



Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)

2019 Annual Report

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The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions

2nd Floor, CVS Plaza, Lenana Road

P.O Box 74359-00200

Nairobi-Kenya.

Website: www.nanhri.org

Email: info@nanhri.org

Twitter: @NANHRI40

Facebook: Network of African National Human Rights Institutions.

Editing and Layout: Robert Breen Laban

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

**2019
Annual Report**

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 46 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

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List of abbreviations

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AfCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
APCOF	African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum
AUC	African Union Commission
BHR	Business and Human Rights
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DIHR	Danish Institute for Human Rights
ITGNC	Intersex, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
LGB	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual
NANHRI	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSJI	Open Society Justice Initiative
RWI	Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SOGIE	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression
SCA	Sub-Committee on Accreditation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Message from the Chairperson



On behalf of the Steering Committee of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) I present to you the Annual Report, 2019. The activities implemented in 2019 aimed at increasing the capacity of African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to not only respond to traditional human rights issues, but also to the emerging ones.

One of such issues is the rise of terrorism on the continent. This phenomenon has led to limited access to other critical rights, among which health, as infrastructures were destroyed. Furthermore, people have been turned into internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants.

Efforts have been exerted to curb radicalisation, which has claimed, over the last two decades, thousands of lives across the continent and the globe. Terror activities have escalated while Africa is looking forward to silencing the guns by 2020. Interventions by States to end armed conflicts, in all their forms, have been majorly military, which has in most cases worsened the situation. While we take cognizance of the fact that the responses are based on the diverse contexts of each country, I call on the African NHRIs to progressively and decisively work with national and international partners in collecting and updating data on the underlying issues. This will help in developing and institute programmes towards solving the contentious matters. It may seem to be a long-term approach as opposed to the military interventions, but it is worthwhile since such data-based work takes into account the root causes of conflicts.

Similarly, migration within and beyond Africa, has also been an issue of concern when the world is rushing to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). This is why we held our 12th Biennial Conference in Cairo, Egypt, on the implementation of the GCM. Migration has been driven by, among other reasons, economic, social and cultural inequalities. It is a cross-border issue, which requires multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaboration

in tackling. More importantly, a human rights-based approach by the NHRIs, in partnership with other actors, is key to lasting solutions to migration, internal displacement and refugees in Africa.

In spite of NHRIs are critical in contributing sustainably to the above, some of them are underfunded, face intimidation and interference in their work, among other constraints.

I call on States and other national and international actors to support implementation of the Marrakech Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which was adopted by the 13th Triennial Conference of Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in 2018. I also call upon the NHRIs to effectively play their advisory role to enable States to deliver on their human rights obligations.

At the Network of African NHRIs, we are ready to support our members in working with national, regional and international actors in order to have Africa where human rights are respected, promoted and protected.

To this end, I thank the Members, the Steering Committee, the Secretariat and partners who ensured a successful 2019. We look forward to your further support in 2020 and beyond.

Mr. Mohamed Fayek

Chairperson, NANHRI.

Message of the Executive Director



The Year 2019 was an eventful year for the Network of African NHRIs. It was also the year we hosted our biggest event, the November 5-6, 2019 NANHRI 12th Biennial Conference in Egypt, where we adopted the Cairo, Declaration. The Declaration aims to help our members contribute meaningfully and effectively to implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

A day before the Biennial Conference, the General Assembly adopted the Action Plan of the NANHRI Working Group on Migration, which is chaired by the National

Human Rights Council of Morocco.

Through this Working Group on Migration, we look forward to the key contributions of the African NHRIs to the rights of migrants and most importantly, making the process sustainable through a human rights-based approach.

In the same year, the Secretariat implemented a number of activities as outlined by the Annual Work Plan, based on the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan. Outcomes, and results have been outlined in this report.

With the extension of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for one year- to allow for further consultations on the new plan- challenges and opportunities have been identified from the experience. Lessons and good practices have also been picked to inform the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, which will be developed in 2020.

We shall make it highly consultative among our members and partners to ensure that the outcome document responds to the needs of our expanding membership, and will be a tool for cultivation of a human rights culture on the content through our members at national level.

On behalf of the Secretariat, I thank the Steering Committee and the General Assembly for the unwavering support over the last year. We shall continue supporting the members as per our mandate.

Mr Gilbert Sebihogo

Executive Director, NANHRI

Introduction

In 2015, the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) committed to work on five priority areas identified by members and solidified in the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan. Through the Nairobi-based Secretariat, project-based activities have been implemented yearly. Implementation has been guided by the annual work plan which the Steering Committee (SC) and the General Assembly (GA) adopted.

This report, therefore, gives an account of the activities implemented by the Secretariat from January to December 2019 as per the annual work plan as per the following priority areas:

Goal 1: Strengthening of NHRIs;

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

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

Strategic Objective 2: At least 75% of African States have articulate and operational core minimum standards on realization of Economic, social, and Cultural rights.

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 rule of law and protection of civil liberties by 2019 (All African Countries by at least 50%.

Goal 4: Enhanced adaptive capacity of NHRIs to respond to emerging and thematic HR issues:

Strategic Objective 4: Enhanced adaptability of NHRIs in responding to emerging and thematic human rights issues by at least 50% of NHRIs by 2019.

Goal 5: Improved institutional visibility, efficiency and effectiveness of the NANHRI Secretariat:

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

Goal 1: Strengthening of 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



Members of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions display Certificates of Accreditation after the March, 2019 Session in Geneva, Switzerland. Photo: Secretariat.

a) NANHRI Supports three members to obtain/ maintain full-compliance accreditation status

Three members of the Network of Africa National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) received 'A' status certificates for full compliance with the Paris Principles from the Subcommittee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) after the March 2019 Session.

The *Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme du Madagascar*, which was seeking accreditation for the first time, received 'A' status while the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana and the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt were reaccredited with the full compliance status.

NANHRI helped the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt in preparation and submission of documents for the special review by the SCA in March, 2019 in a meeting held in Cairo on February 6-8, 2019.

NANHRI also conducted a capacity building workshop of the newly appointed members of the *Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme de Côte d'Ivoire* (CNDH-CI) held in Abidjan, on May 7-9, 2019.

The workshop aimed at deepening the understanding of the roles of the members and staff in effectively promoting, protecting and advocating for human rights as per the institution's mandate. The methodology of the workshop involved peer learning sharing of experiences and good practices on the protection and promotion of human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles. Operational and procedural aspects and functioning of an NHRI, including the CNDH-CI, were also addressed.

b) Two NHRIs submit accreditation documents to the Subcommittee on Accreditation after NANHRI's support

The CNDH-CI and *Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme de Mauritanie* (CNDH) filed their applications for accreditation and re-accreditation respectively to the SCA in the March 16-20, 2020 session.

NANHRI offered technical support to the CNDH of Côte d'Ivoire and the CNDH of Mauritania in filling the Statement of Compliance to the Paris Principles and filing the documents as required by the SCA for evaluation on compliance with the Paris Principles in preparation for the accreditation.

The workshop for the CNDH-CI took place on November 18-22, 2019 while CNDH happened on November 25-29, 2019. The CNDH-CI was seeking accreditation following its reconstitution in line with the reviewed establishing law.

Further to the Mauritania mission, a meeting with the CSOs reignited a collaboration between the NHRI and the CSOs, leading to a renewed commitment to work together in identified areas on protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

c) NANHRI-DIHR Capacity Assessment report recommends how to strengthen Ethiopian Human Rights Commission



A team drawn from NANHRI, DIHR and a consultant carry out a capacity assessment on the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission on December 2-13, 2019. Photo: Secretariat.

