus creating an enabling environment in execution of its mandate.

## MISSION

*To support through national, regional and international co-operation, the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs to more effectively undertake their mandate of human rights promotion, protection, monitoring and advocacy.*

## VISION

*A continent with effective NHRIs; contributing to an enhanced human rights culture and justice for every African.*

## The NANHRI Secretariat

The NANHRI Secretariat is an independent and permanent body that coordinates all activities of the Network in supporting and strengthening African NHRIs. It is hosted by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) in Nairobi, Kenya and reports to the NANHRI Steering Committee. Currently, the Secretariat comprises of 6 employees.

## Strategic Direction

The operations of NANHRI are guided by two key documents; the Strategic Plan (2015 – 2019) and the Constitution. The Network has continued to establish partnership agreements with human

rights actors at the regional and international level to support its work. In addition to regional engagements, NANHRI has worked with individual NHRIs at the sub-regional and national levels in its quest to enhance the operations of these institutions to effectively achieve their mandate.

## Key Achievements for 2015

The achievements of NANHRI's programmatic and institutional interventions are presented chronologically in accordance with the strategic objectives of the 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

**All African NHRIs established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles by 2019**

### Sierra Leone Working towards maintaining A status

The NANHRI Secretariat in a bid to strengthen the capacity of member NHRIs has for the past seven years conducted gaps analysis with the aim of supporting such institutions to understand their capacity and be able to execute their mandates and respond to opportunities and challenges facing them.

In July 2015, NANHRI conducted a capacity gaps assessment for the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL). The assessment focused on HRCSL's capacity to develop policies and procedures and knowledge to undertake its mandate and functions. Other areas of focus are institutional arrangements, leadership capacities, human resources, financial resources and accountability.

A final report on the status of the Commission with respect to its strengths, weaknesses and needs was developed. The report recommends tailored capacity

development strategies to address the capacity gaps identified. NANHRI continues to engage the existing partners of HRCSL and identify new ones to support HRCSL implement the recommendations and thereby strengthen its institutional capacity to effectively deliver on its mandate.

### **A Baseline Study on the State of NHRIs in Africa**

NANHRI with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) commissioned a study on the State of NHRIs in Africa focusing on 6 key areas namely: establishment and oversight, independence, financing, capacity, stakeholder engagement, and rights-based service delivery and development.

The study sampled and gathered data from 9 African NHRIs; Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme du Burundi, National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon (NCHRF), National Human Rights Council of Egypt (NHRC), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana (CHRAJ), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), Mozambique Human Rights Commission (MHRC), Commission Nationale des Droits de la Personne du Rwanda, the National Human Rights Commission of Seychelles (NHRC) and Comité Supérieur des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales de Tunisie.

The report identifies the strengths of African NHRIs and weaknesses impeding their work in all the six key areas of focus. It further provides practical recommendations to improve their institutional and programmatic areas which ought to be implemented not only by NHRIs themselves, but other relevant actors particularly the state, civil society organizations and NANHRI. In 2016, NANHRI plans to publish, launch and disseminate the study findings.

### **Mapping of the Complaints Handling Systems for African NHRIs**

NANHRI has for the past four years conducted several interventions aiming at enhancing the complaints handling systems of African NHRIs ranging from capacity building trainings to provision of bilateral support to selected NHRIs on instituting robust systems. As a follow up to these interventions, a mapping survey was commissioned in 2015 to assess the effectiveness of African NHRIs complaints handling systems. The mapping involved review of documents including manuals developed by various NHRIs to guide their work in complaints handling of human rights violations.

The final report captures the gaps in the complaints handling systems found in many African NHRIs and proposes recommendations to improve the systems as well as best practices. The findings shall inform future interventions in terms of capacity building and sharing of best practices. The report which has been finalized shall be published, launched and disseminated in 2016.

### **Bilateral Support to Zambia Human Rights Commission**

Following a request from the Zambia Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) for facilitation services in a staff training on Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to programming, NANHRI identified one of the Expert Accreditation Programme (EAP) alumnus, Dr. Bernard Mogesa to conduct the training. The training took place on 17th to 19th December 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia and brought together 26 participants (10 female and 16 male).

