



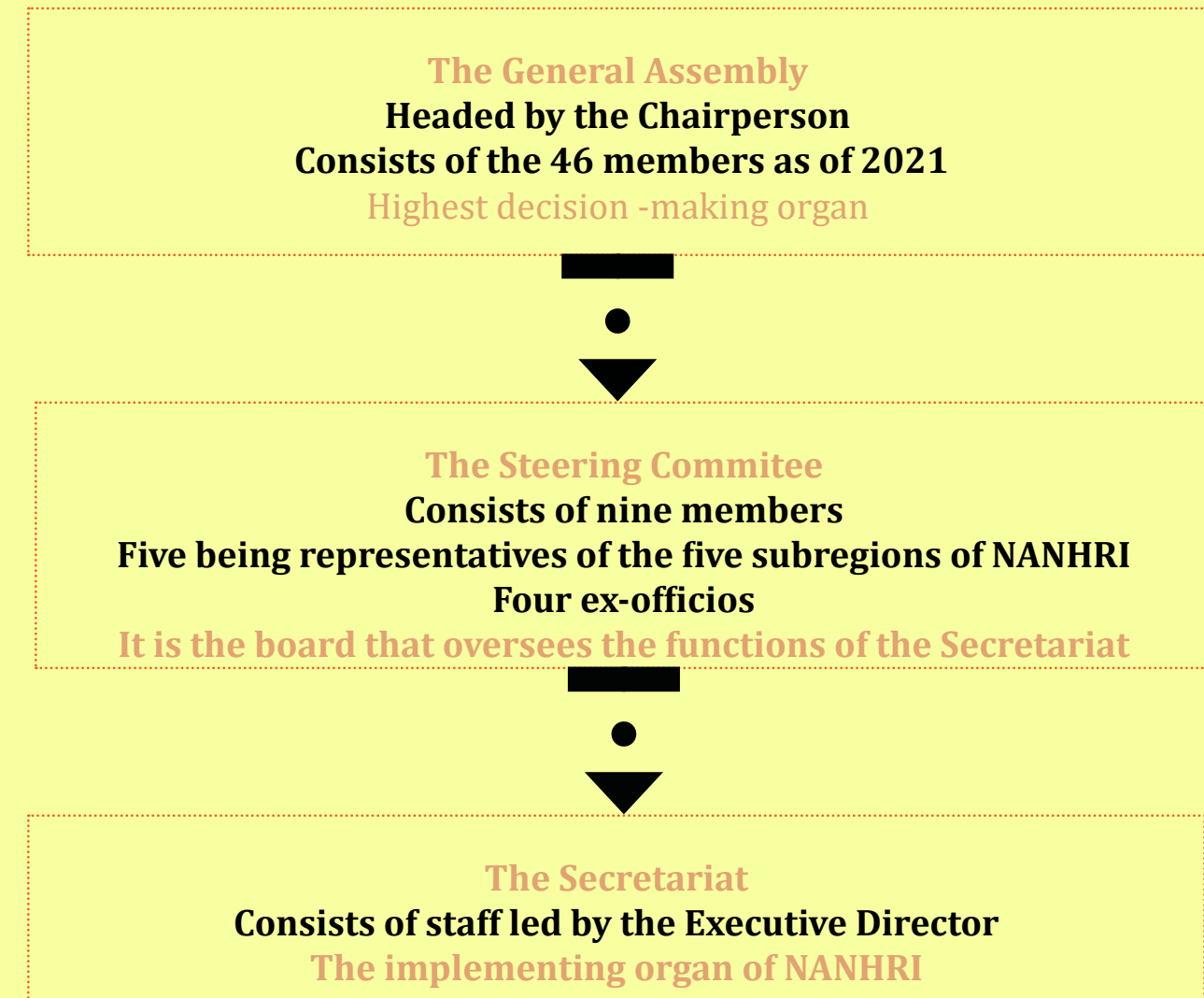
# **NANHRI ANNUAL REPORT, 2021**

# NANHRI

## Annual Report, 2021

*Drafted and Designed by Laban Robert*

### SIMPLIFIED ORGANOGRAM OF THE NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NANHRI)



The Steering Committee as of November 2, 2021



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Vicechairperson (Photo:CHRAJ-Ghana)



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Ms. Marie Clare Mukasine  
Member (Photo: NCHR-Rwanda)

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfCHRP	African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BHR	Business and Human Rights
CHRAGG	Commission for good governance in Tanzania
CHRAGG	Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of Tanzania
CNDH-RDC	<i>Commission Nationale des Droits de l’Homme du République Démocratique du Congo</i>
COVID-19	Corona virus disease of 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DIHR	Danish Institute for Human Rights
EAC	East Africa Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African State
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
GIZ	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i>

HRC	Human Rights Council
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
INCHR	Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
NANHRI	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
NAP	National Action Plan
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
PALU	Pan African Lawyers Union
RWI	Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
SAHRC	South African Human Rights Commission
SCA	Sub-Committee on Accreditation
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Sex Characteristics
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
SRRWA	Special Rapporteur on Rights of Women in Africa
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGPs	United Nations Guiding Principles



## Message from the Chairperson



The year 2020 was one of the darkest moments in the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many human rights atrocities were committed by State and non-State actors- and covered under the blanket of the pandemic due to the lockdowns which reduced mobility and monitoring of the implementation of the COVID-19 protocols. With successful trials and roll-out of vaccines against the pandemic, the year 2021 experienced renewed hopes of defeating the virus with a subsequent improved human rights situation on the continent. As the year 2021 ended, the number of new cases and fatalities decreased, once again allowing for more travels and economic activities.

Despite the glowing hope in defeating the pandemic, there is no much to write home about on the situation of human rights in Africa except that there is an increase in the number of coups and attempted coups in some countries. Terror activities and other forms of armed conflicts in the Sahel region and other parts of the continent are on the rise. The security of human rights defenders is no better; the prisons and detentions are no better; the situation on business and human rights is no better.

There are also silent human rights pandemics, including gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, forced child marriages, female genital mutilation, mental illnesses, misinformation and disinformation, among others tucked away into oblivion as human rights actors chase 'bigger' human rights issues. These are not mere silent pandemics; they are people; they are mothers; they are fathers; they are sons and daughters; they are the nation; they are Africa; they cannot therefore be ignored.

As the continent and the globe emerge from the vagaries of the pandemic, these are critical issues that cannot be washed away if we are to achieve the Africa We Want by 2063. NANHRI, through partners will continue to support its members to deliver on this important mandate. We have done that before and even advocated for more technical and financial support from States. But limited resources should not be a deterrent. Partnership with other institutions is one of the ways of surmounting these challenges. We have also rooted for strong NHRIs recognised internationally with the aim of increasing the credibility of their work among States and partners.

Indeed, as of December 2021, at least 25 out of 46 members of NANHRI enjoyed 'A' status accreditation, a confirmation of their full compliance with the [Paris Principles](#). This number is not only a motivation for NANHRI to work and get more NHRIs into full compliance but it has resulted in better promotion, protection and advocacy for human rights for all at national level.

As we march on and emerge from the pandemic, my challenge to you our NHRIs is that the rights holders will not judge us by our accreditation status or compliance with the Paris Principles, but their enjoyment of human rights to the fullest. It is my commitment and passion that through the Secretariat and partners, we should support you to the fullest.