The Network of African NHRIs and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) made a raft of recommendations on strengthening the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) based on a capacity assessment held at the Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on December 2-13, 2019.

Following the analysis of the institution, it was recommended that the EHRC prioritises the structural and organisational adjustments in various identified areas. This would make the institution more effective through well-coordinated interdepartmental execution of its human rights mandate of promotion, protection and advocacy as per the Paris Principles.

The capacity gaps assessment exercise done at the headquarters and regional offices of the Commission also provided lessons on the experiences of NHRIs in the context of a federal state.

d) NANHRI supports the capacity building of commissioners of the NHRIs of Republic of Congo Brazzaville and Gambia in collaboration with partners



Opening ceremony of the capacity building of the commissioners of the Commission Nationale des droits de l'Homme du Congo Brazzaville on August 26-30, 2019. Photo: Secretariat.

The *Commission Nationale des droits de l'Homme du République du Congo* (CNDH) has proposed an amendment to the establishing law to make it more efficient following a capacity building workshop jointly organised by NANHRI, the African Union Commission and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) in Brazzaville, on August 26-30, 2019.

Through a critical evaluation of the establishing law, the 60 Commissioners appreciated the technical challenges presented by the law which puts in place such a high number of officials at the decision-making level of the institution, paving the way for inefficiency in service delivery.

In addition to strategic planning on thematic areas, monitoring techniques and reporting on human rights, the participants were taken through utilisation of national, regional and international

human rights instruments to achieving the institutional mandate.

The Chairperson of the *Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme* of the Democratic Republic of Congo, an 'A' status NHRI in the sub-region, joined the team to share good practices on effective execution of the mandate of the CNDH.

In yet another collaboration of NANHRI, AUC and IDEA, the three institutions jointly organised and facilitated a leadership and orientation workshop for the Commissioners of the Gambia National Human Rights Commission (GNHRC) in Banjul on September 10-12, 2019.

In addition to development of effective internal systems and knowledge management, the Commissioners were taken through strategic planning and resource mobilisation for the realisation of the mandate of the Commission through programmatic activities. In this regard, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) Chief Executive Officer shared best practices in strategic planning. GNHRC is the newest NHRI in Africa, established in February 2019.



A group photo of the leadership orientation workshop for the National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia, in Banjul. Photo: Secretariat.

e) Third Policy Forum on the State of NHRIs in Africa develops declaration and action plan on NHRIs' contribution to durable solutions on forced displacements



AUC-NANHRI Third Policy Forum on ending forced displacements in Africa. The meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on November 5-6, 2019. Insert is NANHRI Executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo delivering his opening remarks. Photo: Secretariat.

African NHRIs developed a joint declaration and action plan with African Union, on NHRIs' contribution to durable solutions on forced displacements in Africa. The declaration and action plan was developed at the Third Policy Forum on State of NHRIs in Africa was held on September 5-6, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

More than 100 participants and experts drawn from NHRIs, AU organs, CSOs, academia and international partners, took part in the 2019 Policy Forum in which focused on: NHRIs' contribution to durable solutions on forced displacements in Africa. This was based on the AU's theme of the year 2019: "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa".

The two-day conference comprised presentations, plenary discussions and sub-regional breakout sessions related to central themes structured to foster discussion between the participants. These major thematic areas were the common trends, statistical data and kinds of displacements in Africa, impact of displacement on Africa's agenda, lessons from migrants' contributions to economic development, formulating strategies to better manage displacement, partnership for enhanced NHRIs contribution to durable solutions on displacement and the AU-UN joint framework on human rights.

As a result of the deliberations, participants developed a joint AUC-NANHRI Action Plan on the role of NHRIs in durable solutions to displacements in



NANHRI Executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo delivering his opening remarks during the AUC-NANHRI Third Policy Forum. Photo: Secretariat.

Africa. The action plan to guide actions of NHRIs and other actors in dealing with forced displacements in Africa. The Action Plan was subsequently adopted by the NANHRI General Assembly held on November 4, 2019 in Cairo, Egypt.

f) National actors on implementation of decisions of regional human rights bodies share experiences and progress at the NANHRI Exchange Forum

At least 60 national actors, drawn from African NHRIs, government officers, CSOs and the Members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, took part in an exchange of experiences and good practices in the implementation of decisions of regional human rights bodies. The Forum was held in Banjul, the Gambia on October 19-20, 2019 at the margins of the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

The Forum involved an exchange of information and experiences, on the progress and challenges in the implementation of selected decisions of the African Commission, in Cameroon,

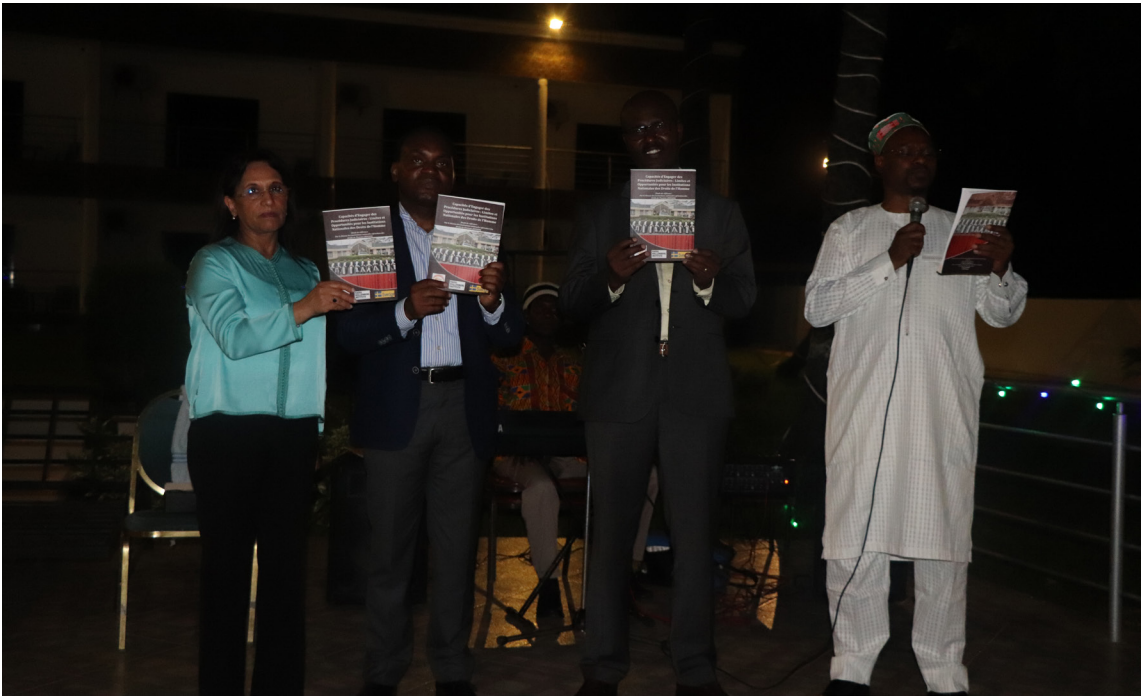
Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zimbabwe. A raft of recommendations were made to the respective national actors (NHRIs, governments and CSOs) to accelerate the progress of implementation of the decisions discussed.