The main objective of the training was to enhance staff capacity in institutionalizing HRBA into the operations of ZHRC. At the end of the training, staff indicated their satisfaction with the training and reported increased understanding and appreciation of HRBA as well as their desire to utilize the



approaches in their work. More specifically, they committed to integrate at least three concepts of HRBA into their work.



*Ayalnesh Alayu Belete from Ethiopia and Tolulope Ayanbanke Tilley-Gyado from Nigeria looking at a case study discussed during the session on complaints handling*

### The Annual Foundation Course on Human Rights for African NHRIs

Now in its fourth year, the foundation course adopts a step by step format to provide participants with fundamental human rights concepts in order to strengthen their ability to promote and protect human rights in the exercise of their professional responsibilities. The course targets entry to mid-level staff of African NHRIs as beneficiaries.

It uses a blended learning format which combines the e-learning and a face-to-face workshop. The e-learning is a virtual learning environment that provides the participants with resource materials for four modules, while the face-to-face serves a complimentary role by expounding on the theoretical knowledge, linking it to practice and fostering interaction among participants.

In 2015, the course was convened between 5th October and 27th November 2015 bringing together 25 participants (15 male, 10 female) from 12 member NHRIs. The topics covered were: fundamental concepts of human rights; international human rights instruments and monitoring mechanisms;

and regional human rights instruments and monitoring mechanisms. The training also covered the functions of NHRIs and their role in complaints handling and investigations; business and human rights; conflict management, resolution and peace building; and equality and non-discrimination with a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities. After completing the training, participants reported their appreciation and increased knowledge to support their work as depicted in the testimony below:

“ Although I have been working at the Ugandan Human Rights Commission for four years, I am learning a lot from this course. It gives me a solid theoretical background and a greater understanding and appreciation of the work the Commission is doing. I work in the department of Research, Education & Documents and the content taught will benefit my work there,”

- Maureen Nalubega.

NANHRI will continue making follow up on the participants to evaluate how they utilize the knowledge gained in their work within respective NHRIs. In total 100 participants with 48% female, 51% male and 1% no gender identified, from 16 African NHRIs have been trained since the course began in 2012.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

Improved governance in African Countries particularly rule of law and protection of civil liberties by 2019 by at least 50%

### Regional Conference for East African Community National Human Rights Institutions - “Promoting Good Governance in East Africa: Role of NHRIs”

NANHRI jointly with KNCHR convened the premier conference for EAC NHRIs from 8-10 December 2015 in Nairobi. The conference brought together 87 participants (35 female and 52 male). Discussions

of the 3 - day conference focused on diverse human rights issues on the role of NHRIs and CSOs in securing democracy and the rule of law; regional structures for accountability; the role of NHRIs in strengthening constitutionalism and the rule of law; the role of NHRIs in securing democracy, inclusion and diversity; and the potential role of NHRIs in implementation of the post 2015 development agenda.



*NANHRI Chairperson Dr. Banda second from left following proceeding during the conference.*

The conference ended with the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration incorporating a clear strategy and actions for EAC NHRIs. The next conference will be hosted by UHRC in Uganda in 2016.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

Enhanced Adaptiveness of NHRIs in Responding to Emerging and Thematic Human Rights Issues by at Least 50% of African Countries by 2019.

### Conflict Management, Resolution and Peace Building.

Peer-to-Peer Exchange for East African Community NHRIs on their Role in Electoral Processes NANHRI organized a peer to peer exchange and capacity building workshop in Nairobi, Kenya from 23-25 March 2015 on the role of NHRIs in the electoral process with the aim of empowering NHRIs with knowledge and practical tools for promoting and

protecting human rights during electoral processes. The 3 day training discussed among other things the electoral contexts in the 5 EAC countries, the legal and institutional frameworks, challenges faced in ensuring peaceful free and fair elections, the full observance of democratic values and promotion of human rights.

