

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

ANNUAL REPORT, 2017



About this report

The 2017 Annual Report of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions gives an overview of our work from January 1 to December 31, 2017.

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2007-2017

“Ten years ago, we set out to change the landscape of human rights in Africa... But the course we have carpeted is leading to our destination- a continent sailing in a smooth culture of justice and respect for the rule of law,” Mr Gilbert Sebihogo, NANHRI Executive Director.

About the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) is a not-for-profit-organisation that brings together 44 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Africa. The Secretariat of the Network is hosted by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Network supports the establishment and strengthening of the NHRIs across the continent in addition to facilitating coordination, cooperation amongst members and linking them to other key human rights actors at the regional and international level.

Vision

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

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.

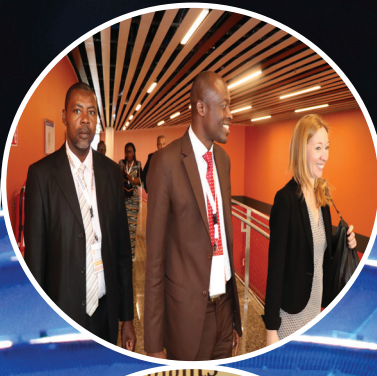
Values and Guiding Principles

To achieve its mission and vision, NANHRI is committed to the following: -

- Transparency
 - Accountability
 - Openness
 - Cooperation
 - Professionalism and
 - Gender Equality
-
-

**A
Human
rights-based
Approach to the
Implementation of
Agenda 2030 and Agenda
2063 - the Role of NHRIs**





Photograph highlights from the NANHRI 11th Biennial Conference and 10th Anniversary in Kigali, Rwanda, from November 7-9, 2017.

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List of Abbreviations

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AfCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
AGA	African Governance Architecture
APC	Association of Progressive Communications
APDD	African Pretrial Detention Day
ARASA	AIDS & Rights Alliance for Southern Africa
AU	African Union
AU - DPA	African Union's Department of Political Affairs
BHR	Business and Human Rights
CESR	Centre for Economic and Social Rights
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DIHR	Danish Institute for Human Rights
EAC	East African Community
EC	European Commission
ESCR	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
EU	European Union
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
IJC	International Justice Complementarity
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
MHRC	Malawi Human Rights Commission
NANHRI	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
OSIEA	Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa
SAHRC	South African Human Rights Commission
SCA	Sub-committee on Accreditation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SOGIE	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression
UHRC	Ugandan Human Rights Commission
ZAHRC	Zambia Human Rights Commission.

Message from the Chairperson



On behalf of the General Assembly and the Steering Committee of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), it is my pleasure to thank our members for their support in 2017.

Although it was a challenging year with the emergence of complex issues, we made significant steps towards supporting our members in fulfilling their mandate of promoting, protecting and advocating for human rights across the continent.

Through the Secretariat, NANHRI carried out impactful activities, with the most remarkable activities being the NANHRI 11th Biennial Conference and 10th Anniversary standing out of the rest. The November 7-9, 2017 General Assembly and Conference were hosted by the Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights in Kigali, Rwanda. The theme of the conference was “A human rights based approach to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 – the role of National Human Rights Institutions”.

Members, partners, guests and panelists at the Conference interrogated the various aspects hindering sustainable development and the role of NHRIs in various aspects like data collection and interpretation was discussed in detail. Following the discussion, the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group was established to spearhead a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the development agenda.

It is my belief that the working group will support the implementation of the Kigali Declaration of the 11th Biennial Conference for alleviating the poverty situation in Africa and ushering in ‘*The Africa We Want*’ where ‘*No one is left behind*’.

Out of the November 7, 2017 General Assembly, the Working Group on Migration was established to support the NHRIs in tackling the migration human rights crisis that has gripped the continent and the globe as slave trade hots up in Libya and other places. Hundreds of thousands of African youth are dying while crossing Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea seeking better life in Europe.

Migration challenges require multi-sectoral approaches. The Working Group on Migration were established will coordinate activities in this less travelled territory. This will be critical since as Africa works towards Agenda 2063, the youth will live this vision. This, therefore, means our members also have a role to play in supporting the implementation of the New York Declaration on Global Compact, Safe and Orderly Migration.

From the civil society organisations’ forum in Bamako, Mali, in August 2017, it was evident that collaboration with partners like the civil society organisations—who are already working in this thematic area - would leverage on the skills and staff capacity of the NHRIs.

Similarly, the General Assembly took note of the challenges facing more than 60 million people living with disability in Africa by forming the Working Group on People Living with Disability. This group will respond to the specific issues these people are facing. Having launched the Guide for African National Human Rights Institutions for Protecting, Promoting and Monitoring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities two years ago, this group has a foundation.

The representatives to these groups are from within the sub-regions of NANHRI. With the help of the Steering Committee, the members and our traditional partners and actors, we shall overcome the challenges and propel Africa to the next level.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the NANHRI Secretariat for the great work despite the limited staff capacity and resources.

In showing commitment to NANHRI, I urge the members to support the Secretariat by fulfilling their obligations as one of the ways of fostering efficiency in service delivery for the benefit of all.