Participants learnt from other countries’ practices and got to appreciate available opportunities for NHRIs intervention. The Forum also served to strengthen the collaboration of stakeholders in the follow-up of implementation of decisions of the African Commission to enhance access to justice.

g) NANHRI launches Baseline Study Report on Litigation Capacities, Gaps and Opportunities for NHRIs in relation to implementation of decisions of regional human rights bodies

The Study, which focuses on five African NHRIs, considers the national level litigation activities that NHRIs can undertake to monitor or encourage compliance by the State with the findings of the African human rights bodies. It also analyses the litigation opportunities for NHRIs at the regional level and explores the reasons why they have not used these avenues before the African bodies as well as amicus and other interventions.

The Report was launched by the President of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, at the margins of the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in Banjul, The Gambia.



National Human Rights Council of Morocco Chairperson Amina Bouayach (from left) Justice Sylvain Oré, President of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, NANHRI Executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo and the master of ceremony display the Litigation Capacity Report during its launch in the Gambia. Photo: Secretariat.

h) NANHRI, IGAD co-train IGAD NHRIs on African Human Rights instruments

Thirty-five human rights experts drawn from the African National Human Rights Institutions in the Intergovernmental Authority of Development (IGAD) region gained skills on implementing outcomes of the regional human rights mechanisms after a joint training of NANHRI and the subregional agency on September 24-26, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The training focused on the regional human rights mechanisms and ways of engagement with the institutions. In

particular, the discussion revolved on coordination areas among the African Regional Human Rights mechanisms, the NHRIs and IGAD Secretariat in the implementations of the African Regional Human Rights Instruments.

Best practices were also shared with the aim of strengthening further the staffs' skills on complementarity. The workshop culminated in the adoption of an action plan for the strengthening of the capacities of NHRIs in the IGAD region. The action plan includes recommendations to the IGAD members states and NHRIs, IGAD secretariat, NANHRI and the AUC.

Outcomes

From the technical support workshops, the NHRIs of Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania submitted documents for the accreditation and reaccreditation respectively to the Secretariat of the Sub Committee on Accreditation for consideration in March 2020.

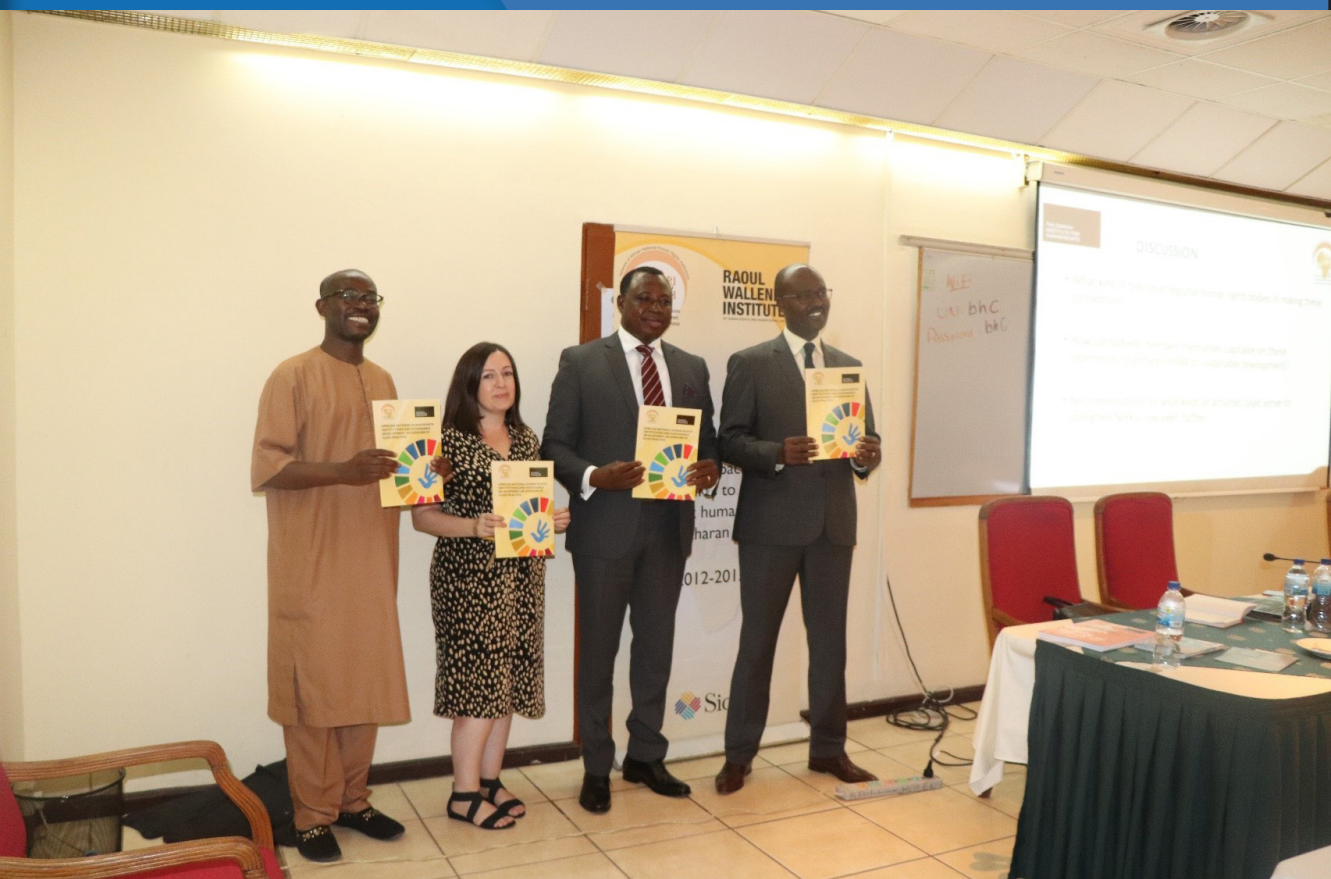
Results

1. The capacity assessment of the EHRC gave recommendations on how to make the institution more independent autonomous and strong on internal technical capacity for effective delivery of service.
2. There was enhanced understanding of the role of each of the institutions in the NHRIs Forum on implementation of decisions of regional human rights bodies learnt
3. Good practices on the implementation of the decisions of the regional human rights instruments were learnt during the NHRIs Forum.
4. The NHRIs Forum also served to strengthen the collaboration of stakeholders in the follow-up of implementation of decisions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
5. The Banjul meeting also provided an opportunity for follow-up actions at the national levels created opportunities for actors to follow up on implementation of regional commitments at national level.
6. Out of the workshop of the CNDH-CI, the Commissioners understood their role at the institution as well as outlined by the establish law and the Paris Principles.
7. After a critical analysis of the establishing law, the commissioners of the CNDH of Congo Brazzaville identified the weaknesses, which have been impeding effectiveness in delivery of service. The Commission has drawn a draft Bill seeking to review the law to ensure efficiency and effectiveness as envisioned by the Paris Principles.
8. Following the workshop of the GNCHR, the Commissioners learnt leadership, resource mobilisation and strategic planning skills.

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

Strategic Objective 2:

At least 75% of African States have articulate and operational core minimum standards on realization of Economic, social, and Cultural rights.



NANHRI Executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo (from right), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice Commissioner Joseph Whittal, DIHR Strategic Advisor Francesca Thornberry and Pan African Lawyers Union CEO Donald Deya during the launch of the SDGs Report on October 20, 2019. Photo: Secretariat.

a) NANHRI Working Group on SDGs and Agenda 2063 develops its annual work plan



NANHRI Working group on SDGs meets in Nairobi, Kenya, on January 24-25, 2019 to develop the Annual Workplan for 2019. Photo: Secretariat.