**Dr Elasto Hilarious Mugwadi**

**Chairperson**

## Message from the Executive Director



After a halt of physical engagements in the better part of 2020, there was some reprieve in the year 2021 with the relaxation of the travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19.

With the support of members and partners, the Secretariat implemented several interventions. Among these were under new projects, thanks to our expanding areas of engagement with the regional bodies.

One such projects is on Strengthening Capacities of Regional and National Human Rights Actors to Respond to Emerging Human Rights Issues in the context of COVID-19 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and supporting the mandate of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare on the Child (ACERWC).

One of the areas of focus is increasing the contribution of the African NHRIs to realisation of the mandate of ACERWC in human rights issues involving children. Some of the issues include child marriages, female genital mutilation, teenage pregnancies, sexual exploitation, child labour, violations related to displaced children and those on the move, among others. These concerns have been flagged out in a number of our activities including the biennial conferences and policy dialogue forums.

The engagement with the ACERWC, therefore, is particularly important now that NANHRI established the Working Group on the Rights and Welfare of the Child during the General Assembly on November 2, 2021. Conversely, the ACERWC established its Working Group on the Rights and welfare of the African Child in 2020.

This project, therefore, becomes a critical area of partnership, not only at the two Working Group levels, but also involving the NHRIs in diverse areas of promotion, protection and advocacy for the rights of the African child. For instance, in the context of the COVID-19, NANHRI and ACERWC have developed Guidelines for Safe Return to School. On the other hand, the adoption of the Guidelines for Granting Affiliate/Associate Status to NHRIs before ACERWC gives the NHRIs an opportunity to not only be involved in monitoring but also reporting to this regional body on the status of the rights of the child at national level.

NANHRI has developed guidelines on how the NHRIs can assist the ACERWC and other regional bodies in making determinations on matters before them, as well as following up on implementation

of the outcomes. As of December 2021, only the NHRIs of Cameroon and the Gambia enjoyed affiliate status to the ACEWRC. As the NANHRI Working Group on the Rights of the Child embarks on its assignment in 2022, we appeal for more NHRIs to apply for the affiliate status to this treaty body.

Similarly, NANHRI-through this project- is also seeking to build the capacity of regional and national human rights actors, including NHRIs to effectively and meaningfully participate in the AfCFTA processes. The AfCFTA is one of the flagship projects under the African Union Agenda 2063. It is a framework agreement covering trade in goods and services, investment, intellectual property rights and competition policy. The stakeholders bank on the NHRIs to provide a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the Africa Continental Trade Agreement,

which came into force in May, 2019, hence the importance of the involvement of NANHRI. Realisation of AfCFTA through creation of a single market with free movement of goods, services, capital and natural persons to spur social and economic development in Africa is expected to contribute to sustainable development in line with Agenda 2063. For a better understanding on the specific areas the NHRIs can support this flagship project, we have also commissioned a baseline study, which once published will inform our next move in 2022.

In the same year, we also carried out a survey on the status of Business and Human Rights and Sustainable Oceans in Africa and how the NHRIs have been involved in addressing human rights concern in these two areas. This has also informed our engagements with select NHRIs on this area.

One may ask why it is important that we highlight these projects. Expansion into new areas in our area of work means we are increasingly identifying major human rights concerns at regional level, and we are strategically placing our members to better put in place measures of prevention, monitoring and redress. This is particularly important to emerging or evolving human rights issues on the continent. It also means that the partners have recognised the importance of the NHRIs in supporting them in achieving better and sustainable results.

As we wind the curtains for 2021, I encourage the NHRIs to work with us in achieving these outcomes, which we desire because human rights is our collective responsibility.

**Gilbert Sebihogo**

**Executive Director**

## Executive Summary

The year 2021 started on a high note with the introduction of vaccination against COVID-19, which had negatively impacted delivery of service for human rights in 2020. Despite the threat of the emergency of new strains of the virus, strides were made in controlling the spread of the virus a factor that also allowed the NHRIs and other actors to engage more in their work.

It was not different for NANHRI. As attested by this report, a number of activities were implemented in collaboration with other State and non-State stakeholders under various programmes.

Under the support for fully compliance with the Paris Principles, more NHRIs gained 'A' status raising the number to 25 as of December 2021. On the other hand, Phase II of the NANHRI SOGIE Project ended with evaluations of the milestones made as well a baseline and selection of new NHRIs for Phase III. Work is already underway in this project, which is premised on Resolution 275 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Similarly, a number of activities were implemented under the Regional Africa Programme to increase the NHRIs engagements with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Key, among the activities include litigation workshops, commissioning development of guidelines for safe return to school during and after COVID-19, participating and encouraging the NHRIs to apply for affiliate status to the ACHPR and ACERWC and taking part in the sessions through submission of reports.

On the other hand, NANHRI made strides in propelling implementation of the Marrakech Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Workshops were held for NHRIs with particular training being held for Kenya and Tanzania. Furthermore, various tools for implementation of the Marrakech Declaration were developed, launched and published.

In addition, NANHRI concluded implementation of Phase II of decriminalisation of Petty Offences, with the adoption of national action plans by the three NHRIs- Uganda, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

In the same year, NANHRI commenced implementing a new project on Business and Human Rights and Sustainable Oceans; a Member Survey was conducted for launching and publishing in quarter 1, 2022. The survey is key in not only as a follow-up to the 2013 NANHRI Baseline Survey on BHR, but also in identification of priority areas for the members for further engagements alongside ongoing initiatives on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

On the backdrop of recovery plans in the context of COVID-19, NANHRI and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission organised the 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in hybrid format hosted from Harare. Ahead of the Conference on the contribution of the NHRIs to a human rights-based approach to sustainable recovery during and beyond COVID-19, the Steering Committee and General Assembly were held, where key decisions were made including elections to NANHRI and GANHRI governance bodies, official launch of the NANHRI Strategic Plan 2021-2025, adoption of the new bilingual website, establishment of the NANHRI Working Group on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, among others. The NANHRI Working Group on Migration and NANHRI Working Group on Sustainable Development also reported on the progress as per their mandate. Finally, a number of resource mobilisation initiatives were undertaken, with some bearing fruit.

# Introduction

The NANHRI Strategic Plan, 2021-2025 was developed after consultations with the General Assembly, the Steering Committee and partners through identification of common priority areas. The year 2021, therefore, marked the first time the Secretariat developed and implemented activities based on the new Strategic Plan after planning meeting held in January, 2021.

The activities were based on three Strategic Objectives below, which will be the priority areas for NANHRI for the next five years.

**The Strategic Objectives include:**

*Strategic Objective One: Enhanced capacity of NHRIs in Africa to deliver on their mandate.*

*Strategic Objective Two: Enhance the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights in Africa*

*Strategic Objective Three: Enhance the organisational development and institutional sustainability of NANHRI.*

Indeed, the new Strategic Plan pushes the horizon for the Secretariat, which is the implementing arm of NANHRI, in supporting the members in delivering on their human rights mandate. This is through implementation of projects and programmes corresponding to the needs of the 46 members. This is critical as the continent recovers from the economic, social and cultural vagaries of COVID-19, even as new infections and fatalities drop.

As has been tradition, during the planning meeting in January, the Secretariat developed the Annual Work Plan and the budget for 2021, which was subjected to the Steering Committee approval paving the way for implementation.