NIRERE Madeleine,
Chairperson, NANHRI.

Message from the Executive Director



The time has come, yet again, to share the 2017 Annual Report, which captures our commitment to supporting our members.

Based on the activities of the 2017 workplan, I am glad to report that it was one of the most successful years of NANHRI, having accomplished many planned activities which touched on the Five Goals of the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.

As always, a human rights-based approach is key to all of our activities, in support of the development agendas. One of the activities we carried out in easing the working environment of our members, thereby allowing for effective delivery on their mandate, was the Maendeleo Policy Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on September 6, 2017. This was made possible with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the African Union Commission (AUC).

NANHRI and AUC's Department of Political Affairs engaged the Permanent Representatives' Committee to the African Union on the nexus between strong NHRIs and development.

The States' ambassadors gave a solid indication of supporting the strengthening of the NHRIs through strong enabling legislation, enhancing financial autonomy, curbing political interference, among other recommendations of the 2016 State of African NHRIs Report.

On the same note, the Network is looking forward to establishing a liaison office in Ethiopia, to tap into the high concentration of partners. The office will be strategic in pushing the African human rights agenda through the various fora in Addis Ababa.

In responding to the internal needs of our members, we provided capacity building support to staff from various NHRIs in four thematic areas, including business human rights, monitoring and reporting, human rights education, and economic, social and cultural rights.

Capacity building was critical in supporting a human rights-based approach to Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063 at the national level. Similarly, the courses will internally strengthen the capacity of the members as they strive to be compliant with the Paris Principles.

To this end, I wish to report that we supported our members in the accreditation and reaccreditation process. In 2018, we look forward to supporting more members to not only comply with the Paris Principles, but also reflect their accreditation status, as they successfully impact the lives of the rights holders at the grassroots.

Ten years ago, we set out to change the landscape of human rights in Africa. We have done much; much more remains in-tray. But the course we have carpeted is leading to our destination- a continent sailing in a smooth culture of justice and respect for the rule of law.

As we enter a new year, I want to thank all members and the immediate former Chairperson, Dr. Chemuta Devine Banda, for the able leadership he offered to NANHRI during his tenure first as the Vice-chairperson and then as the substantive Chairperson. I would also like to thank our regional and international partners, who believed in our dream and supported our vision and mission.

Gilbert Sebihogo
Executive Director, NANHRI.

Executive Summary

After the implementation of the 2012-2014 Strategic Plan, the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) carried out a needs assessment scan to inform the next steps of enhancing the work of the African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in delivering on their mandates as provided for in the United Nations Paris Principles of 1993.

From the environmental scan, it was clear that among other issues, the scramble for resources is the main cause of conflict, corruption, poor governance. This scramble escalates human rights violations in the continent. A joint June 2014 - March 2015 NANHRI-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Study on the State of the National Human Rights Institutions in Africa, revealed that weak legislation, political interference, financial constraints, staff in capacity building , among other factors, hinder the work of these institutions in fulfilling their mandates.

NANHRI adopted the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan to gradually address the challenges and empower the members to effectively promote, protect and advocate for human rights at national, sub-regional and regional levels. The scoring of the Five overall goals of the Strategic Plan is pegged on the five intermediate goals, which annually inform the activities of the Network as implemented by the Nairobi-based Secretariat.

The 2017 report is a synopsis of the activities of NANHRI, achievements, challenges and innovations as well as lessons learnt where applicable. The activities are based on the work plan, which was approved by the NANHRI General Assembly in Geneva – Switzerland- founded on the Five Goals of the Strategic Plan. A financial statement is annexed at the end.

Goal 1: Effective NHRIs; established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles

Strategic Objective 1: All African States have NHRIs, established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles by 2019



NANHRI
members in a group
discussion during the
11th Biennial Conference
November, 2017 in Kigali,
Rwanda.
Photo: Secretariat.

NANHRI engages partners in strengthening its members

For the realisation of this goal, NANHRI implemented various activities jointly with members and partners. NANHRI coordinated a mapping exercise of the child rights programming capacity within the African NHRIs. This assessment kicked off in January 2017 with the aim of addressing gaps identified in the online survey conducted between June and August 2016.

Face-to-face interviews were conducted with both NHRIs and a broad range of respondents in Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire. The report from this exercise will support development of a regional capacity building programme for NHRIs on children's rights. This exercise is under the ongoing PASAP project funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

With funding from the NHRI-EU project, NANHRI in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) have been implementing the three-year capacity building programme for the NHRIs. This project aims at strengthening the capacities of the African NHRIs individually and collectively in business and human rights, economic, social and cultural rights, monitoring and reporting to regional and international human rights mechanisms as well as promoting human rights education into formal learning. The four blended courses had online and face to face components.

Two members attain 'A' status accreditation

At the beginning of 2017, the Network offered technical support to four members who were due for accreditation and re-accreditation and special review at the Sub-committee on Accreditation (SCA). During the first session of the March 13-17, 2017 SCA, two NHRIs, (Niger and Liberia) - who had applied for accreditation - got 'A' status while two others (Egypt and Cameroon) requested for deferral to the next session. NANHRI has been working closely with these members to ensure they address concerns previously raised by the SCA.