The NANHRI working Group on Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa’s Agenda 2063 held its first physical meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, January 24-25, 2019 and developed the work plan for the year 2019. The work plan which included the documentation of good practices and lessons learnt from African NHRIs in promoting a human rights-based approach to the implementation of two development agendas, among other actions, included cooperation with the GANHRI Working Group on SDGs in ensuring that African NHRIs improve their engagements with the SDGs processes.

b) NANHRI Working Group on SDGs holds review meeting, launches report

The NANHRI Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) launched a report on good practices in the implementation of global Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 of the African Union on October 19-20, 2019.

The publication, *African National Human Right Institutions and Sustainable Development: An Overview of Good Practice* provided guidance to NHRIs, based on

documentation of good practices and lessons learned, to enable them to engage more effectively and support a human rights-based approach and act as key accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs.

It entails African NHRIs engagements in the promotion of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of SDGs. The publication was part of the Working Group's actions aimed at providing "guidance and capacity building for NHRIs on how to anchor a human rights-based approach to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs".

The publication was launched on October 20, 2019 in Banjul the Gambia at the margins of the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

During the meeting, at least 80 copies were distributed to NHRIs, regional human rights bodies, states and civil society representatives.

c) NANHRI Working Group on SDGs participates in the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, holds a side event at the margins

As part of the 2019 activities, the Working Group representatives participated in the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in April 16-18, 2019 in Marrakech, Morocco. Together with other participants, key messages were developed as a result of the Forum which were forwarded to the 2019 High Level Political Forum.

In addition to the participation at the Forum, the Working Group also organised a side event on SDGs and human rights at the margins of the Fifth Africa Regional Sustainable Development Forum. In addition to interactive questions, a presentation of DIHR and OHCHR's online tools for integrated SDGs and Human rights was made.

d) NANHRI Working Group publishes a Guiding Paper to assist States and NHRIs in the Voluntary National Review

NANHRI Working Group prepared a Guiding Paper to assist States and NHRIs in participate in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of SDGs.

The Guiding paper provides potential avenues for NHRIs' engagement in the VNR process with a view of ensuring that human rights are adequately reflected and challenges addressed. It also highlights the advisory role of NHRIs in accordance with the Paris Principles and the Merida Declaration in the preparation of VNRs and encourages them to present their parallel report on the implementation of the SDGs in their respective countries.

e) NANHRI takes part in the 14th CSOs Forum on Child Rights



NHRIs-CSOs meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Child Rights in March, 2019. Photo: Secretariat.

At least 100 participants drawn from the African NHRIs and CSOs meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 15-17, 2019 developed a statement for delivery during the 33rd African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The ACRWC took place on March 18-28, 2019 at the AUC.

The statement was an outcome of the 14th Civil Society Organisation Forum on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), in which members of the Network of African NHRIs also took part as they sought strengthen collaboration with CSOs in holding governments accountable on promoting and protecting the rights of the child.

Further, the participants discussed ways of planning, monitoring and advocating for the rights of the child to national regional and international standards.

NHRI representatives also took part in a one day consultative workshop with child rights actors to validate and review the draft ACERWC Complaints Mechanisms toolkit and ACERWC Child Participation Guidelines.

Results:

1. The NANHRI Working Group on SDGs developed and adopted a work plan for the year 2019
2. The Working Group on SDGs developed a publication, African NHRIs and sustainable development: An overview of good practice.
3. The Working Group also developed and published a Working Paper to assist States in participation in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of SDGs.
4. A statement for submission to the 33rd ACERWC Ordinary session on March 18-28, 2019, at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa was developed out of the NHRIs-CSOs meeting.

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
rule of law and protection of civil liberties by 2019 (All African
Countries by at least 50%).*



A prisoner prepares a meal for others in Machakos Medium Security Prison on April 25, 2019. The Network of African NHRIs and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights inspected the male and female sections of the facility in commemoration of the Africa Pretrial Detention Day. Photo

a) Five emerging issues identified out of the NANHRI Decriminalisation of Petty Offences Project Review Meeting

Five NHRIs taking part in the NANHRI's Decriminalisation of Petty Offences identified five emerging issues out of the phase one of the project during a review meeting held in Banjul, the Gambia, on October 18, 2019 on the sidelines of the 65th Session of the ACHPR.

The consultation evaluated the progress made in the implementation of the project on decriminalisation of petty offences by the five NHRIs, share experiences, challenges, lessons and the recommendations.

The emerging issues:

- In South Africa the national police service and metro police (who are tasked with by-law enforcement) cannot issue spot fines for “petty offences”. This dictates that a different strategy be used in advocating for decriminalisation of petty offences.
- In South Africa the state is not yet in a position to decriminalize petty offences. From discussions held between the SAHRC and the DDG Legislative development is interested in decriminalisation- but require evidence to support policy review (that is, link petty offences to overcrowding) remand detainee population increases. However, data from the correction facilities does not classify remand population according to offence, thus the department cannot review policies until evidence is provided.
- Petty offences are linked to socio-economic issues, as such, the improvement of lives of the marginalized cannot be separated from the prevalence of petty offences. Therefore, an integrated societal approach is required.
- In Kenya the involvement of the 47 county governments is key towards enhancing awareness of the need to decriminalize petty offences.
- A re-evaluation of the existing legal architecture and enforcement apparatus is a necessity in order to articulate issues, concerns and strategies for designing the road ahead.

b) The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) admits NANHRI-PALU filing for advisory opinion on decriminalisation of petty offences

The Network of African NHRIs compiled a report on overcrowding in prisons from NHRIs and state reports to Human Rights Council Working Group on Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The report built a case for NANHRI's filing for amicus curiae filed on March 1, 2019 in support of the Pan African Lawyers Union's (PALU) advisory opinion before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR). The ACtHPR admitted NANHRIs pleading in support of PALU's Advisory Opinion.

c) NANHRI and CHRAJ hold national consultations on Decriminalisation of Petty offences in Ghana

State and non-state actors developed an action plan for the decriminalisation of petty offences in Ghana following a national consultation convened by the Network of African NHRIs and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Ghana, on April 17-18, 2019.

The national plan of action was developed out of the discussions of the State and non-state actors, working in the human rights and criminal justice sector on the status of the petty offences in Ghana.

A prison visit to the Nsawam facility to assess the state of petty offenders and conditions of detention took place on April 18, 2019.



d) NANHRI and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights inspect Machakos Prison



NANHRI and KNCHR inspect Machakos Medium Security Prison in commemoration of Africa Pretrial Detention Day on April 25, 2019. This facility which was designed for 10 people holding more than 50 pre-trial detainees on the day of the visit. Insert is a chart with a breakdown of numbers of those locked up in the facility. Photo: Secretariat.

On April 25, 2019, the NANHRI and the KNCHR visited Machakos Medium Security Prison on April 25, 2019 in commemoration of the Africa Pre-trial Detention Day.

The objectives of the visit were to establish the condition of pre-trial detainees in the male and female prisons to inspect the condition of the facilities and create awareness to petty offenders on their rights.

Findings:

1. Petty offenders are not aware of their rights; they lack access to legal services.
2. Overcrowding is a major issue, especially in the male facility. A detention room suitable for about 10 people with beds had more than 50 pretrial detainees with insufficient bedding strewn on the floor.
3. Food portions were smaller than the globally recommended daily rations per inmate. However, kitchen and food stores were clean.
4. The detainees have access to health services within the facilities, and in cases of severity, referral to higher hospitals is done. Seclusion rooms for those suffering from communicable diseases like tuberculosis are available.

e) NANHRI, KNCHR and criminal justice system stakeholders in Kenya hold workshop on decriminalisation of petty offences

National human rights actors in the justice system in Kenya issued a communique with a raft of actions for decriminalising petty offences in Kenya in an in-country stakeholders meeting convened by the Network of African NHRIs and the KNCHR on May 21, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Representatives of the police the judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, civil society organisations and former convicts of petty offences made presentations and shared experiences on this topic, which informed the actions in the sector-specific communique.