Some of the activities implemented in 2021 are broadly under accreditation, cooperation and collaboration with the regional and international human rights mechanisms, human rights defenders, sexual orientation, gender identity expression, migration, sustainable development, business and human rights, child rights, Africa Continental trade agreement, implementation of Marrakech Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa, new website development, resource mobilisation, among others. The year was also marked by the 13th NANHRI Biennial Conference, hosted from Nairobi and Harare in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. The Steering Committee and the General Assembly were also held on the margins of the Biennial Conference in which key decisions were made including leadership to NANHRI and GANHRI governance bodies, adoption of the Strategic Plan and other institutional policy frameworks, among others.

This report, therefore, highlights the activities implemented as per the Strategic Objectives, outcomes, outputs, and impact where possible. In addition to challenges, opportunities and the way forward, the report also includes the accreditation status as of December 2021 and the financials.

The activities were made possible with the technical, financial and in-kind support of members and partners. Some of our partners include the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights (RWI), the European Union (EU), the Tripartite Partners (TPP)- the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the African Union through its agencies, Open Society Foundation (OSF), the Arcus and Wellsprings Foundation, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), among others. On behalf of the members, the Secretariat acknowledges and appreciates this support.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE: Enhanced capacity of NHRIs in Africa to deliver on their mandate



## Accreditation

### Three out of four NHRIs receive 'A' accreditation status

NANHRI supported the NHRIs of Burundi, Mauritius, Cabo Verde and Ethiopia in preparing for the accreditation process including by filing requisite documents to the GANHRI Subcommittee on Accreditation. The NHRIs of Burundi, Mauritius and Cabo Verde appeared during the June 2021 session while Ethiopia was reviewed in October, 2021.

The documents included statement of compliance, establishing law, annual and relevant activity reports, budgets, among others. From this initiative, the *Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme du Burundi* – which appeared in June 2021- and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission-which was reviewed in October, 2021- gained 'A' status. The National Human Rights Commission of Mauritius, which appeared before the GANHRI Subcommittee on Accreditation (SCA) for reaccreditation retained its 'A' status. On the other hand, the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizens of Cabo Verde lost its bid. The SCA noted that the institution is established through a presidential proclamation, which could be revoked by an executive decision, therefore, does not qualify to be an NHRI.

*“We wish to express our appreciation for all the support from NANHRI.”*

*Dr. Daniel Bekele Chief Commissioner, EHRC.*

### NANHRI contributes to establishment of an NHRI in Sudan

NANHRI, in collaboration with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) contributed in drafting a Bill for the establishment of a national human rights institution of Sudan in quarter 1, 2021. The three institutions were seeking establishment of a new institution after the former NHRI was dissolved following the removal of President Omar El Bashir from office in a coup in 2019.

NANHRI developed and shared a legal opinion with core components of the Bill for establishment of a NHRI in Sudan in accordance with the Paris Principles. The legal opinion, which was presented to the Ministry of Justice of Sudan, incorporated views of NANHRI, GANHRI and OHCHR.

## Achievements/challenges/opportunities

### Result

*The NHRIs of Ethiopia and Burundi gained 'A' status from 'B' while the NHRI of Mauritius retained 'A' status. The number of NANHRI members in operating in full compliance with the Paris Principles rose from 23 in 2020 to 25 in 2021.*

### Opportunity

*In its verdict, the SCA pointed out the need of working on an enabling legislation for proper establishment of the institution of Cabo Verde. As one of the members of NANHRI, this is an opportunity to work with national actors to address this matter.*

### Output

*Through the legal opinion, NANHRI contributed to the draft enabling legislation through highlighting the key Paris Principles' requirements for an efficient and effective NHRI in Sudan.*

### Challenge

*In an already volatile environment, the establishment of the commission was hampered by the military seizure of the government in October 2021 and the subsequent political turmoil in the country.*



*Chairperson of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission Prof. James Mouangue Kobila (centre) speaks during NANHRI induction workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Photo: Secretariat.*

### 15 new commissioners of Cameroon NHRI inducted on their mandate

Fifteen new commissioners of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission were inducted on their mandate, roles and responsibilities in the promotion and protection of human rights as defined by the enabling legislation, the constitution, other national laws, the Paris principles, regional and international human rights instruments. The workshop was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon on May 24-28, 2021.

As a measure of their work as per the Paris Principles- the UN normative framework on establishment and operations of NHRIs- the commissioners were also taken through the GANHRI accreditation process with an emphasis on the importance of securing an 'A' accreditation status.

### Evaluating the work of NHRIs in the context of COVID-19 against needs

Following the development of the Rapid Needs Assessment of African NHRIs during COVID-19 report, a virtual symposium led by tripartite partners (UNDP, OHCHR and GANHRI) was held on January 18, 2021 for sharing of the findings of the assessment report.

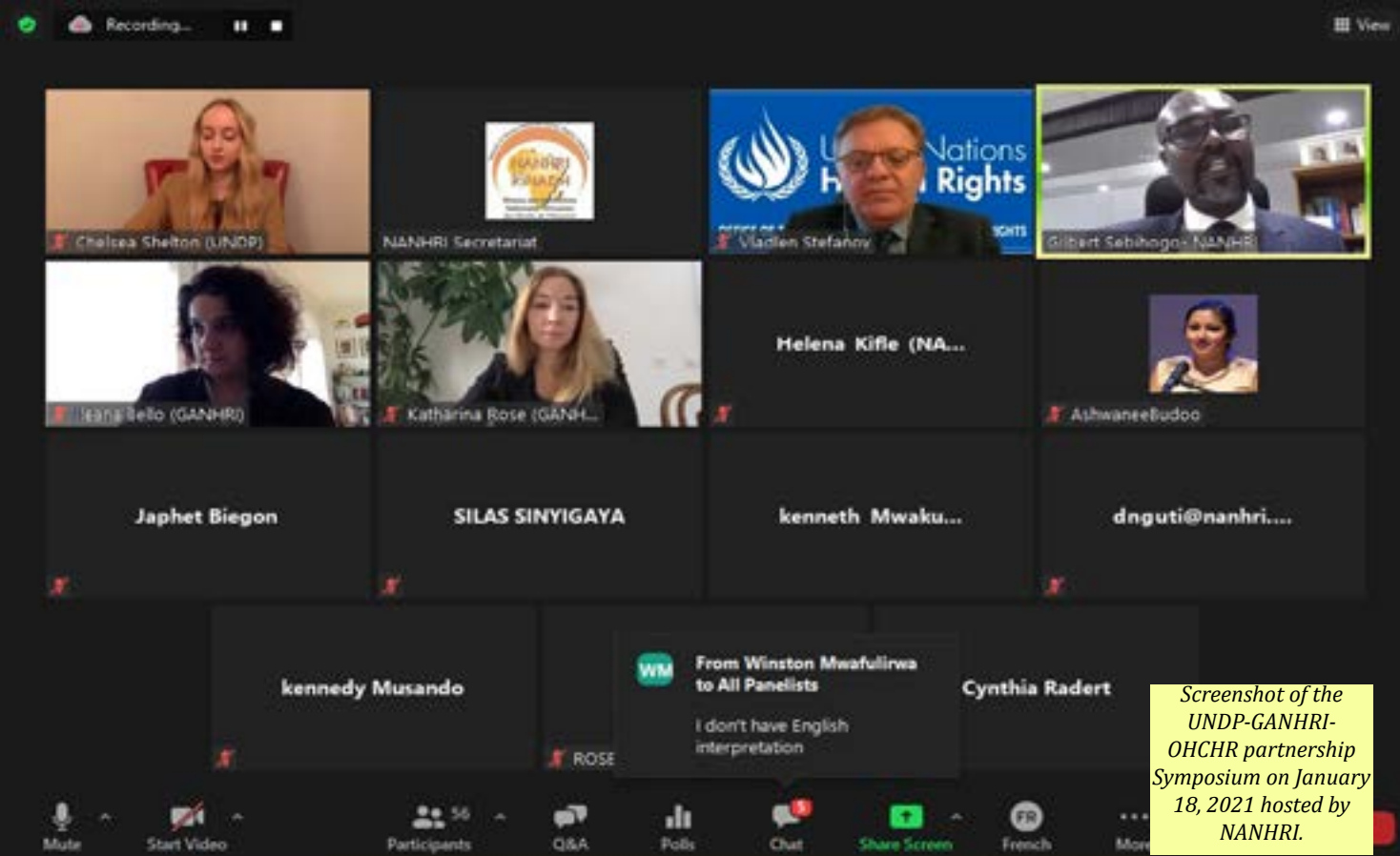
Out of the 46 members of NANHRI, 19 responded to the survey on the capacity of the NHRIs to engage State and non-State stakeholders, use of information technology and online platforms in monitoring and documentation, the use of manual and electronic complaints handling systems. Below are some findings:

## Achievements/challenges/opportunities

### Output

*Commissioners knowledge and understanding of their mandate was enhanced.*





### Key findings

- Almost all NHRIs were not classified as essential service providers, therefore, not allowed to operate beyond the restrictions; very few were included into the State response ad hoc committees;
- While some NHRIs strengthened or leveraged the existing electronic infrastructure to monitor and handle human rights violations, more others were unable to do so for lack of resources-such as laptops, internet connectivity especially working from home by staff, technical inadequacy, among others;
- Collaboration with State and non-State actors was key in response to the human rights violations in the context of COVID-19 in various aspects.
- Very few NHRIs reported existence of strong electronic complaint handling systems in complementing manual systems
- The NHRIs established and operating in full compliance with the Paris Principles were better placed in response including recognition by the other actors as critical partners in the response, hence the need to accelerate the process of strengthening the institutions to full compliance with the Paris Principles.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Outputs

- Assessment developed was shared with the NHRIs and partners.
- The participants identified the role of partnership with other State and non-State actors in bridging technical and financial gaps in promotion and protection of human rights during COVID-19 and other crises in future.



### Protecting SOGIE Rights

#### Regional convening on strategic litigation held

At least 34 representatives of NHRIs and CSOs from Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Ghana learnt and exchanged experiences and identifying opportunities for strategic litigation in cases involving sexual orientation, gender identity and expression in a regional convening in Naivasha, Kenya, and virtually February 17-19, 2021.

#### Baseline Study for SOGIE Phase III developed

The capacity and attitudes of the NHRIs of Togo, Liberia, Nigeria, Namibia and Côte d'Ivoire were assessed in readiness for implementation of Phase III of the NANHRI SOGIE project.

#### Key findings

- All the NHRIs demonstrated in varying degrees how they have been implementing the Resolution 275 in the dynamic national contexts.
- Some NHRIs, have made more strides than others due to various challenges within the institution and in the operational environment.
- All NHRIs demonstrated willingness to be incorporated into the next phase of the SOGIE Project. However, due to limitation of resources the Secretariat can only incorporate a limited number of NHRIs at a time.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Output

Through examples from KNCHR, SAHRC and across the continent, participants gained an understanding and identified opportunities for collaboration between NHRIs and CSOs in litigating cases on SOGIE at national and regional levels to impact jurisprudence.

#### Outputs

A Baseline Assessment Report has been developed capturing the knowledge and status of engagement of the NHRIs on SOGIE issues.

#### Outcome

This has informed planned activities of 2022 and the entire Phase III of the SOGIE Project.

#### Challenge

Expiry of term of office of former commissioners and entry of new ones in some institutions like Namibia and Liberia disrupted capturing of the attitudes and capacity of the management, a factor that may require further engagements to ensure their buy-in.



**Rolling out SOGIE Phase III: New phase, new NHRIs onboard**

NANHRI rolled out Phase III of the SOGIE project. The new phase brought on board five new NHRIs and introduced them to the work of protecting the rights of sexual and gender minorities in a virtual inception meeting. The NHRIs include the *Commission nationale des droits de l'Homme du Togo*, the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia, the Office of the Ombudsman of Namibia and the *Conseil national des droits de l'homme du Côte d'Ivoire*. New staff from three NHRIs, which were in Phase I (Kenya, Malawi and South Africa) will also be part of the project for enhanced peer learning and sharing of experiences in implementation of Resolution 275, which is the basis of the project.

**NHRI and CSO Forum on COVID-19 and SOGIE protection convened**

In the context of COVID-19 and its impact on the protection of the rights of sexual and gender minorities, NANHRI organised a workshop bringing together representatives of NHRIs and CSOs on March 17-18, 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya. It was an opportunity to also assess the impact of the NANHRI SOGIE project since inception in 2017, good practices, gaps and opportunities for enhancing realization of protection of LGBTI persons based on Resolution 275 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and other national, regional and international mechanisms.

**Introducing the right to bodily autonomy and integrity in NHRIs**

At least 45 staff of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the Zambia Human Rights Commission were trained on bodily autonomy and integrity. In addition, CSOs working in SOGIE and sexual and reproductive health rights- which was the anchor of the workshop whose clarion call was 'Every Body Counts'- also took part. The meeting in Kenya was held on August 12-13, 2021 in Nairobi, while Zambia was on August 23-24, 2021 in Lusaka. The meetings highlighted environmental and policy impediments to the enjoyment of SRHR and the opportunities for advocacy and reporting to national and regional mechanisms like the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

A webinar targeting NHRIs, CSOs and NGOs in the East and Southern Africa was held in which a campaign dubbed 'Every Body Counts' was launched. The webinar also highlighted the link of SRHR and the Maputo Protocol.



KNCHR CEO Dr. Bernard Mogesa addresses the bodily autonomy and integrity convening in Kenya. Photo: Secretariat.

**Achievements/challenges/opportunities**

**Output**

*The representatives of the NHRIs understood the NANHRI SOGIE Project and their role in protecting the rights of LGBTIQ persons.*

**Outputs**

- *Action Plan was developed by the representatives to provide a structured way of working together in the protection of the rights of sexual and gender minorities.*
- *Networks expanded, stronger ties/partnerships between NHRIs and CSOs fogged in protecting SOGIE rights, the delegates explored ways of aligning complaint handling and response mechanisms during and beyond COVID-19.*

**Output**

- *Linkages between NHRIs and CSOs were created as they also identified common priority areas and opportunities for partnership in the work of SRHR.*
- *Further, the meetings identified minimal or no data as a key impediment to interventions on SRHR.*

**Opportunity**

*Collection and processing of data is an opportunity that the NHRIs and CSOs need to streamline for evidence-based approach to policy, advocacy and reporting for accountability.*



NANHRI Staff meet with the INCHR-Liberia staff in Monrovia, Liberia during a support mission. Photo: Secretariat.