After the second session of November 13-17, 2017, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of Tanzania, the South African Human Rights Commission (South Africa) and the

Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés (Cameroon) regained their 'A' status.

However, the SCA recommended that the *Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme* of Burundi and *Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme* of Mauritania be downgraded to 'B' status. Mauritania has one year to address the raised issues while a decision on Burundi's case will be effective in January 2018.

Out of the 44 members of NANHRI, 21 are 'A' status; nine are 'B' status; others are working towards accreditation.

Bilateral support to the South Sudan Rights Commission on compliance with human rights instruments

NANHRI, in partnership with the UNMISS Human Rights Division undertook capacity building for the South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC) staff on compliance with the Paris Principles, the system of accreditation under the GANHRI, the African Human Rights System and the Universal Periodic Review. NANHRI and the OHCHR through UNMISS engaged the Commission's staff, acting chairperson, members of parliament, among others in seeking to strengthen the SSHRC as a key human rights protection mechanism for South Sudan. The workshop was held in Juba, South Sudan, from May 23-25, 2017.

Addis Ababa Maendeleo Policy Forum discusses strengthening human rights-based approach to development

The Network of African NHRIs, the African Union Commission and UNDP jointly held Maendeleo Policy Forum on strengthening human rights based approach to development in Africa: the nexus between strong national human rights institutions and development at country level. The meeting was held on September 6, 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This was the first successful intervention aimed at initiating dialogue between the AU Member States through the AU Permanent Representative's Committee (PRC), towards the implementation of various recommendations to states for the strengthening of NHRIs. From the Forum, participants agreed on taking action to supporting the implementation of the recommendations.



A group photo of the participants of the November 6, 2017 Maendeleo Policy Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Photo: Courtesy.

Being the responsibility of the state to promote and protect human rights, it was, therefore, agreed that authorities ensure NHRIs are effective by:

- Establishing strong legal frameworks in line with the Paris Principles on the status of national human rights institutions to guarantee independence, broad mandate, and sufficient powers;
- Enabling institutional operation particularly through timely appointment of commissioners and providing security of tenure, as well as the general operationalisation of the laws;
- Providing reliable financial support and secure operational and financial autonomy to enable NHRIs undertake staff recruitment and programming to achieve their mandates.

Besides these recommendations to the states, it was also suggested that NANHRI establishes a liaison office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to strengthen its collaboration with the AU organs.

A committee consisting of representatives of the different actors was also established to follow-up on

the outcome of the event. The committee comprises one representative from each of the following: the AU Permanent Representatives' Committee, NANHRI Secretariat, African Union Commission, UNDP and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the *Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme* of Morocco were selected to represent the NHRIs in the committee.

NANHRI-DIHR train NHRIs' staff on monitoring and human rights education

In boosting the capacity of the NHRIs, 14 staff from 13 institutions took part in the monitoring and reporting blended learning course between August and September 2017.

The course objectives were: to build the capacities of NHRIs to fulfilling their individual UN Paris Principles mandate with regard to monitoring and reporting, and professionalised monitoring outputs and submissions to the regional and international



Monitoring and reporting workshop in Nairobi in August 2017. Photo: Secretariat.

bodies. After a four-week e-learning training in August, participants were invited for a three-day face-to-face training in Nairobi, Kenya, from August 30 to September 1, 2017 to deepen further their knowledge and skills, share experiences and lessons as well as develop action plans for implementation within their institutions.

The blended learning on human rights education (HRE) was also offered in the fourth quarter, with the face-to-face component taking place in Kigali, Rwanda, from October 16 – 18, 2017. The aim of the face to face workshop was to bridge learning gaps from the online training. The 19 participants learnt how the Paris Principles apply to HRE. The online workshop was carried out earlier, on September 11-29, 2017.

Applications were called for a €15000 re-grant for each of the blended courses. The re-grant is to carry out a six-month project to put into practice the skills gained from the training.

Secretariat drafts ToRs for thematic areas' working groups

After the NANHRI 11th Biennial Conference held from November 7-9, 2017 in Kigali Rwanda, the Secretariat drafted terms of reference for the established NANHRI working groups on Persons with Disabilities, Migrations, Business and Human Rights, and Sustainable Development Goals. The

Working Group on SDG was constituted in Kigali during the Conference while volunteers for the other working groups were identified. The members of the working groups will review the terms of reference for adoption in subsequent general meetings.

General Assembly to prioritise membership survey recommendations

The Secretariat developed the report on Membership Participation Survey. The Secretariat compiled the findings of a survey identifying obstacles to members' contribution and effective participation in NANHRI's joint initiatives, as well as identifying thematic interests, incentives and initiatives that may overcome these barriers. The report also recommended what can be done to improve members' participation and contribution to NANHRI. The recommendations were presented to the General Assembly a day before the 11th Biennial Conference; the members prioritised the implementation.