Among other issues, it was clear that progress is being made in reforming the criminal justice system with regard to decriminalisation of hawking, being a public nuisance, loitering, acting indecently in public, among other offences.

One of such is the joint effort of the KNCHR and other stakeholders towards the recently published Police Bail and Bond for petty offences, which is aimed at reducing congestion in prisons by one being released without bail, bond or surety and only be required to attend court.

f) NANHRI and Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme du Côte d'Ivoire hold decriminalisation of petty offences in-country workshop

i) Workshop develops action plan on fixing gaps in the implementation of the ACHPR Principles on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences.



NANHRI and the Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme de la Côte d'Ivoire organised a workshop on decriminalisation of petty offences on July 17, 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Photo: Secretariat.

At least 28 participants drawn from the Network of African NHRIs, *Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme de la Côte d'Ivoire*, CSOs and the government developed a joint action plan for the implementation of the Principles of the ACHPR on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences on July 17, 2019.

The action plan, among other issues, outlined activities of raising awareness among the law enforcement agencies on the ACHPR Principles, and the observing the law, since the country decriminalised all petty offences from the Penal Code except begging as of June 26, 2019.

Raising awareness will in particular target the public, criminal justice system officials such as the police and court officers on the decriminalisation as well as alternative punishment for minor offences.

At the same time, the participants committed to working together in decriminalising begging, which may be abused by the police and other judicial officers to violate the rights of vulnerable groups, especially the poor.

ii) NANHRI, CNDH-CI inspect MACA Prison

On July 18, 2019, the NANHRI staff joined the CNDH-CI in visiting the Maison D'arrêt et de Correction d'Abidjan (MACA) in the Municipality of Yopougon for inspection.

As of the day of inspection, there were 4,468 inmates in the facility designed to hold 2,068 as per the data of July 17, 2019. The Women Prison, whose recommended capacity is 110 had 98 inmates as per the statistics of July 17, 2019. Four children below one year accompanying their mothers were counted.

Food served in the two facilities is balanced in diet. The sanatorium is well equipped with even quarantine facilities for communicable diseases like tuberculosis. Cases which cannot be handled within the facility are referred to higher hospitals.



First photo: A security officer shuts the entrance to MACA prison on July 18, 2019. Second photo: a young woman vends fruits in the streets of Abijan, Côte d'Ivoire, on July 17, 2019. The country decriminalised petty offences, including hawking, which is criminal in most countries in Africa. Photo: Secretariat.

g) NANHRI and Malawi Human rights Commission host National Consultation meeting on decriminalisation of petty offences

i) Workshop



A family photo of the participants of the Malawi incountry workshop on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences on August 1, 2019 , Lilongwe. Photo Secretariat.

At least 45 participants drawn from state and non-state agencies took part in the national consultation meeting on decriminalisation of petty offences in Lilongwe, Malawi, on August 1-2, 2019.

The consultation increased dialogue at the national level on the importance of decriminalisation of petty offences. Furthermore, it enhanced collaboration among NHRI, state actors in the criminal justice system and civil society organisations in the exploration of alternative ways of dealing with petty offences.

ii) Visit to Maula Prison

Participants visited Maula Prison on August 2, 2019 for inspection. They were, however, barred from accessing section of the facility for inspection and interaction with the prisoners and remandees over claims of insecurity.

They were only received by the Legal Counsel of the Malawi Prisons Services (MPS), Assistant Commissioner Bazirial Chapuwala.

He said the institution has several programmes and activities that relate to inmates convicted or remanded of petty offences. For instance, in 2016, MPS released 400 inmates, who were incarcerated for failure to pay fines – a petty offence- in accordance with the law. The release decongested prisons. Further, he added that the institution is planning of implementing a parole program to further ease congestions in prisons.

The prison officials stated that some challenges that MPS face include:

- Overcrowding: the prison accommodates more inmates than its holding capacity. For this reason, convicts and remandees as well as serious and minor offenders are accommodated together in cells in some instances.
- They also mentioned that the prison has a large number of remandees due to delayed justice.
- Financial constraints: The facility does not always receive enough funding to provide for the inmates.
- Inadequate lawyers: MPS does not have adequate lawyers and there is a deliberate policy to train lawyers and paralegals to assist in the prison decongestion

h) NANHRI joins global stakeholders in symposium on decriminalisation of Petty offences

The Network of African NHRIs was one of the global stakeholders met in Miami, United States of America on September 18-21, 2019 to discuss the review of laws criminalising petty offences in various countries.

NANHRI presented the regional overview and the ongoing efforts through the African NHRIs in pushing for the review of laws, policies and other administrative measures perpetuating human rights violations against suspects of petty offences.

Challenge and innovation

1. Due to limited resources, a side event of the project review was held riding on the NHRIs Forum in Banjul, the Gambia in October, 2019.
2. The denial of the participants of the Malawi Decriminalisation of Petty Offences from access the various sections of the Maula Prison and interacting with the inmates limited the inspection to reliance on the officers for information. This in effect denied them a chance to have first-hand experience on the state of the facility and the inmates.

Results

1. As a result of the work of NANHRI and the KNCHR as well as other stakeholders, Kenya has published a Police Bail and Bond. Under the document, petty offenders are released without bail or bond and required to appear in court.
2. As of June 26, 2019, Côte d'Ivoire had decriminalised all petty offences except begging.
3. The CNDH-CI developed an action plan, which also brings in CSOs, in actualising the ACHPR Principles of Decriminalisation of Petty Offences.
4. Out of the decriminalisation of petty offences meeting, challenges, lessons learned were captured for inclusion in the final report, to inform future interventions.
5. Out of the decriminalisation of petty offences meeting, challenges, lessons learned were captured for inclusion in the final report, to inform future interventions.

Goal 4: Enhanced adaptive capacity of NHRIs to respond to emerging and thematic human rights issues:

*Strategic Objective 4:
Enhanced adaptability of NHRIs in responding to emerging and
thematic human rights issues by at least 50% of NHRIs by 2019.*



NANHRI and the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt host the NANHRI 12th Biennial Conference on implementation of the Global Compact for Safe and Orderly Migration (GCM) in Cairo, Egypt, on November 5-6, 2019. Photo: Secretariat.

a) NANHRI Working Group on Migration develops roadmap for follow-up of Global Compact for Migration



Members of the NANHRI Working Group on Migration meet on the sidelines of the 64th Session of the ACHPR in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. Photo Secretariat.

The NANHRI Working group on Migration meeting in Sharm Sheikh, Egypt, on April 23, 2019 developed a road map to guide the work of the African NHRI in following up on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

Based on this roadmap and discussions among the members of the Working Group, the outlines of the Working Group Action Plan were defined.

The participants thus met to discuss the modalities of multi-stakeholder cooperation in the implementation of the Global Compact and its ownership at the continental level.

The event, which happened on the sidelines of the 64th Session of the ACHPR, brought together the Working Group NHRIs and African civil society on the continent as well as the Commissioners of the ACHPR and the African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies.

b) The NANHRI 12th Biennial Conference held in Cairo

At least 180 participants drawn from the African NHRIs, intergovernmental, CSOs meeting for the 12th NANHRI Biennial Conference developed and adopted the Cairo Declaration for Global Compact of Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Cairo, Egypt, on November 5-6, 2019.