**Country support mission to INCHR-Liberia**

NANHRI Staff meet with the INCHR staff in Monrovia, Liberia, during an in-country mission in July, 2021.

NANHRI visited the Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia to understand gaps and needs in fulfilling their human rights mandate in Monrovia, Liberia, on July 19-22, 2021. From the visit, it was established that even as new commissioners were sworn in, the institution faces a number of challenges, with funding being one of the greatest impediments to its work.

Based on this understanding, the NANHRI met the Deputy Minister of Justice for bilateral discussions on the importance of allocation of resources to the institution for effective delivery of service and the importance of having an effective NHRI.

During the mission, the executive director and staff of the INCHR, CSOs Consortium on SOGIE discussed the protection of sexual and gender minorities- based on the NANHRI SOGIE Project Phase III- which Liberia is one of the countries of focus.

**Achievements/challenges/opportunities**

**Outputs**

- *Impediments to the work of the INCHR in the protection of the rights of persons in Liberia established. These include limited funds as well as cultural and religious perspectives*

**Opportunities**

- *To diversify funding, there is need to engage the new commissioners in strategic planning and resource mobilisation to ensure that the institution performs its functions.*
- *There is need for capacity building of the NHRI and CSOs in breaking socio-cultural barriers in the protection of sexual and gender minorities.*

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO: Enhance the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights in Africa



### Business and human rights and sustainable development

#### African Regional Forum adopts key messages of African NHRIs in outcome document

Eight NHRIs, mainly from the NANHRI Working Group on Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, developed key messages during a side event of the virtual 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2021 on February 25, 2021 virtually. The NHRIs include the institutions of Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malawi, Sierra Leone and the Comoros.

The key messages, which focused on the constitution of NHRIs to the realisation of the UN's Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 of the African Union, were shared with the Regional Forum.

#### BHR and SDGs: NANHRI survey identifies priorities for NHRIs on blue economy

NANHRI conducted a survey on the status and engagements of NHRIs on the blue economy. This was a follow up to the NANHRI survey of African NHRIs on Business and Human Rights (BHR) conducted in 2013, following the adoption of the Yaoundé Plan of Action in 2011. While the 2013 survey assessed the engagement, needs, capacities and priorities of NANHRI members in BHR, the 2021 survey identified current BHR activities and priorities and entry points to support members on BHR and sustainable oceans.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Output

*The meeting developed the key messages for sharing with the Seventh Session of AFSD, 2021.*

#### Outcome

- The Seventh Session of the AFSD adopted the key messages in its outcome document, which is expected to give impetus to implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.*

#### Output

- Baseline report has been developed and published.*
- Besides, recommendations for strengthening NHRIs' capacity on BHR and sustainable oceans, three BHR good practice for developed into short case studies were identified.*

#### Outcome

- NANHRI Secretariat has received requests and interests from some NHRIs on using the survey, to tailor and contextualize their work around BHR and sustainable oceans, while addressing the gaps highlighted by the report. For example, the National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda has requested for a training on the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) in 2022, to strengthen the advocacy and lobbying on the development of a national action plan on BHR.*

#### Opportunity

- NAHRI needs to work with other partners in raising funds to implement the recommendations and specific requests of the NHRIs like Rwanda.*





A group photo of the BHR meeting in Nairobi. Photo: Secretariat.

### East and Horn of Africa Regional NAP Dialogue on Business and Human Rights held

The NANHRI Secretariat co-convened the first East and Horn of Africa Regional National Action Plan (NAP) dialogue on BHR. Other conveners of the meeting included the African Union, the ACHPR, OHCHR, UNDP, GIZ-GmbH, DIHR and the Africa Trade Policy Centre in collaboration with the Department of Justice Kenya, the KNCHR, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) Tanzania on December 7-8, 2021 hybrid from Nairobi, Kenya.

The dialogue was a learning and exchange platform, to stimulate and support the development and adoption of NAPs by African Union (AU) Member States towards implementation of the UNGPs in Africa.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Output

*The Kenya and Uganda NHRIs shared their experience on the NAP development process.*

#### Outcome

*As a result of the meeting, the Embassy of Sweden expressed interest in collaborating with other partners to implement work on the Environmental based policy actions in Kenya's NAP.*



### Implementation of the Marrakech Declaration on expanding the civic space and promoting and protecting human rights defenders, with a specific focus on women: The role of national human rights institutions

#### Learning and exchange visit of Kenyan women HRDs to South Africa

Seven women human rights defenders from Mathare Social Justice Centre, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, FIDA Kenya and Protection International held exchanges of good practices with their counterparts in South Africa on protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) November 8-14, 2021 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The workshop was informed by the fact that South African HRDs face reprisals over mineral extraction, while their counterparts in Kenya are violated majorly for calling for accountability over extrajudicial killings. The meeting, therefore, was an opportunity to exchange advocacy strategies and knowledge as well as link the HRDs in the two countries for enhance collaboration despite their diverse issues of concern in their work.

#### Kenyan institutions assessed on implementation of Marrakesh Declaration

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and nine other State institutions with a human rights mandate were assessed on their understanding and implementation of the Marrakech Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, 2018.

#### Key findings

1. There are no criteria for implementing the Marrakech declaration by national authorities or proper procedure for handling complaints from HRDs.
2. Most of the institutions have limited or no resources specifically for implementing the Marrakech Declaration.
3. The officers had little or no knowledge of the Marrakech Declaration.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Outputs

- *The women HRDs in Kenya and South Africa exchanged ideas and formed new partnerships as well as identified areas they can refer to each other to enhance their work.*
- *They also appreciated the importance of submitting alternative reports to the regional mechanisms like the ACHPR in response to the State reports for accountability.*

#### Output

*An assessment report was developed with findings and recommendations on strengthening the understanding and work of the institutions on the Marrakech Declaration*





Kenyan State agencies with a human rights mandate are trained on the Marrakech Declaration. Photo: Secretariat.

### National institutions in Kenya and Tanzania trained on the Marrakech Declaration

After an assessment of the understanding and status of implementation of the Marrakech Declaration in Kenya, 35 representatives of 10 State institutions with a human rights mandate were trained in a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. A similar assessment was done involving CHRAGG and 15 other national institutions with a human rights mandate.

#### Key findings

1. Very little knowledge and understanding on who HRDs are.
2. No criteria for implementing the Marrakech Declaration by national authorities or procedure for handling complaints from HRDs.
3. Lack of resources is a key challenge to implementing the Marrakech Declaration.

Based on these findings, separate trainings were held in Kenya and Tanzania targeting officers from the assessed institutions.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

*"I never knew about the Marrakech Declaration until the assessment and this training. I never even knew that as a police officer, I am a human rights defender."*

*A police officer said during the training on the Marrakech Declaration in Kenya.*

#### Outcome

*From an evaluation of the officers, they understood their role in protection of HRDs and the Marrakech Declaration.*



### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

*Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Liberata Mulamula addressing participants during the HRDs training in Morogoro, Tanzania. Photo: Secretariat.*

### Tanzania: empowering CHRAGG, other State entities and THRDC to implement the Marrakech Declaration, 2018

At least 35 officials- with 17 from government agencies- in Tanzania were trained on their role in implementing the Marrakech Declaration on Human Rights Defenders on August 3-5, 2021 in Dar es-Salaam. The officials were taken through national, regional and international instruments for the protection of HRDs.