Further to the findings of the survey, the Secretariat suggested the following actions to improve the participation of members:

Regarding prioritisation and interest of members:

a) Establish working groups through which members can lead and participate in the specific area of interest. This step will complement the work of the Secretariat and shift some of the burden to the members with capacities. In effect, NANHRI will deepen its focus on critical areas while widening the scope to accommodate all member interests, thus overcoming the mismatch of resources to work.

b) Conduct periodic survey of members' capacity and interest to guide strategic interventions annually or biennially. As a way of tracking results and identifying areas requiring more emphasis, NANHRI should ensure periodic assessments are carried out to guide planning and prioritisation of work. As a show of commitment to NANHRI, all members should be required to participate in the assessments.



NANHRI Chairperson Madeleine Nirere (second right) immediate former Chairperson Dr Chemuta Banda, Executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo (left) and Finance Officer Jane Kimotho lead the General Assembly on November 7, 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Regarding membership financial and in-kind contributions:

a) Enhanced role of the Steering Committee:

Steering Committee members should play a major role in mobilising the members in honouring their commitments to NANHRI.

In effect, that requires a re-consideration of the manner in which membership to the Steering Committee is determined. Contribution of the NHRIs to NANHRI as well as capacity of individuals representing the NHRIs was established as a big factor in determining the effectiveness of the committee. As an alternative, a subcommittee on membership subscriptions or resource mobilisation can be established to bridge the gap.

b) Inducements for payment of membership dues:

- i. Percentage waivers for members who clear dues within a particular duration;
- ii. Exclusive benefits for members who have cleared their dues.

c) Sanctions of non-contribution of members to the Network.

Like any other association of peers, cooperation and contribution is a key indicator of ownership by individual members. Thus NANHRI should have a system of ensuring members who have not demonstrated commitment do not enjoy the same privileges as those who contribute. Despite the challenges members face, they must strive to ensure their presence is felt and appreciated by others.

d) Alternative modes of payments

Establish a criterion of contribution through offering services such as translation of documents to shift some of this financial burden from the Secretariat. For example, an NHRIs can contribute a service such as translation of documents equivalent to the financial resources that would have been spent on the service. This could help bring the cost of activities down and, therefore, reducing financial burden on the Secretariat.

e) Synchronise membership subscription to NANHRI with the ones for GANHRI.

An arrangement could be made between the two organisations so that payment is made concurrently by members.

f) Provide support to NHRIs in reaching out to their governments where needed:

Through the framework of collaboration between NANHRI and AUC, reach out to governments that deny support to the NHRIs in honouring their commitments.

Regarding effective communication between Members (NHRIs) and the NANHRI Secretariat:

1. Designate focal points within the NHRI Secretariat besides commission chairpersons who are the official representatives in NANHRI decision making organs. To ensure effective communication, NANHRI should ensure there is a contact person for every member through which information regarding activities and day-to-day operation can be channelled.

2. Submit periodic (annual) reports of activities of the NHRI highlighting the progress made and existing gaps. As a way of monitoring the capacities of members as well as sharing of best practices, members should regularly update NANHRI on their activities and progress. NANHRI Secretariat can develop a template for reporting.



Achievements

1. The General Assembly adopted recommendations of improving the commitment of the members in contributions. If implemented, this could reduce the financial burden on the Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat drafted terms of reference for the establishment of the Working Group on SDGs to guide the work and intervention strategies for sustainable implementation of development agendas.
3. In the support of NANHRI in the accreditation process, two NHRIs of Niger and Liberia got accreditation 'A' status. Tanzania, Cameroon and South Africa NHRIs, which were on deferral regained 'A' status.
4. The report out of the mapping exercise in six countries spearheaded by NANHRI generated information key to programme capacity for the NHRIs on the rights of children.
5. At least 67 staff benefited from the business and human rights (19), monitoring and reporting (14), human rights education (19) and economic social and cultural rights (15) blended learning. The pool of skills of the more than 20 different NHRIs, which benefited from the courses, were bolstered for the overall goal of enhancing the capacity in the specific thematic areas of focus.
6. After the Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, September 6, 2017 Maendeleo Policy Forum, the PRC pledged to mobilise states to implementing the recommendation of the state of African NHRIs report. A Committee of eight representatives was established to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations.

Challenges and innovation

1. Low contribution of the membership fees impacts the efficiency in running of the Network's activities by the Secretariat. A raft of recommendations have been suggested to improve contribution by the members both financially and in kind.
2. In bridging the financial gap, the application for funds has helped in meeting the needs of NANHRI .

Goal 2: Enhanced respect and adherence to Economic, Social, and Cultural (ECOSOC) rights

Strategic Objective 2: At least 75 per cent of African States have articulate and operational core minimum standards on realisation of Economic, social, and Cultural rights



NANHRI's 11th biennial Conference discusses human rights and development

The 12th International Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), in Mérida, Mexico in 2015, among other issues, called for regional workshops on human rights and sustainable development.

On November 8-9, 2017, the National Commission for Human rights of Rwanda hosted NANHRI's 11th Biennial Conference at the Kigali International Convention Centre.

The theme of the Conference was '*A human rights-based approach to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063- the role of NHRIs*'. The biggest outcome of the Conference was the Kigali Declaration as well as the Action Plan, which outline the way forward for the members and other human rights and development actors. The following areas were discussed:

a) Nexus between Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063



b) Role of NHRIs in monitoring and accountability

It was agreed that NHRIs must be part of the push for fulfillment of the accountability gaps in the 2030 Agenda, through human rights-centered monitoring of implementation. This includes advising and taking part in the government on its official data collection and independent monitoring.