As a way forward, the workshop identified activities that the EAC NHRIs can undertake together with NANHRI such as: establishment of early warning systems; capacity building programmes for NHRIs on elections; joint election observation missions with EAC member states; and support high level engagements with regional, national and international bodies to ensure peaceful elections.

Participating NHRIs agreed to have joint activities including but not limited to joint monitoring expeditions; publication and sharing of best practices; exchange programmes to strengthen their capacity and link their early warning systems.

The key milestones of this activity include a study tour that the UHRC and Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of Tanzania (CHRGG) conducted to KNCHR to learn how to establish and use an early warning system; joint election monitoring of the Burundi and Tanzania elections by EAC NHRIs and the establishment of an early warning and early response system (EWERS) by UHRC in preparation for the 2016 general elections.

### Bilateral Support to Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)

As a follow up to the capacity building training for EAC NHRIs, NANHRI further provided bilateral support to the UHRC through a training for its staff members on Election Observation for Free and Fair Elections in 2016. This two day training conducted on 7th to 8th January 2016 brought together 30 staff members (11 male and 19 female)

focused on human rights and elections, the legal and institutional frameworks for elections, election administration, election observation and evaluation of election process and the role of NHRIs in elections.

The training took a Training of Trainers (TOT) approach to facilitate knowledge sharing in the institution. At the end, the staff through a practical exercise reviewed an election observation checklist that had been developed for the polling day.

As a way forward, the Commission was tasked to develop other checklists for pre and post- electoral activities in order to gather more data and thereby prepare a comprehensive report on the conduct and outcomes of the general elections. NANHRI shall follow up and review the elections monitoring report as well as the monitoring tools.

## EQUALITY AND NON DISCRIMINATION

### Ensuring Disability Rights- “Nothing for us without us”

Building on previous work started in 2014 to develop a “Guide for African NHRIs on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, the document was shared with member NHRIs to gather their input on the content, style, format and utility of the guide.

This was followed by a 3 - day technical validation meeting on 2nd to 3rd September 2015 bringing together member NHRIs and selected Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs). The meeting provided an opportunity for DPOs to share their experiences which were useful in further enriching the document. The guide will be published and launched in 2016. A pilot phase to test implementation of the guide is also planned with two member NHRIs at the national level.



*Participants at the validation meeting.*

## TORTURE PREVENTION

### Training African NHRIs on Reducing Over-use of Pre-trial Detention

NANHRI under its three year joint project with the Association for Prevention of Torture (APT) convened a training workshop in Kigali, Rwanda from 19th to 21st May 2015 which brought together 24 participants (13 men and 11 women) from 24 African NHRIs. The training which took a blended learning format of on-line and face-to-face was aimed at deepening participants’ knowledge of pre-trial detention and the different strategies they can use to reduce its use.

To institutionalize knowledge, participants developed action plans that will help in application of the knowledge and skills gained during the training. After completing the training participants

reported great satisfaction and appreciation of the training content as captured in the testimony below:

“ I found the training very useful because pre-trial detention is a big headache for us. Before we did not know how to go about this but now with the knowledge acquired we will be able to contribute to the reduction”,

Mauritania representative.



*Discussion on the root causes of over-use of pre-trial detention and possible solutions NHRIs can offer.*

Other key outcomes of the project have been reported by the Office of the Ombudsman of Namibia and National Human Rights Commission of Rwanda (NHRC). In Namibia, the Office of the Ombudsman has integrated pre-trial detention into police inspection and started a country wide police training on torture that includes drafting a new manual and a countrywide media campaign to end torture. The Office has also drafted a law providing for domestication of the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT). The NHRC is conducting a study to identify gaps and opportunities and the extent to which the existing legislation complies with the Luanda Guidelines.

### **Effective Cooperation of African NHRIs with International and Regional Mechanisms**

NANHRI has been working jointly with the regional and international mechanisms to provide a

platform for its members to participate and make meaningful contribution to the implementation of recommendations and decisions of these mechanisms at the national level.

