



Press release on the 12th Biennial Conference of Network of African National Human Rights Institutions in Cairo, Egypt, on implementation of the Global Compact for Migration

For Immediate release

November 5, 2019 - Cairo, Egypt:

More than 100 hundred participants from the African National Human Rights Institutions, regional and international governmental, non-governmental organisations and academia are meeting today in Cairo, Egypt, for the Network of African National Human Rights Institution's (NANHRI) 12th Biennial Conference to discuss how national human rights institution (NHRIs) in Africa can support States and non-state actors in implementing the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)¹.

The November 5-6, 2019 meeting, which is co-organised by and the national Council of Human Rights Institutions of Egypt (NCHR), brings together representatives from more than 42 African NHRIs, civil society organisations, experts from national, regional, international bodies working on migration.

The Biennial Conference will focus on exiting gaps, challenges and opportunities for the NHRIs in research and collection of data to inform short, middle and long term responses to make migration safe, orderly and regular as envisioned by the GCM, which was adopted in 2018 by more than 160 Member states of the United Nations in Marrakech, Morocco, on December 10, 2019.

More specifically, the participants will explore the use of research and data to inform short term and long term programmatic and policy interventions at national, regional and international levels.

In addition to inclusion in the NHRI's day to day work, the interventions, which are majorly economic, social and cultural, can be included in the short term and long term national action plans for progressively addressing the causes of the migration within and beyond the continent.

¹ <https://bit.ly/2JLuqUj>

Besides, the meeting is a platform the NHRIs to learning from the work their counterparts as well as identifying other partners to work with in addressing human rights violations along the migration corridors and host communities.

Some immediate responses the NHRIs look forward to include working together in monitoring detention camps and joint cross-border operations with security officers, investigation of suspected human trafficking rackets and violations, repatriations and reintegration of migrants, among others.

Further, the meeting seeks to reinforce borrowing best practices and identifying effective ways of coordinated responses, collaboration cooperation between and among the state and non-state actors for an effective and enhanced human rights-based approach to the implementation of the GCM at national, regional and international levels.

Out of the Conference, an action plan will be adopted by the NHRIs, upon which they are expected to base their work in tackling migration.

At regional level, the work of the NHRIs will be led by the NANHRI Working Group on Migration, which was established in 2018, with one representative from each of the five subregions of the Network of African NHRIs.

More than 160 UN Member States adopted the GCM on December 10, 2018, which was coincidentally the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² with the aim of making intra-continent and inter-continent movement of people orderly and regular, and most importantly sustainable for them to contribute to economic, social and cultural development of the countries of origin³ and hosts⁴.

The political commitment from the UN happened against reports of higher movement within Africa than to other continents, and calls for reintegration and easing movement through a pan African passport⁵ and trade through the African Continental Free Trade Agreement⁶ in Kigali, Rwanda, in March 2018.

The Biennial Conference has been supported by the European Union through the GIZ, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Organisation on Migration.

² <https://bit.ly/36xLdEq>

³ <https://bit.ly/34nbMdt>

⁴ <https://bit.ly/2JKd1eQ>

⁵ <https://bit.ly/2WBzn7s>

⁶ <https://bit.ly/34rBgGI>

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