The monitoring should be rights-centered to go beyond Goal 16 – ‘human rights goal’- which focuses on peace, good governance, access to justice among others. Besides data, monitoring can also be fulfilled through handling complaints and mediation in case of conflicting interests.

In addition, it was agreed that the NHRIs need to build synergy at national level linking the various departments working on development.

c) Role of NHRIs in enhancing development collaboration

NHRIs have a central role in bringing together the efforts of public and private development partners to spearhead a common approach in respect to the needs. Harmonised development strategies would reduce replication of projects and wastage of resources. Similarly, they need to help the

government understand its obligation to fulfill and support development, which is also a human right.

d) Role of NHRIs in data collection

At the same time, it was clear that NHRIs must be part of responsible data collection to support the initiatives of harmonised development for all at national and subregional levels. NHRIs are key in mobilising financial, technical, and human resources for timely, relevant, and usable human rights data.

Sub-regional representatives gave an overview of the status of implementation of Agenda 2030 with the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development serving as the body to track and review the implementation of SDGs at regional level.

e) Working group on SDGs established

Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was established during the Conference. Subregional representatives volunteered to take up the challenge of leading the Working Group. The working group was tasked with coming up with action points for adoption by the NANHRI members.

The Secretariat has come up with terms of reference for the Working Group.

In addition, the Working Group is required to engage bilateral and multilateral partners in



Panelists lead members of NANHRI and other stakeholders in discussing the role of NHRIs in data collection to back a human rights-based approach to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 during the 11th Biennial Conference in Kigali, Rwanda in November, 2017. Photo : Secretariat.

generating financial and technical support for its work.

The SDG Working Group will give a detailed action plan for implementation by NANHRI members at national, regional and international levels to promote a human rights-based approach to Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, in collaboration and with partners.

2. NANHRI-DIHR implement two thematic trainings

NANHRI and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) trained 19 staff from 18 NHRIs on the business and human rights blended learning between May and July 2017. The course objectives were to impart knowledge and understanding of the business and human rights field, including key standards and guidelines, actors, initiative at international, regional and national levels, the UN Paris Principles mandate of NHRIs as applied to business and human rights, and practical approaches for adoption and implementation.

Between May and June 2017, participants undertook a four-week long e-learning course, followed by a three-day face-to-face workshop in Morocco.

The aim of the course was to deepen their knowledge and skills, share experiences and lessons as well as develop action plans for implementation within their institutions. Participants were also taken through the process of the €15,000 grant application under the project.

Fifteen staff from different NHRIs also took part in another blended training on economic, social and cultural rights. The course was co-facilitated by the DIHR and Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR).

It was followed by a four-day face-to-face workshop, held in Abuja, Nigeria, from December 11-14, 2017, aimed at practically engaging the participants in the field of ECOSOC rights. The aim of the course was to enable the staff understand the core minimum standards for the realisation of the ECOSOC rights.

Fulfillment of these rights is closely linked to Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. The course also showed the learners the relationship between the ECOSOC rights and the two agendas. At the end of the workshop, applications for a €15,000 grant were called for.

NANHRI contributes to African Policy framework on business and human rights

NANHRI also contributed to the development of the African Policy Framework on business and human rights. NANHRI membership has been actively involved in this process from December 2016. The engaged consultant has as part of the assignment, convened an inception meeting with NANHRI Secretariat and three consultative meetings with including administering a questionnaire among the members for input.

As part of this continuing process, a validation workshop was organized in Addis Ababa from March 21-22, 2017. The meeting aimed at providing a platform where NHRIs and other stakeholders can review and comment on the first draft of the policy framework as well as deliberate on action plans for the popularisation and implementation of the policy framework upon adoption.

Achievements

1. The two courses offered the key skills to empower the NHRIs of the 34 staff participants in supporting the realisation of the ECOSOC and business human rights at the national level.
2. The formation of the SDG Working Group will take charge of the generation of knowledge and other resources required to track the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 through working with relevant partners.
3. The main outcome of the 11th Biennial Conference is the Kigali Declaration and Action Plan, which was adopted on November 9, 2017.
4. The outcomes of the 11th Biennial Conference defined the role of NHRIs in offering a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.
5. The establishment of the working groups would provide region-specific approaches in the thematic areas for replication across the continent.

GOAL 3: Reduction of systemic impunity in Africa, particularly violations on rule of law, and civil liberties

Strategic Objective 3: Improved governance in all African countries, particularly on the rule of law and protection of civil liberties by 2019



Hon. Justice Ben Kioko, Vice president of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), makes closing remarks on the 10th Anniversary Symposium in 2016. NANHRI seeks to help members in enforcing the decisions of the ACHPR. Photo: African Court.

Six NHRIs participate in developing guidelines on International Justice Complementarity

NANHRI, with the financial support of Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA), brought together six NHRIs in a two-day workshop for development of guidelines on International Justice Complementarity (ICJ).