It is in this regard that NANHRI in 2015 conducted the following activities:

### **Monitoring the Implementation of Decisions of the African Human Rights Bodies**

Given the significance of monitoring state parties' compliance with regional and international human rights instruments, NANHRI with support from Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) convened a meeting to deliberate on the implementation of the decisions of the ACHPR by various actors at the national level. Deliberations of this meeting culminated into practical recommendations that informed development of guidelines for monitoring the implementation of decisions of the African Commission by NHRIs. Following adoption by its members, NANHRI intends to publish and disseminate these guidelines to member NHRIs for their use.

NANHRI is also lobbying for the adoption of these guidelines by the ACHPR as well as design a structure and modalities of collaborating with the Commission through a resolution.



*From left Hon Justice Augusto Ramadhani - President of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, Hon. Madam Zainabo Kayitesi Chairperson African Commission on Human and People's Rights, Julia Harrington and Commissioner Faith Tlakula during the meeting.*

## Study on NHRIs Perspectives on the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

NANHRI through financial support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) conducted a 2 - month study to examine the perspectives and the roles (potential and actual) of NHRIs in monitoring the implementation of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR, the Court) decisions at the national level.

The study gathered both primary and secondary data and sampled 7 African Union (AU) member states (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda and Tanzania) who have made optional declarations under Article 34 (6) of the Protocol that entitles individuals and NGOs to present complaints directly to the Court.

The study findings were published and reveal that most of the NHRIs are quite detached, disinterested and disconnected to the African Court process yet their core protection and promotion mandate is quite suitable for their engagement with the Court and its processes. NANHRI is working towards full implementation of the study recommendations in order to enhance the working relationship between the Court and African NHRIs.

## ENHANCING COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS

### The 10th Biennial Conference

The 10th Biennial Conference themed "Torture Prohibition and Prevention: Successes, Challenges and the role of NHRIs" was hosted by the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF) of Cameroon from 21 to 23 October 2015 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The event was organized with the support of the European Union (EU) through the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), the Organisation Internationale

de la Francophonie (OIF) and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Conference provided a platform for a high level closing meeting for the project entitled "A Continent United Against Torture" that NANHRI and APT have jointly been implementing for the past three years (2013 – 2015). The project's overall objective was to strengthen the institutional capacity of African NHRIs to prevent torture in their respective countries.

The conference proceedings focused on the results and impact of the project, and strategies for increasing ratification and implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in the continent. There was also sharing of experiences, challenges and opportunities for NHRIs designated as National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) under OPCAT.



*Participants following a session during the biennial conference.*

At the end of the 3-day conference participants adopted the Yaoundé Declaration incorporating the gains made from the Robben Island Guidelines (RIG) and NANHRI/APT project. Significantly, the Declaration calls for observance of the African Day of Pre-trial Detention on 25th April of every year to coincide with the day when the Guidelines on Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa (Luanda Guidelines) were adopted by the ACHPR.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5:

Critical institutional systems established and institutional efficiency and effectiveness improved in core service areas by 2019

### Staff Training and Development of a Resource Mobilization Strategy

The NANHRI Secretariat with support from RWI organized a 3 day workshop between 14th and 16th December 2015 aimed at training the programme and administrative staff on resource mobilization. The training was organized to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat (human, technical and financial) in order to ensure successful implementation of the 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan.

A critical output of the training workshop was a resource mobilization strategy which comprises an action plan clearly defining the short, medium and long term strategies to guide and strengthen NANHRI's resource mobilization endeavors. Staff reported appreciation and enhanced understanding of resource mobilization from both a theoretical and practical perspective. The resource mobilization strategy awaits adoption by the steering committee in 2016.

### Effective Communication – Enhancing Web-based Communication

Developed in 2007 and redesigned in 2012, NANHRI's website has served as an important tool in the expansion of NANHRI's opportunities to share information with the member NHRIs and other partners. During the reporting period the website had recorded 20,000 visits and 12,385 hits.

In an endeavor to streamline the information management process, NANHRI plans to review and redesign its website in order to better serve its members and external partners and effectively meet the goals of the 2015 – 2019 strategic plan.