Dignitaries deliver opening remarks during the NANHRI 12th Biennial Conference in Egypt on GCM on November 5, 2019. Photo: Secretariat.

The Cairo Declaration points out the roles of the NHRIs and other stakeholders in the implementation of the GCM.

The Cairo Declaration, the outcome document of this meeting which was hosted by the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt, was based on the Biennial Conference, was on the theme: *“The Global Compact for Migration: African NHRIs’ Common Vision, Opportunities and challenges in its implementation”*.

An emphasis was laid on the role of NHRIs in the Follow-up and Review of the GCM through the proposed International Migration Review Forum to be held in 2020.

The participants of the Conference shared and exchanged good practices on human rights-based migration governance among NHRIs and with CSOs in the implementation of the GCM and other frameworks like the African Union Migration Policy and Civil society organisations’ actions to defend migrants’ rights.

The Biennial Conference was supported by the European Union through GIZ Egypt, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Organisation for Migration. While the National Human Rights Council of Egypt hosted the meeting, the National Human Rights Council of Morocco sponsored the participation of the NANHRI Working Group on Migration, including the NHRIs of Kenya, Zimbabwe, Niger, and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

c) NANHRI Working Group on Migration discusses workplan for 2020 in Egypt

On November 3, 2019 in Cairo, Egypt, the NANHRI Working Group on Migration discussed and refined the 2020 Annual Workplan based on the plan of action's short-term, mid-term and long-term strategies of leading the other NHRIs in the implementation of the GCM.

These are the strategies as per the action plan:

A. Short-term action

1. To continue advocacy for the independent participation of Paris Principles compliant NHRIs, in the Follow-up and Review through the proposed International Migration Review Forum.
2. To continue advocacy for the recognition of the role of NHRI in the Resolution on modalities.
3. To use regional human rights systems and political fora to enhance the rights of migrants including the four-year regional monitoring of the GCM.
4. To enhance NHRIs capacity to report on monitoring status in the ACHPR.
5. To emphasize at the African Union level, the unique role of NHRIs in promoting sustainable achievements of the GCM (participation in regional related fora through statements, reports and cooperation with strategic partners).
6. To enhance knowledge on mobilisation and design strategies for fundraising on GCM monitoring by the NHRIs.
7. To create opportunities to enhance participation of most NHRIs under the NANHRI membership in GCM monitoring.
8. To participate in the Review process 2020.
9. To advocate for the ratification by States, who have not done so, of all relevant international human rights instruments protecting the rights migrants. These include but not limited to, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Palermo Protocol.

B. Medium-term actions

1. To Share experiences, good practices and knowledge management with and among NHRIs, civil society, governments and other stakeholders as regards achieving the GCM domestication with respect to human rights standards and principles.
2. To develop guidelines for the development of additional national indicators and data collection for monitoring the implementation of the GCM from a

human rights perspective.

3. To carry out training and capacity-building sessions according with the responses of "the survey of migration"
4. To advocate for the harmonization of relevant national laws and administrative practices with international laws and practices.
5. To cooperate with national authorities to monitor the implementation of relevant laws as well as inclusive and sustainable convergent public policies and programs on migration.
6. To develop tools to support a human rights-based approach in the implementation and monitoring of the GCM.
7. To coordinate the creation of a group synergy with all actors for the implementation of the GCM and strengthen local, national and regional dialogue through the engagement of all stakeholders.
8. To develop tools to monitor the transit centres of foreigners for the prevention of inhuman and degrading treatments.

C. Long-term actions

1. To provide technical assistance to States for the development of national action plans for the implementation of GCM goals and ensure that human rights-based approaches are applied.
2. To develop strategic collaborations and partnerships with key institutions and networks to enhance and promote the GCM and Africa Agenda 2063. These include but are not limited to, the NANHRI Secretariat, relevant national stakeholders, GANHRI, OHCHR, UNDP and other relevant UN agencies, relevant Africa Union bodies, relevant regional human rights bodies, relevant state and third-party data providers, and key state institutions.
3. To support states in their efforts to monitor private entities such as recruitment agencies, fund transfer offices and employers in order to guarantee the rights of migrants and to support the training of government staff of these private entities on the rights of migrants.
4. To consider dialogue about the migrants' convention (International convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families) and its impact to member states.
5. To lobby for the international cooperation on governance of international migration.
6. To encourage government to lobby other governments to ratify the International convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families as part of multilateral and bilateral cooperation.
7. Members of this working Group include the NHRIs of Morocco, Kenya, Zimbabwe, DRC and Niger.

d) NANHRI Working Group on Migration holds a seminar on Refugee protection systems in Africa

The NANHRI Working Group on Migration led by the National Human Rights Council of Morocco and the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner for Refugees country office hosted a seminar to discuss the protection systems for refugees in Africa from December 12-13, 2019 in Rabat, Morocco.

This meeting, which brought together NHRIs and other actors in the sector of refugees reflected on the regional legal framework and national pieces of legislation on protection of refugee, with a view of initiating processes of adapting them to contextual developments.

In addition, the meeting discussed ways of fostering the sharing of African experiences in this field, to supporting and strengthening existing legal and operational protection mechanisms, advocacy, reporting on issues of refugees on the continent.

e) NANHRI and University of Pretoria co-host validation workshop of the Guide for NHRIs on Resolution 275 of the ACHPR

Eleven staff members from the NHRIs of Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and South Africa, met in Lilongwe, Malawi, from November 26-29, 2019 discussed and gave their input on the African NHRIs Guide on Implementation of Resolution 275 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

This meeting, which was convened by the Network of African NHRIs and the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law of the University of Pretoria, also included CSOs working in the sector of protecting the rights of sexual minorities who took part in the validating the zero draft.

Technical and non-technical input from the presentations and participants has been used to finalise the zero draft of the Resolution 275 Guide for the African NHRIs. It also served as a platform for sharing the progress made in 2019.

The Guide seeks to increase the understanding of the NHRIs on how various national, regional and international pieces of legislation apply to the LGB/ITGC persons.

The NHRIs of the five countries have been implementing Resolution 275 with the support of NANHRI since 2016.

f) NANHRI and HIVOs discuss use of strategic litigation in SRHR

The Network of African NHRIs and HIVOs convened a meeting, which also drew participant from Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe explored the possibility of applying strategic litigation to achieve sexual reproductive health and rights in a meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from March 26-27, 2019.

Being non-traditional partners of HIVOS, the lawyers who were part of the meeting

shared experiences on how strategic litigation can be an effective tool in the SRHR.

Given the potential of strategic litigation impacting on many people, there was need to further interrogate the approach for an inclusive SRHR advocacy given that it is not used by many organizations. It was also an opportunity to highlight the variables to consider, merits and demerits of strategic litigation advocacy.

g) KNCHR and SAHRC staff trained on SOGIE

The Network of African NHRIs helped the staff of the KNCHR in developing an action plan of integrating into departmental levels, responses to SOGIE related human rights violations during a meeting held in Naivasha, Kenya, on April 15-18, 2019.

In the action plan, the staff identified ways of being sensitive to the key populations in their daily work, especially in programmes.

During the meeting, the staff were taken through key concepts, regional and international human rights instruments regarding the protection of the rights of LGBTIQ persons.