The Nairobi, Kenya March 28-29, 2017 meeting was attended by the NHRIs of Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda. The International Commission of Jurists, Kenyan Chapter (ICJ-Kenya) also attended the workshop in which they brought in the CSOs perspective. The NHRIs were taken through their role in contributing to complementarity, as well as helping victims of atrocities and witnesses.

The guidelines will be shared with members for validation and adoption once they are ready.

NANHRI members commemorate Pre-trial Detention Day

The NHRIs commemorated the annual Africa Pre-Trial Detention Day of April 25. The activities included the assessment visits to remand facilities, media statements, among others. The annual day is continually being commemorated in line with the Yaoundé Declaration of African NHRIs.

NANHRI contributes to African Court decisions enforcement framework

NANHRI participated in the Validation Workshop Study on the Framework for Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement of Judgment of the African Court on human and Peoples' Rights at Arusha, Tanzania on November 25, 2017.

The workshop aimed at reviewing and validating the draft framework document with a view of revising the revision and finalisation before submission for consideration by the AU political organs. NANHRI shared the perspectives and experiences in the follow-up of decisions of the African Court.

The framework, once adopted, will serve as a critical instrument for enforcement of member State compliance with African Court decisions.

NANHRI takes part in finding solutions to youth abstinence from governance

NANHRI participated in the Expert Seminar on Africa's Democratic Dividend and Deficits co-hosted by the AU's Department of Political Affairs (AU DPA) and African Governance Architecture (AGA) in Pretoria, South Africa, on December 4-5, 2017. The seminar provided a platform for curation of experts' views and perspectives on the democratic governance trajectory on the continent, challenges and prospects.

Recommendations towards the implementation of the principles and commitments in ACDEG by State Parties were also explored. The Seminar was held in commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of African Charter on Democracy, Election and Governance (ACDEG).

NANHRI also took part in the Sixth High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance that was co-hosted by the African Union's Department of Political Affairs (AU DPA) and African Governance Architecture (AGA).

Participants explored the barriers to meaningful youth participation and representation as well as practical redress measures.

The dialogue provided a platform for sharing evidence-based knowledge, analysis and exchange of comparable lessons and experiences on enhancing meaningful youth participation in governance. The meeting was held in Pretoria, South Africa, from December 6- 8, 2017.

Achievements

The meeting of the CSOs and the six NHRIs in the International Justice Complementarity gave a new perspective on improving adherence to the rule of law and protection of civil liberties.

The development of the guidelines for the NHRIs in relation to complementarity has been finalised. The guidelines will form reference points for the rest of the NANHRI membership.

Popularising the commemoration of the Pretrial Detention is gaining pace and forming the basis of addressing the issues of detainees.

Challenges

There are no express ways the NHRIs can invoke in forcing states to implement the African Union human rights mechanisms' decisions since much depends on political will.

GOAL 4: Enhanced adaptive capacity of NHRIs in responding to emerging and thematic human rights issues

Strategic Objective 4: Enhanced adaptiveness of NHRIs in responding to emerging and thematic human rights issues by at least 50 per cent of African countries by 2019



CHRAJ Chairperson Joseph Whittal leads discussions on SOGIE during the October, 2017 face-to-face workshop in Accra, Ghana. Photo: Secretariat.

NANHRI responds to emerging human rights issues

NANHRI, in collaboration with other partners carried out various activities in tackling the following issues, which have raised human rights concerns in the recent past.

1. Trainings and workshops held on SOGIE rights

NANHRI facilitated the implementation of a blended learning course for selected African NHRIs on SOGIE and human rights with the aim of strengthening the members in responding to the emerging issues in this field. The SOGIE-related issues include violence and discrimination.

This course began with a one month online component where participating NHRIs were systematically taken through all the five online modules.

The face-to-face workshop was a build-up on the online component and provided in-depth review of the concepts. A key outcome of this meeting was the development of action plans by each NHRI for implementation.

In-country meetings were organised to oversee the implementation action plans by further sub-granting funds to members. In-country SOGIE and human rights joint meetings were held in Kenya and Uganda. The Kenya meeting was held from May 29-30, 2017 in Diani, Kwale County. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) held a stakeholder engagement on law reform and public interest litigation on SOGIE-related issues.

Ugandan Human Rights Commission (UHRC) held a staff training of trainers on SOGIE and human rights for its in-country meeting in Entebbe, Uganda, from June 21-23, 2017.

Thirty staff of Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana (CHRAJ) were trained on handling complaints, investigating violations, undertaking human rights education on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, among others.

The NANHRI-CHRAJ joint workshop held in Accra from October 3-5, 2017 preceded an online and face-to-face training.

The importance of partnership with CSOs in countering violence against LGBTI persons was

stressed to fill the gap of skills. In addition, it was recommended that the Commission appoints focal point, as well as investigate systemic issues that perpetuate stigma and other ill-treatment against LGBTI persons.