### Effective Communication – Enhancing NANHRI Brand Profile

The Secretariat undertook various activities geared towards branding, profiling and raising awareness of NANHRI. This resulted in the development and printing of brochures with general information about the Network, lanyards and folders to be used during workshops and conferences.

Further, the Secretariat re-designed the E-newsletter and changed the frequency of production from bi-annual to quarterly basis. This has made it possible to share current information and achievements on a regular basis as well as provide a platform for members to share relevant updates about their work.

On social media, NANHRI continues to leverage on various tools to meet its communication needs. During the reporting period NANHRI's twitter handle @NANHRI40 saw a 60% increase in followers.

### Publications

The Network carried out extensive review of documents and baseline studies aimed at providing resource materials to member NHRIs in their work of protecting and promoting human rights in their jurisdictions. This resulted in development of three publications:

- Guide for African NHRIs on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- A study on the state of NHRIs in Africa.
- A report on mapping of the complaints handling systems of African NHRIs.

### Key Challenges, Recommendations and Priority Areas

Some of the challenges faced during this year include:

- Inadequate funds to effectively support

NANHRI's operations and execute planned activities partly due to the global financial crisis whose devastating impacts have been experienced worldwide.

- Shortage of office equipment and facilities (IT systems, equipment and office space) to support the ever-increasing needs of NANHRI members.
- Lack of sufficient staff which significantly falls below the approved organizational structure.
- Dependence on donor funding – and its consequences on the ability of the network to deliver and sustain results on its priority areas.

Internally, the 2015 activities and implementation modalities has also provided opportunities for introspection. The Secretariat has drawn three key lessons aimed at enhancing its effectiveness:

1. The urgent need to explore new strategies for resource mobilization given the ever changing donor landscape.
2. The need to prioritize the acquisition of equipment and facilities as well as equipping its staff with relevant ICT knowledge and skills as NANHRI adopts innovative and more-ICT driven training approaches,
3. The need for staff recruitment, training and development in order to effectively implement the 2015 – 2019 strategic plan and meet the needs of its members.

### Priority Areas

The human rights terrain in Africa is dynamic and faces considerable threats from institutions, individuals, groups and existing cultural norms and practices. While numerous actors have invested time and resources to address these threats, resources remain scarce, issues have become complex and efforts remain uncoordinated and sometimes even ad hoc with limited capacity to have any meaningful impact on the threats.

In the face the growing and well-orchestrated

threats, NANHRI has identified several areas to work on to improve the human rights situation on the continent by strengthening NHRIs to take a more active role in addressing emerging human rights issues. These include:

i. **Human trafficking:** Cross border and trans-boundary human trafficking remains a major challenge which requires NHRIs to collaborate with national, regional and international actors to develop sustainable solutions informed by human rights principles and norms.

ii. **Human rights and Counter-terrorism:** The increased cases and threat of terrorism has resulted in adoption of state driven counter-terrorism measures which sometimes negate human rights principles and norms. Consequently NHRIs guided by the Paris Principles need to take a more active role in advising and monitoring the governments' implementation processes.

iii. **Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) issues:** In light of inter alia the adoption of Resolution 275 on Protection against Violence and other Human Rights Violations against Persons on the basis of their real or imputed Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity by the ACHPR, NHRIs in collaboration with other stakeholders need to hold and sustain dialogue at national and regional levels with a view to develop a common understanding on SOGIE issues and identifying strategies to effectively work in this field.

iv. **Torture prevention:** The prevalence of over-use of pre-trial detention in Africa is associated with many cases of torture. Enhancing the capacity of NHRIs to utilize international standards to among other things monitor places of detention as a preventive measure against the risk of torture and other forms of ill- treatment remains critical in ensuring torture prevention and reduction in the

use of pre-trial detention.

v. **Elections:** Africa is a hotbed of electoral instigated conflict arising mainly from contested presidential elections outcomes and abuse of presidential term limits. Consequently, NANHRI plans to design an expanded programme to build the capacity of NHRIs to work jointly with other actors including elections management bodies in elections administration to ensure free, fair, peaceful and credible elections to avert election related conflicts and their devastating outcomes particularly gross human rights violations.