Staff of the Secretariat of the Network of African NHRIs and the KNCHR in a group photo in Naivasha, Kenya during the incountry training on SOGIE. Photo: Secretariat.

h) UHRC hosts regional workshop on SOGIE-related complaints handling, investigations and documentation



A meeting of the five NHRIs implementing NANHRI SOGIE Project meet in Entebbe, Uganda, for the complaints handling, investigations and documentation meeting on July 22, 2019. Photo: Secretariat.

At least 30 participants from the NHRIs of Uganda, Malawi, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa, as well as CSOs took part in the NANHRI workshop on SOGIE related Complaints Handling, Investigations and Documentations (CID) in Entebbe, Uganda, on July 22-26, 2019.

Participants identified best practices obtained from the peer exchanges on how to integrate SOGIE-related issues into their work.

Best practices were identified under: Complaints handling and Investigation, Research and Documentation, Human Rights Education and Training, Communication and Advocacy. The CSOs made recommendations to how the NHRIs can effectively handle complaints, as well as ways of reinforcing each other.

i) NHRIs meet in 4th annual regional convening on key population

Twenty representatives of NHRIs and human rights CSOs met in Johannesburg, South Africa, on September 16-18, 2019 to discuss sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) affecting key populations.

The convening, which was co-hosted by NANHRI and (ARASA), provide a platform for the NHRI representatives from different African countries to engage in evidence informed discussions on human rights, HIV, SRHR and other pressing health and human rights issues in the region. The convening increased the knowledge of NHRIs on health and human rights issues as well as connections between NHRIs and key population groups for an effective in-country partnerships and cooperation.

Results:

1. The 12th Biennial Conference adopted the Cairo Declaration, which will help the NHRIs in contributing to national and regional strategies of implementing the GCM.
2. Additionally, Annual Work Plan of the NANHRI Working Group on Migration was also adopted.
3. Both technical and non-technical input from representations from the five NHRIs and CSOs to finalize the zero draft of the Res. 275 implementation guide for African NHRIs was obtained.
4. Besides understanding of the key concepts, the KNCHR staff developed a comprehensive action plan involving the departments towards an effective response to handling SOGIE complaints and consciously mainstreaming the subject into their daily activities.
5. Out of the regional meeting in Uganda the NHRIs and CSOs exchanged o best practices as well as identified areas of collaboration in effectively handling complaints related to SOGIE.
6. Out of the Resolution 275 workshop, there was increased understanding on how various international, regional and national legislation applies to rights of LGB/ITGNC persons. More input was captured for the Guide for NHRIs in implementing Resolution 275.

Goal 5: Improved institutional visibility, efficiency and effectiveness of the NANHRI Secretariat:

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



Members of the Network of African NHRIs meet in Cairo, Egypt, on November 4, 2019 for the General Assembly. Among other issues, two new members- the NHRIs of Central African Republic and the Gambia- were admitted to the Network of African NHRIs, raising the number from 44 to 46. Photo: Secretariat.

a) NANHRI holds General Assembly, Steering Committee meeting and participates in GANHRI Bureau meeting in Geneva



NANHRI Steering Committee meets in Geneva, Switzerland, in March, 2019 to deliberate on institutional issues ahead of the General Assembly. Photo: Secretariat.

NANHRI participated in the GANHRI Bureau meeting and held its General Assembly on March 4, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting provided annual activity updates to the NANHRI members as well as a follow up on the discussions out of the previous GANHRI Bureau meeting.

The NANHRI General Assembly resolved to contribute in building the Network of African NHRIs by paying membership fees, including arrears, as stipulated in Article 18 of the Constitution of NANHRI. Non-compliant members will neither seek elective positions in NANHRI nor GANHRI Organs.

Following this resolution, the Secretariat of NANHRI was required to send a two-week notice to members with outstanding balances to oblige. Subsequently, the members of the NANHRI sub-regions were requested to nominate replacements for non-compliant Steering Committee members in due course.

The General Assembly also received and adopted the annual activity report and audited financial statements for 2018 as well as the Annual Work Plan and budget of 2019.

In the same meeting, the reports of the NANHRI Working Groups on SDGs and Migration were submitted to the members and adopted.

At the same time, the General Assembly approved that the NANHRI 12th Biennial Conference be held in Cairo, Egypt, in 2019 and the theme will be *'Migration and the*

role of NHRIs in the implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration’.

The GA was preceded by the Steering Committee meeting.

During the GANHRI Bureau meeting, discussions were on the proposed amendments of the GANHRI statutes and draft amendments to the SCA Rules of Procedure (RoP).

b) NANHRI Steering Committee reviews items for General Assembly ahead of 12th Biennial Conference

The Steering Committee of the Network of African NHRIs on November 3, 2019 met in Cairo, Egypt, to deliberate on the following items, some of which were part of the agenda of the General assembly held the following day.

- Resolution on the Establishment of the NANHRI Liaison Office in Addis Ababa;
- Resolution on the Appointment of new Finance Auditors;
- Elections within NANHRI and NANHRI Representation in the GANHRI Organs;
- Discussions of the new NANHRI Staff Salary survey/proposal.
- Consideration and approval of membership application from The Gambia NHRC and the CNDHL of Central African Republic.

c) NANHRI holds General assembly meeting in Cairo, Egypt

More than 40 members of the Network of NHRIs in Cairo, Egypt, November 4, 2019 held elections to the NANHRI and GANHRI governance organs as below:

i) Elections to NANHRI Steering Committee

The steering Committee was reconstituted as below:

- 1) Chairperson-National Council for Human Rights of Egypt
- 2) Vice Chairperson- Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
- 3) National Human Rights Council of Morocco- Representative of the North Subregion
- 4) Nigeria Human Rights Commission- Representative of the West Africa Subregion
- 5) National Human Rights Commission of the Democratic Republic of Congo- Representative of Central Africa Subregion
- 6) Zambia Human Rights Commission- Representative of Southern Africa Subregion
- 7) Uganda Human Rights Commission-Representative of East Africa Subregion
- 8) National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda- automatic member as the immediate former Chairperson
- 9) Kenya National Commission on Human Rights-automatic member as the host of the Permanent Secretariat.

Following the election of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Chairperson as the Vice Chairperson of the Network of African NHRIs, it was declared that the institution hosts the 13th Biennial Conference in 2021.

ii) Election to GANHRI Bureau

The members of the NANHRI elected, to represent the Africa Region in the GANHRI Bureau for a two-year term are the NHRIs of Egypt, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia.

1. GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation

The NHRIs members of the NANHRI elected serve on the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation are the *Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme* of the Kingdom of Morocco for a two-year term.

Further, the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana was elected as alternate member representing NANHRI at the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation.

2. GANHRI Finance Committee

No replacement occurred since the institution had only served for one year, hence the *Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme* of the Kingdom of Morocco will serve in the GANHRI Finance Committee until the next election.

3. GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights

The NHRIs members of the NANHRI elected to serve on the GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights are the *Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme* of the Kingdom of Morocco and Malawi Human Rights Commission for a two-year term.

4. GANHRI Working Group on SDGs

The Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana was re-elected to serve as the representative of NANHRI in the GANHRI Working Group on SDGs for a two-year term.

5. GANHRI Working Group on Ageing

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights was re-elected to serve as representative of NANHRI in the GANHRI Working group on Ageing for a two-year term.