The South African Human Rights Commission and NANHRI also held a stakeholders engagement meeting in Johannesburg on SOGIE and human rights from November 29-30, 2017. The aim of the consultation was to strengthen the relationship between SAHRC, civil societies and other stakeholders in responding to SOGIE-related discrimination and violence. By the end of the meeting, SAHRC was able to:

i) Document the country's progress and persistent challenges faced by persons persecuted due to their sexual orientation and, or gender identity.

ii) Encourage a coordinated approach between government, Chapter 9 Institutions and civil society in responding to, and reducing or eliminating discrimination and hate crimes against persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

iii) Identify the main issues to be addressed in future to feed into the proposed follow-up regional seminar as well as the ongoing development of the Commission's strategy on SOGIE rights.

Thirty NHRIs convene for key population rights

NANHRI co-hosted the second regional convening for African NHRIs on key populations with Aids Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA).

The theme of 2017 meeting was "Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Key Populations".

ARASA, through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS/TB, aims at improving the legal environment that provides rights based protection through access to justice and enforcement of supportive laws for key populations and targets policy makers, parliamentarians, law enforcement officials and NHRIs. Thirty NHRIs were represented. The meeting provided a platform for other NHRIs to learn more on the SOGIE project from NHRIs from

Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Ghana.

2. NANHRI and Morocco NHRI organise side event on migration and slave trade

NANHRI, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Council of Morocco, organised a side event on Migration and Human Rights on May 7, 2017 during the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights 60th Ordinary Session in Niamey, Niger. The side event deliberated on the role of NHRIs in the process, which led to the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The Morocco NHRI, which financially supported the event, has been the lead member in the process. The discussions are expected to lead to actions geared towards enhancing the role of NHRIs in migration.

3. Meeting held on the role of NHRIs in protection of online right

NANHRI and the SAHRC co-organised a roundtable meeting on the impact of the internet on human rights from May 26-28, 2017. The meeting was organised after the ACHPR endorsed the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms as a model for states to apply in protecting human rights online.

This is especially in line with the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 20/8 of 2012, which recognised the possible violations in the usage of the internet and emphasised that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online.

The roundtable resulted in a communique affirming the need for the protection of human rights online. The Association of Progressive Communications also took part in the roundtable.

The roundtable resulted in a communique affirming the need for the protection of human rights online.

4. Seven NHRIs trained on promoting and protecting children's rights

In promoting and protecting the rights of children, seven NHRIs took part in a capacity building workshop from November 14-15, 2017 in Lusaka,

Zambia. The NHRIs included Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania.

The training came against a background of a mapping exercise of identifying NHRIs level of engagement and their needs in the promotion and protection of children's rights.

The capacity assessment and mapping exercise was undertaken between May 2016 and March 2017 through desk review, an online survey and face-to-face interviews with selected NHRIs. The training was supported by Plan International and co-hosted by the Zambian Human Rights Commission.

NANHRI is also a partner in the ongoing Pan Africa State Accountability Project aimed at strengthening institutional capacities for both NHRIs and CSOs on children rights monitoring in Africa. As part of the project progress review and planning, NANHRI took part in the partners meeting of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from August 21-24, 2017.

As a result, partners reviewed the year two and three progress in the second and third year and strategised on the way forward in enhancing the collaboration of the various actors in the implementation.

Achievements

- 1) The NHRIs were enlightened on their role in dealing with emerging issues like internet and human rights.
- 2) On SOGIE and other related areas, the discussions shed light on the black and grey thematic areas, which the NHRIs may have, thought were not within their mandate.
- 3) Some members were hesitant to participate and implement some activities like SOGIE.
- 4) The intergovernmental conference on international migration is expected to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration in 2018.

Challenges and innovation

Some emerging issues require external expertise. A number of NHRIs lack capacity in thematic areas which they have not handled before. Security agents limit access to information, hindering timely interventions. But working with CSOs on the ground leverages the knowledge and skills gap.

GOAL 5: Improved institutional visibility, efficiency and effectiveness

Strategic Objective 5: Critical Institutional systems established, and institutional efficiency and effectiveness improved in core service areas by 2019



The Secretariat meeting in August 2017 discusses the progress of the implementation of the 2017 Workplan. Photo: Secretariat.

Finance and planning of activities

The development of the 2017 Annual Work Plan and Budget was done in the first quarter. The work plan provided a roadmap for the Secretariat in prioritising, designing and implementing activities contributing to the realisation of the goals and objectives of the 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan.

The 2016 Annual Report was developed, capturing all the activities implemented by the Secretariat and the achievements. Auditing for the 2016 financial year ending December 31 was conducted between January and February 2017. The audit report was shared and approved by the General Assembly in March 2017.

The Secretariat developed and submitted a proposal in response to the European Commission call on “Capacity Strengthening for Effective Monitoring of State Actions for the Prevention of Torture and Other Ill-treatment.

During the second quarter of 2017, three fund-raising proposals were developed and submitted—two to the EU and one to the Open Society Human Rights Initiative. The latter proposal was successful and a grant agreement of USD 100,000 was signed.

The Secretariat also obtained support from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law for inception activities under the Regional Africa Programme.

The inception phase will culminate into the development of the main phase of the program. During the year, the Secretariat also obtained funds from Open Society Justice Initiative to support in country consultative meetings on the implementation of the decisions of the African Commission in two pilot countries. The Secretariat also partnered with other likeminded organisations for a joint project on the African Human Rights System. The project is awaiting funding from prospective donors.