vi. **Conflict:** Violent conflict accompanied by gross human rights violations remain widespread in Africa. Surprisingly, many conflicts like Boko Haram's insurgency and the Second Libyan Civil War, have intensified and spread to surrounding states, increasing the risk of negative outcomes. NANHRI will continue working together with NHRIs and other actors to champion for the promotion of human rights and ensuring a peaceful continent.

vii. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The SDGs are much more closely aligned with human rights than their predecessors - the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) thus providing a great opportunity for NHRIs to get involved. NHRIs have a key role in tailoring the SDGs to create national goals, targets and indicators. NHRIs should monitor progressive realization of the SDGs through providing a source of accurate timely and disaggregated data.

mandates amidst an evolving human rights field and increasing threats on human security and peace.

NANHRI will increasingly engage with the regional and international human rights mechanisms and hold States accountable to foster the realization of human rights in the continent and guarantee the citizens fundamental rights and freedoms. NANHRI will strive to provide platforms for NHRIs and stakeholders in the human rights field to share best practices and lessons learned so as to build their capacity to effectively protect and promote human rights in the continent.

## CONCLUSION

While acknowledging the significant challenges that African NHRIs face, NANHRI remains optimistic given that there is now greater appreciation of their role in the promotion and protection of human rights as reflected by their growth in numbers and influence. There is however a pressing need to support these institutions to effectively deliver on their respective



## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2015

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements set out on pages 6 to 16 of Network African National Human Rights Institutions which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December, 2015, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in fund balances and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

### Responsibility for the Financial Statements

As stated on page 3, the Steering Committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with international financial reporting standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Kenyan Companies Act (Cap 486). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement preparation and fair whether due to fraud or error: selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances Responsibility of the Independent Auditor Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with international standards on auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures and the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on

the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Steering Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Independent opinion

In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept and the accompanying financial statements, which are in agreement therewith, give a true and fair view of the financial position of Network of Africa National Human Rights Institutions as at 31 December, 2015. and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with international financial reporting standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Kenyan Companies Act (Cap 486).

**2015 FINANCIAL REPORT****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2015**

		2015	2015	2014	2014
	Note	Kshs	USD	Kshs	USD
<b>NON - CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Property, plant and equipment	9 (a)	383,251	3,800	470,724	5,321
Intangible Assets	9 (b)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Non - Current Assets</b>		<b>383,251</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>470,724</b>	<b>5,321</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Accounts receivable	10	38,651,469	383,282	30,075,449	339,988
Cash and cash equivalents	11	17,175,147	170,315	21,391,464	241,822
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>55,826,616</b>	<b>553,598</b>	<b>51,466,913</b>	<b>581,810</b>
<b>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Accounts payable	12	2,899,141	28,749	3,109,679	35,753
<b>Net Currents Assets</b>		<b>52,927,475</b>	<b>524,849</b>	<b>48,357,294</b>	<b>546,658</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>53,310,726</b>	<b>528,649</b>	<b>48,828,018</b>	<b>551,979</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>					
General Fund		51,567,442	511,362	46,997,261	531,283
Capital Fund		383,251	3,800	470,724	5,321
Restricted Funds		1,360,033	13,487	1,360,033	15,375
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		<b>53,310,726</b>	<b>528,649</b>	<b>48,828,018</b>	<b>551,979</b>

These financial statements were approved by the Steering Committee on 20/03/2016 and signed by :-

  
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**Gilbert Sebihogo**  
 (Network Executive Director)

  
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**Dr. Chemuta Divine Banda**  
 (Chairperson)