Results

1. The adoption of the 2019 Work plan enabled the implementation of the various activities contributing to the realisation of the Five Goals of the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.
2. The decision of sending reminders and a notice to members on non-payment of subscription fees has borne fruit, with an increased compliance.
3. Increased visibility of the activities of the Policy Forum
4. Published reports and documents increased the awareness of the work of NANHRI in addition to contributing to enhancing the capacity of the members in the human rights promotion, protection and advocacy in the specific thematic areas.
5. Through such spaces, there is increased participation of the NHRIs in the regional and sub regional judicial process.
6. The publications highlighted the work of NANHRI and provision of reference materials for the NHRIs and other human rights actors.
7. Generated materials for the major activities highlighted the work of NANHRI members, and partners through the media outlets and online platforms.

Potential challenges and mitigation measures taken

Limited human resource, especially in the translation of content from English to French hinders effective communication, especially in updating the French website in real time. The few bilingual staff, come in handy, in cases of urgent work that requires translation.

Lessons learnt, challenges and innovations

Since establishment in 2007, the Network of African NHRIs has been an integral player in the human rights field, especially in working with the members. The value of being a member of NANHRI has seen the membership grow over the years to the current 46.

This has been possible through member's needs based programmatic approaches, led strategic plans. Likeminded Partners have supported the initiatives of ensuring the NHRIs deliver on their mandate.

As the Network of African NHRIs transitions from the 2015-2019 to the 2020-2024 strategic plan, which is being developed, the guiding principle is the interest of the members, and the contribution they will make in supporting the States deliver on their human rights mandate as per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Conclusion

Progress is being made on various fronts and in collaboration with various stakeholders towards improving the human rights situation, as well as the state of NHRIs in Africa. There is need for increased collaboration between state and non-state actors towards the common goal of delivering a human rights culture in Africa through the diverse strategic action plans for a reinforced approach. Under such circumstances, NANHRI members, remain at a pedestal point in linking these actors to the realisation of the rights for all.

The human rights landscape keeps changing from time to time, with emerging issues presenting new thematic challenges to the Network of African NHRIs and the members.

Through the Nairobi-based Secretariat, NANHRI will endeavour to mobilise human and financial resources from traditional and new regional and international partners to support the members in their quest of effectively and efficiently responding to the traditional and emerging human rights issues. One of the ways is enhancing collaboration with subregional and regional human rights mechanisms to ensure that sharing of experiences and coordinated response to cross-border issues like migration, and forced displacements.

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2019	2019	2018	2018
		KES	USD	KES	USD
Non-current assets					
Property and equipment	4	510,415	5,105	673,690	6,737
Total non-current assets		<u>510,415</u>	<u>5,105</u>	<u>673,690</u>	<u>6,737</u>
Current assets					
Accounts receivable	5	52,228,646	522,287	57,794,808	577,948
Cash and cash equivalents	6	49,006,360	490,063	34,482,670	344,827
Total current assets		<u>101,235,006</u>	<u>1,012,350</u>	<u>92,277,478</u>	<u>922,775</u>
Less: current liabilities					
Accounts payable	7	3,139,861	31,399	2,867,023	28,670
Net current assets		<u>98,095,145</u>	<u>980,951</u>	<u>89,410,455</u>	<u>894,105</u>
Net assets		<u>98,605,560</u>	<u>986,056</u>	<u>90,084,145</u>	<u>900,842</u>
Represented by:-					
General fund		96,735,112	967,352	88,050,422	880,505
Capital fund		510,415	5,104	673,690	6,737
Restricted fund		1,360,033	13,600	1,360,033	13,600
Fund balance (page 8)		<u>98,605,560</u>	<u>986,056</u>	<u>90,084,145</u>	<u>900,842</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Steering Committee on 5th May 2020 and signed by:-



Gilbert Sebihogo

(Network Executive Director)



Mr. Mohamed Fayek

(Chairperson, Steering Committee)

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

Fund movement	Capital fund	General fund	Restricted fund	Total	Total
	KES	KES	KES	KES	USD
Year ended 31 December, 2018					
At 01-Jan-2018	674,127	97,428,825	1,360,033	99,462,985	963,493
Assets acquired in the year	352,723	(352,723)	-	-	-
Depreciation	(353,160)	353,160	-	-	-
Operating deficit for the year (page 6)	-	(9,378,840)	-	(9,378,840)	(94,087)
Foreign currency translation difference	-	-	-	-	31,436
At 31-Dec-2018	KES 673,690	88,050,422	1,360,033	90,084,145	900,842
	USD 6,737	880,505	13,600	900,842	
Year ended 31 December, 2019					
At 01-Jan-2019	673,690	88,050,422	1,360,033	90,084,145	900,842
Assets acquired in the year	168,200	(168,200)	-	-	-
NBV of assets disposed in the year	(331,475)	331,475	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Operating surplus for the year (page 6)	-	8,521,415	-	8,521,415	85,130
Foreign currency translation difference	-	-	-	-	86
At 31-Dec-2019	KES 510,415	96,735,112	1,360,033	98,605,560	986,058
	USD 5,104	967,352	13,600	986,057	

Independent Auditor's report – pages 4 to 5
The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements

Members of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions

Country	National Institution	Accreditation Status
1. Algeria	The National Human Rights Council of Algeria	A
2. Benin	Commission béninoise des droits de l'homme	C
3. Burkina Faso	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	Accreditation has lapsed
4. Burundi	Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme	B
5. Cameroon	National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms	A
6. Cape Verde	Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et de la Citoyenneté	
7. Central Africa Republic	Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales	
8. Chad	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	B
9. Comoros	Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme	
10. Côte d'Ivoire	Conseil nationale des droits de l'homme	B
11. Democratic Republic of Congo	Commission Nationale de Droit de l'Homme	A
12. Djibouti	Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme	
13. Egypt	National Council for Human Rights	A
14. Ethiopia	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission	B
15. Gabon	Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme	
16. Gambia	National Human Rights Commission	
17. Ghana	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice	A
18. Guinea Bissau	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	
19. Guinea Conakry	Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme	

20. Kenya	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights	A
21. Liberia	Independent National Commission on Human Rights	A
22. Libya	National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights	B
23. Madagascar	Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme	A
24. Malawi	Malawi Human Rights Commission	A
25. Mali	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	B
26. Mauritania	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	B
27. Mauritius	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	A
28. Morocco	Conseil national des droits de l'homme	A
29. Mozambique	National Human Rights Commission of Mozambique	
30. Namibia	Office of the Ombudsman	A
31. Niger	Commission Nationale des Droits Humains	A
32. Nigeria	National Human Rights Commission	A
33. Republic of Congo	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	B
34. Rwanda	National Commission for Human Rights	A
35. Senegal	Comité sénégalais des droits de l'homme	B
36. Sierra Leone	Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone	A
37. South Africa	South African Human Rights Commission	A
38. South Sudan	National Human Rights Commission	
39. Sudan	National Human Rights Commission	
40. Swaziland	Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration	
41. Tanzania	Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance	A
42. Togo	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	A
43. Tunisia	Comité Supérieur des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales	B
44. Uganda	Uganda: Human Rights Commission	A
45. Zambia	Zambia Human Rights Commission	A
46. Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission	A

NB: The GANHRI Accreditation Status¹ is of November 27, 2019

¹ [https://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/GANHRIAccreditation/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20-%20Chart%20\(%2027%20November%202019\).pdf](https://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/GANHRIAccreditation/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20-%20Chart%20(%2027%20November%202019).pdf)

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This report is published by:

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions

2nd Floor, CVS Plaza, Lenana Road

P.O Box 74359-00200

Nairobi-Kenya.

Website: www.nanhri.org

Email: info@nanhri.org

Twitter: @NANHRI40

Facebook: Network of African National Human Rights Institutions.