During the workshop, a one-year national action plan for the Implementation of the Marrakech Declaration based on a template prepared by NANHRI. The NAP identifies actors, activities and timelines.

### Implementation of the Marrakech Declaration, 2018: follow-up training for Tanzania senior government officials

A follow-up training was undertaken for senior officers and Commissioners of CHRAGG in Morogoro Tanzania on October 27-28, 2021 in Morogoro, Tanzania.

The follow-up training was to deepen their understanding on the Marrakech Declaration and learn more of the specific role as per the mandate of the institutions in actualising the one-year action plan adopted in August 2021.

#### Output

*The training led to adoption of the one-year action plan for implementation of the Marrakech Declaration.*

#### Outcomes

- *There was general acceptance and commitment from the senior State officials in supporting the implementation of the Marrakech Declaration.*
- *The translated Marrakech Declaration into Swahili was adopted as a basic tool for increasing awareness on the Declaration in Tanzania.*





A group photo of the representative of NHRIs during the NHRIs workshop on HRDs in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: Secretariat.

#### NANHRI and defend defenders round table on public enquiries to end FGM

NANHRI participated in the ‘Round Table Conversation’ on NHRIs’ experience on implementing the Human Rights Council Resolution (HRC.Res.) 44/16, and a tool known as ‘PRIMER’, which was developed by UNFPA and launched in partnership with GANHRI. The tool is aimed at contributing to ‘developing the capacity of NHRIs to investigate human rights violations related to FGM, and to monitor progress in preventing, and eliminating this harmful practice’.

The HRC, Resolution 44/16 calls for rights-based, gender-responsive multi-sectoral actions with fully resourced national action plans, that reinforce the development and implementation of national laws, and policies prohibiting this harmful practice.

#### Building the capacity of NHRIs implementation of the Marrakech Declaration

The NHRIs of Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Niger, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo NHRIs were trained on the protection of HRDs and expanding the shrinking civic space in Africa based on tools developed by NANHRI in a workshop on January 27-28, 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya.

They were trained on national, regional and international frameworks of protection of HRDs with specific focus on implementation on the Marrakech Declaration of 2018. The tools developed include a model law, a national action plan template, a regional action plan and a quick reference book on HRDs. Out of the six countries represented in the training, only Cote d’Ivoire has a law on the protection of HRDs.

#### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

##### Outputs

- The NHRIs understood and appreciated the tools developed to support their work in implementation of the Marrakech Declaration.
- The NHRIs recognised the importance of the National Action Plan and the model law as sustainable structures of preserving the rights of HRDs.
- Specifically, the Commission nationale des droits de l’homme de la République démocratique du Congo, which has a stalled Bill in Parliament appreciated the insights of the workshop.



A section of the zoom screen of the NHRIs Forum panelists.

#### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Enhancing collaboration between NHRIs and regional human rights mechanisms

##### NHRIs Forum adopts Declaration on promoting indigenous women’s rights

African NHRIs, representatives of CSOs, African Union bodies, among other partners took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> NHRIs Forum held ahead of the 68<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ACHPR on April 8-9, 2021 virtually. The Forum focused on the African NHRIs’ abilities and resourcing to follow-up, monitor and influence the implementation of the [Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa](#) (Maputo Protocol) and the regional decisions on African women in general and indigenous women in particular.

##### Third NHRI Forum held on the margins of the ACHPR session adopts declaration

At least 90 participants representing NHRIs, the ACHPR, the OHCHR, CSOs, and academia took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> NANHRI NHRIs Forum held on the margins of the 69<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The two-day Forum focused on the 40th Anniversary of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights’ (African Charter) under the theme of ‘40 years of implementing the African Charter on human and people’s rights: harnessing our collective experiences towards the Africa we want’.

##### Outputs

- The Forum developed and adopted a statement on the “Rights of Indigenous Women in Africa”. The statement was shared with the ACHPR during the 68th Ordinary Session.
- Participants also developed and adopted a [plan of action](#) for ensuring the promotion and protection of rights of indigenous women.

##### Output

- The Forum adopted a Declaration and Action Plan on Enhancing the complementary relationship between the African Commission and NHRIs. It also focused on how NHRIs can work with the ACHPR on BHR, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, SOGIE rights, and follow-up on the implementation of economic, social, and cultural rights decisions.





A family photo of the NANHRI workshop for the NHRIs held in Nairobi on June 23-25, 2021. Photo: Secretariat

### NHRIs trained to report under the Maputo protocol

NANHRI organised a workshop for the NHRIs of Kenya, Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Mali on reporting on Maputo Protocol in Nairobi and virtually on June 23-25, 2021

This training sought to contribute to the enhanced ability of NHRIs to follow-up and influence the implementation of regional human rights commitments, including on women's rights.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

*"We thank NANHRI and the partners for this training. It has pricked our thoughts to think and work beyond the box. We have been taught to be specific in our reporting and making actionable recommendations to the regional bodies to trigger State action. I wish we could extend this training to all our staff in all the NHRIs."*

**KNCHR CEO Dr. Bernard Mogesa during the Maputo Protocol training.**

#### Output

- *Participants capacity to prepare and submit reports to the African Commission regularly enhanced.*
- *NHRIs collaboration and capacity to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (SRRWA) strengthened.*



A group photo of the NCHR-Rwanda and CSOs workshop on Maputo Protocol. Photo: Secretariat.

### NHRI of Rwanda, CSOs trained on reporting on the Maputo Protocol

At least 23 commissioners and staff of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Rwanda and seven representatives of CSOs participated in a training on Maputo Protocol on October 13-15, 2021 in Musanze, Rwanda. The CSOs included the Rwanda Women Lawyers Network, Haguruka, Pro-femme Twese Hamwe, *Reseau Development des Femmes Pauvres*, ARFEM, RWAMREC, and Rwanda Civil Society Platform.

### NHRI of Cameroon trained on litigation at the regional human rights bodies

In the context of implementation of regional human rights commitments, NANHRI trained 50 staff of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon on litigation before national and the regional treaty bodies on June 15-16, 2021 in Mankomo-Cameroon. In addition to litigation, they were trained on following up on monitoring implementation of decisions of the regional human rights treaty bodies.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Output

- *The training enabled the creation of a platform for sensitisations on the Maputo Protocol between the NCHR Rwanda, the OHCHR, CSOs, and the Ministry of Justice.*
- *The NCHR-Rwanda and CSOs committed to draft alternative reports and shadow reports and develop an annual action plan on reporting on the Maputo Protocol in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender.*

*"The Maputo Protocol training was extremely useful in understanding on how to report to this instrument. We thank NANHRI for this timely workshop."*

**Ms. Marie Mukasine, Chairperson, NCHR- Rwanda**

#### Output

*The skills of the participants on litigations were enhanced.*





Participants of the EHRC-CSOs training on litigation before the African human rights treaty bodies. Photo: Secretariat.