## 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2015

FUND MOVEMENT	Capital funds	General funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
Year Ended 31 December, 2014	ksh	ksh	ksh	ksh	USD
Balance – 01 January, 2014	728, 702	34,811,875	1,360,033	36,900,610	432,346
Prior year adjustment	0	1,131,029	0	1,131,029	12,786
<b>As Restated</b>	<b>728,702</b>	<b>35,942,904</b>	<b>1,360,033</b>	<b>38,031,639</b>	<b>445,132</b>
Depreciation	(237,654)	237,654	0	0	0
Amortization	(20,324)	20,324	0	0	0
Operating balance for the year	0	10,796,379	0	10,796,379	124,331
Foreign currency translation difference	0	0	0	0	(17,484)
Balance – 31 December, 2014	<b>kshs 470,724</b>	<b>46,997,261</b>	<b>1,360,033</b>	<b>48,828,018</b>	<b>551,979</b>
	<b>USD 5,321</b>	<b>531,283</b>	<b>15,375</b>	<b>551,979</b>	
Year Ended 31 December, 2015					
Balance – 01 January, 2015	470,724	46,997,261	1,360,033	48,828,018	551,979
Assets acquired in the year	188,561	(188,561)	0	0	0
Depreciation	(276,034)	276,034	0	0	0
Operating balance for the year	0	4,482,708	0	4,482,708	46,271
Foreign currency translation difference	0	0	0	0	(69,601)
Balance – 31 December, 2015	<b>kshs 383,251</b>	<b>51,567,442</b>	<b>1,360,033</b>	<b>53,310,726</b>	<b>528,649</b>
	<b>USD 3,800</b>	<b>511,362</b>	<b>13,487</b>	<b>528,649</b>	



## NANHRI MEMBERSHIP

NO:	COUNTRY AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION	MEMBERSHIP	
1.	Algeria: Commission nationale consultative de promotion et de protection des droits de l'Homme	Associate member	
2.	Benin: Commission béninoise des droits de l'Homme	Observer member	
3.	Burkina Faso: Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Observer member	
4.	Burundi: Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'Homme	Full member	
5.	Cameroon: National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms	Full member	
6.	Cape Verde : Comissão nacional para os direitos e a cidadania	Observer member	
7.	Chad: Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Associate member	
8.	Comoros : Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme et des libertés	Observer member	
9.	Congo (Democratic Republic of) : Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Observer member	
10.	Congo (Republic of): Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Associate member	
11.	Cote d'Ivoire : Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Observer member	
12.	Djibouti : Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Observer member	
13.	Egypt: National Council for Human Rights	Full member	
14.	Ethiopia: Ethiopian Human Rights Commission	Associate member	
15.	Gabon: Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Observer member	
16.	Ghana: Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice	Full member	
17.	Guinea (Republic of): Observatoire national de la démocratie et des droits de l'Homme	Observer member	
18.	Guinea Bissau: Comissão nacional para os direitos humanos	Observer member	
19.	Kenya: Kenya National Commission on Human Rights	Full member	
20.	Liberia: Independent National Commission for Human Rights	Observer member	



21.	Madagascar: Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Observer member	
22.	Malawi: Malawi Human Rights Commission	Full member	
23.	Mali: Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Associate member	
24.	Mauritania: Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Full member	
25.	Mauritius: Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme	Full member	
26.	Morocco: Conseil nationale des droits de l'Homme	Full member	
27.	Mozambique: Mozambique Human Rights Commission	Observer member	
28.	Namibia: Office of the Ombudsman	Full member	
29.	Niger: Commission Nationale des Droits des l'Homme	Observer member	
30.	Nigeria: National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria	Full member	
31.	Rwanda: National Commission for Human Rights	Full member	
32.	Senegal: Comité sénégalais des droits de l'Homme	Associate member	
33.	Sierra Leone: Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone	Full member	
34.	South Africa: South African Human Rights Commission	Full member	
35.	Sudan: The National Commission for Human Rights of Sudan	Observer member	
36.	South Sudan: South Sudan Human Rights Commission	Observer member	
37.	Swaziland: Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration/Integrity	Observer member	
38.	Tanzania: Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRGG).	Full member	
39.	Togo: Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	Full member	
40.	Tunisia: Comité supérieur des droits de l'Homme et des libertés fondamentales	Associate member	
41.	Uganda: Uganda Human Rights Commission	Full member	
42.	Zambia: Zambia Human Rights Commission	Full member	
43.	Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission	Observer member	
44.	Libya: National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights of Libya (NCCLHRL)	Observer member	