EAC report on the role of NHRIs in conflict resolution published

The comprehensive report on the implementation of the Three Year Action Plan on Conflict Management, Resolution and Peace Building for the EAC NHRIs was published. This report was a key output of 2016’s meeting for EAC NHRIs where the Network evaluated the progress on the implementation of the Three Year Action Plan (2014-2016) by each of the five NHRIs.

The report highlights human rights and conflict in the EAC and shares lessons learnt, best practices and challenges encountered by NHRIs.

The report is available for sharing with the members for learning lessons.

The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict Resolution, Management and Peace-building



A report of the implementation of the Three-year Action Plan by the East African Community National Human Rights Institutions

Strengthening the Secretariat

The Secretariat implements the decisions of the General Assembly and other organs of NANHRI. It comprises the Executive Director, the Operations Manager, the Finance Officer, two programmes officers, the Office Administrator, the Communications Officer as well as an intern.

In improving the capacity of the NANHRI, the Secretariat staff was taken through a midterm assessment of the Strategic Plan of the Network. The assessment is in line with the GANHRI.EU Project, coordinated by the DIHR.

The Secretariat hired a Communications Officer, who reported on July 12, 2017 to support effective, creative and professional communication with NANHRI's audience.

Branded materials distributed, social media presence increased for visibility

In increasing the visibility of the Network and its activities, branded materials- notebooks, flash disks, banners, among others - were issued to participants of the General Assembly, 11th Biennial Conference and 10th Anniversary in Kigali, Rwanda, from November 7-9, 2017.

The materials were designed in-house. The preparations for this conference spanned through the three preceding quarters. Besides the video documentary, which tracked the Network's' activities for the last 10 years, a commemorative bulletin was also published with the financial support of CNDH, Morocco.

Photographs were shared instantly from the conference, creating a buzz on social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter.

Achievements

With the delegation to the communication department, the website and social media pages are constantly updated.

Articles based on the activities of the Network were published online as well as in the quarterly newsletters of April, July, October and December. The website is among the 14,000 web pages attracting huge traffic in Kenya. This is a 50 per cent improvement from previous years.

NANHRI was among the top trends on social media in Rwanda during the 11th Biennial Conference. For the three days of the General Assembly and the Conference, dialogue with other human rights actors and other audience rose by more than 1000 per cent. For instance NANHRI Twitter impressions rose from 220 daily to an average of 11,500 on the second and third day of the Conference.

With the 10th Anniversary documentary and bulletin, notebooks, flash disks and other branded materials, the NANHRI showcased its scope of work over the past 10 years to the participants of the Kigali Conference.

High quality photos were captured. The photos were not only key in enhancing social media activities, but also in lasting memories for the archives of the institution.

Challenges

There is limited capacity of the Secretariat, moreso with regards to the French section of the website. The gradual training of the staff of the Secretariat, however, is expected to alleviate this challenge.

Conclusion

The activities, and achievements captured in this report are a reflection of the commitment, efforts and dynamism of the NANHRI's Secretariat, members and partners. The joint efforts have ensured that the planning and execution of activities is achieved in spite of the challenges and escalating demands and changing human rights landscape compounded by emerging issues.

To surmount these challenges, there is need for cooperation, collaboration and unified approach from all human rights actors.

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS


STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

		2017	2017	2016	2016
Income	Note	KES	USD	KES	USD
Member contributions		16,400,000	160,973	16,486,669	164,014
Grants and donations	8	78,875,517	774,196	43,249,510	430,258
Other income	9	5,421,507	53,214	3,041,356	30,256
Total income		100,697,024	988,383	62,777,535	624,528
Expenditure					
Administrative expenditure	10	30,661,430	300,955	26,074,788	259,397
Program expenditure	11	40,715,305	399,639	17,859,274	177,669
Total expenditure		71,376,735	700,594	43,934,062	437,066
Balance for the year		29,320,289	287,789	18,843,473	187,462

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - DECEMBER 31, 2017

		2017	2017	2016 (Restated)	2016 (Restated)
Non-current assets	Note	KES	USD	KES	USD
Property and equipment	4	674,127	6,531	429,045	4,268
Total non-current assets		674,127	6,531	429,045	4,268
Current assets					
Accounts receivable	5	55,913,883	541,634	46,678,893	464,374
cash and cash equivalents	6	49,085,257	475,487	26,832,145	266,935
Total current assets		104,999,140	1,017,121	73,511,038	731,309
Less: Current liabilities					
Accounts payable	7	6,210,282	60,159	3,797,387	37,777
Net current assets		98,788,858	956,962	69,713,651	693,532
Net assets		99,462,985	963,493	70,142,696	697,800
Represented by:					
General fund		97,428,825	943,788	68,353,618	680,000
Capital fund		674,127	6,531	429,045	4,268
Restricted fund		1,360,033	13,174	1,360,033	13,532
Fund balance		99,462,985	963,493	70,142,696	697,800

These financial statements were approved by the Steering Committee on _____ 2018 and signed by:-


 Mr. Gilbert Sebihogo, Executive Director


 Ms. Madeleine Nirere (Chairperson, Steering Committee)



NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

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