### EHRC and CSOs benefit from a training on litigation before regional human treaty bodies

At least 50 participants- 30 from Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and 20 from CSOs- were trained on litigation and following up on implementation of decisions of the national and regional human rights bodies on September 28-30, 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

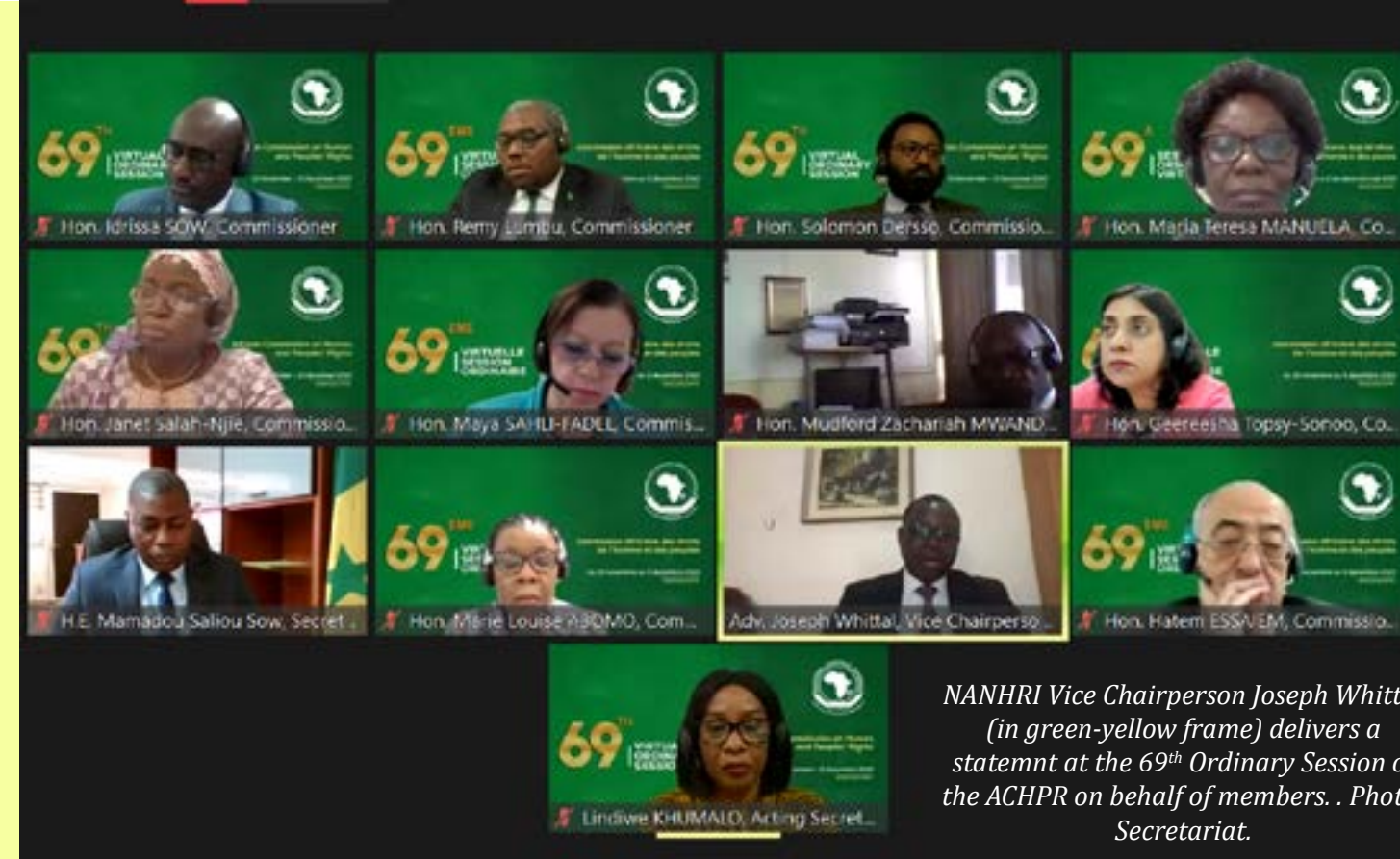
### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Outputs

- Some CSOs committed to apply for observer status; committing to undertake/litigate human rights cases at the domestic level and elevate to regional level upon exhaustion/unavailability of local remedies.
- Lawyers for Human Rights will hold workshops on the importance of Ethiopia ratifying the African Court Protocol and engage in four strategic litigation cases at the domestic level and elevate to regional level if local remedies are exhausted or unavailable
- Centre for Justice undertook to engage the ACHPR on decriminalisation of petty offences and engage the Special Rapporteur on prison and detention;
- Ethiopian Human Rights Defenders Center will apply for affiliate status and map areas for engagement with the ACHPR;
- The Ethiopian Human Rights Council undertook to submit shadow reports and begin cases for litigation before the national and regional mechanisms depending on admissibility.

#### Lesson

Involving CSOs in training is important as they can complement the mandate of NHRIs.



NANHRI Vice Chairperson Joseph Whittal (in green-yellow frame) delivers a statemnt at the 69<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ACHPR on behalf of members. . Photo: Secretariat.

### Engagement with African human rights mechanisms

#### Supporting engagements during the 69<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ACHPR

A side event was held at the margins of the 69<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ACHPR to popularise utilisation of Resolution 275 among the African NHRIs for the protection of for LGB/ITGNC persons on November 11-12, 2021 virtually.

During the same period, three NHRIs- the National Human Rights Commission of the Gambia, the *Commission Béninoise des Droits de l'Homme-Benin* and the Office of the Ombudsman of Namibia- were supported in applying for affiliate status with the ACHPR. NHRIs enjoying affiliate status were also encouraged to submit alternative reports; the KNCHR submitted a report.

As part of participation of NANHRI at the 69<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, NANHRI Vice Chairperson Joseph Whittal delivered a statement of concerns over the increasing armed conflicts in Africa, with a specific focus on Ethiopia. NANHRI called on national (including the EHRC) and regional actors to work to end the war between the Tigray Forces and Federal Government agents on November 15, 2021 virtually. NHRIs also submitted statements on the human rights situation in their countries.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

#### Outputs

- The meeting identified the lack of a mechanism at the regional level for assessment of the implementation of the Resolution, which was adopted in 2014 by the ACHPR.
- ACHPR acknowledged the call from NANHRI to support national initiatives of ending the armed conflict in Ethiopia.

#### Outcomes

- NANHRI call to ending the Tigray conflict was acknowledged in the outcome documents of the ACHPR as a priority area.
- At least 19 NHRIs delivered statements on the situation of human rights- the highest number ever recorded.
- The EHRC participated in a panel sharing good practices at the ordinary session on advocacy for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Older Persons and the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The NCHR Rwanda provided an update that its country had ratified the two Protocols, details of which were yet to be updated on the AU website.

#### Results

- The NHRIs of Benin and the Gambia received affiliate status to the ACHPR during the 69<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session.
- The KNCHR submitted its report to the ACHPR.

#### Recommendations

- ACHPR develops a tool for accountability on Resolution 275.
- NANHRI and ACHPR develop a joint strategy to streamline information flow between NHRIs and the Commission
- NANHRI and ACHPR create templates for alternative and activity reports; sensitising NHRIs without affiliate status to apply and support them to submit reports.



Supporting NHRIs’ engagements with the ACERWC

Informed by limited engagements between the NHRIs and the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), NANHRI hosted 46 members in a sensitisation workshop virtually on October 26, 2021. The workshop, which was organised jointly with the ACERWC focused on application for affiliate status as a basic requirement to engage the regional body and the process of preparation and submission of the reports, as well as how to access the outcomes.

In addition, NANHRI supported the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Cameroon Human Rights Commission in applying for affiliate status to the ACERWC.

NANHRI embarks on developing guidelines on the safe return of children to school during and after COVID-19

NANHRI and the ACERWC embarked on developing Guidelines for Safe Return to School during and beyond COVID-19. The Safe return to school guidelines are to inspire better and safer return to school practices in Africa in the context of COVID-19, while the other researches will anchor our programming in these new thematic areas.

Assessments on the Impact of COVID-19 on the rights of children with Disabilities to be done

To improve the capacity of NHRIs to respond to the rights and welfare of children with disabilities in relation to the impact of COVID-19, NANHRI commissioned an assessment with the NHRIs of Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Ghana and Burundi.

AUC-NANHRI 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Dialogue Forum adopts Declaration on promoting art and culture for socio-economic transformation

At least 71 participants from State and non-State actors took part in the NANHRI-AUC 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Dialogue Forum held virtually on November 8-9, 2021 under the theme of the “*Role of NHRIs in Promoting Arts, Culture and Heritage as Catalysts for Socio-Economic Transformation*”. A declaration and action plan were adopted to guide the NHRIs in supporting realisation of socio-economic transformation through culture and heritage.

Achievements/challenges/opportunities

Outputs

- Participants attending this session gained understanding of how NHRIs can contribute to the work of the ACERWC, the procedures of applying for affiliate status, benefit and the impact of contributing to the work of the regional treaty body.
- The NHRIs of Ethiopia and Cameroon submitted applications to the ACERWC.

Outcome

The NHRI of Cameroon has been granted the affiliate status while the application of the NHRI of Ethiopia is under consideration.

Expected output

Development and launch of the Safe return to school guidelines in the context of COVID-19 in 2022 to guide safe and sustainable access to education in Africa.

Expected output

A report will be developed and launched to provide a structured approach to ensuring the welfare of children living with disabilities.

Output

The Policy Forum adopted a [declaration and action plan](#) on the role of African NHRIs in promoting arts, culture, and heritage as catalysts for socio-economic transformation.

Recommendation

There is need for NHRIs to build a relationship with the departments of arts, culture and heritage for effective promotion and protection of cultural rights, and follow-up on the implementation of the Declaration and Action Plan.



Participants of the Continental symposium. Photo: Secretariat.

Continental symposium on the implementation of decisions of regional court and tribunals held

African NHRIs took part in the continental symposium on the implementation of decisions of African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and tribunals in conjunction with the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) on December 12, 2021, in Abuja, Nigeria and virtually. The symposium was attended by representatives of African regional Courts and tribunals including the African Court on Human and peoples’ Rights, the ECOWAS Court of Justice and the East African Court of Justice, development partners, representatives of regional and national bar associations, CSOs, academia, and the media.

Twelve ECOWAS NHRIs (the Gambia and Côte d’Ivoire (virtually), Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, and Benin) and one EAC NHRI(Kenya) attended the PALU continental symposium in Abuja, Nigeria.

Achievements/challenges/opportunities

Output

The participants of the symposium agreed on establishment of a working group on implementation of decisions of which NANHRI and NHRIs will be members.

Recommendation

There is need for special support to NHRIs in conflict situations.





President Paul Kagame of Rwanda (left) former Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou and AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki launch the AfCTA. Photo: Africa News Agency.

#### Baseline study and stakeholder analysis relating to the Africa continental Free Trade Agreement underway

In March 2021, at least 44 African States signed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA) with the aim of promoting trade within the continent. With the coming into force of the AfCFTA, there is need for a human right based approach to implementation was identified. For this to be successful, NANHRI in partnership with the AfCTA Secretariat sought to understand the level of awareness among NHRIs, CSOs and other stakeholders on the AfCTA.

For this reason, NANHRI commissioned a study and stakeholder analysis on AfCTA to inform a rights-based implementation. The findings will be published in 2022.

#### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

##### Expected result

*A human rights-based approach in the implementation of the AfCTA through active involvement of the Afrian NHRIs at nation level.*



Participants of the DPO review meeting in Lagos, Nigeria. Photo: Secretariat.

#### Enhancing the role of NHRIs in decriminalisation of petty offences in Africa

##### NANHRI develops Compendium on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in five States

After the 2018-2020 implementation of Phase I of the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa project, a compendium comprising achievements, gaps, challenges and opportunities in decriminalisation of petty offences in Africa was developed. The report is based on Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, South Africa and Côte d' Ivoire, which generally represent a regional status of the petty offences on the continent.

##### National consultative forums and NAP validation meetings held

NANHRI and the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria on diverse dates brought together national actors including government departments and CSOs in defining a way forward in decriminalising petty offences. The meetings were held in Lagos, Nigeria, on July 14-15, 2021 and Freetown, Sierra Leone, on July 22, 2021.

##### Follow-up meetings on the action plans in Nigeria and Sierra Leone held

As a follow-up to the validation meetings in Sierra Leone and Nigeria, the Uganda Human Rights Commission was also invited to another engagement to review progress of implementation of the action plans on decriminalising petty offences in Lagos, Nigeria on August 26-27, 2021.

#### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

##### Outcome

*The compendium highlights the status of petty offence and the required interventions to decriminalise petty offences in Africa.*

##### Outcomes

**Sierra Leone:** *The meeting validated a national action plan developed earlier, with clear roles of partners in decriminalising petty offences.*

**Nigeria:** *The meeting validated an action plan for decriminalisation of petty offences in Lagos and Oyo States.*

##### Output

*Gaps and challenges identified, which included the following; inadequate capacity in engaging with the decriminalisation of petty offence and limited data on petty offences for advocacy with policy makers for review of laws.*

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE: Enhance the organisational development and institutional sustainability of NANHRI



*NANHRI Chairperson Dr. Elasto Hilarius Mugwadi (left) and Executive Director Gilbert sebihogo display the Strategic Plan, 2021-2025 to the virtual participants of the General Assembly on November 2, 2021 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Photo: Secretariat.*

#### NANHRI participated in the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

NANHRI was invited to the launch of the sustainable recovery pledge dubbed “building a better future for all with human rights at its heart” that was on June 30, 2021 during the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council.

NANHRI joined the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Universal Rights Group and issued a statement in support to the sustainable recovery pledge during and beyond COVID-19 guided by Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

#### New Strategic Plan validated and adopted

In January, 2021, the Secretariat reviewed the first draft of the [NANHRI 2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#) and suggested amendments, which were incorporated. The draft strategic plan was validated by the Steering Committee and later adopted by the General Assembly for implementation.

It was designed and presented before the Steering Committee and the General Assembly on November 1, 2021 and November 2, 2021, respectively virtually. The members officially adopted the NANHRI 2021-2025 Strategic Plan as the guiding document for the next five years.

#### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

##### Output

*New NANHRI strategy developed and adopted to guide planning of activities, projects and programmes.*





NANHRI leadership in the hybrid platform of the 13th Biennial Conference hosted from Harare, Zimbabwe. . Photo: Secretariat.

### New website developed and launched

A new English and French website was developed and launched upon review and approval by the Steering Committee and General Assembly on November 1 and November 2, 2021 respectively. The new website was developed to be up to speed with the trends disseminations of information through a dynamic and more audience-centred site that is not only easy to navigate, but also convenient in interlinking information.

### NANHRI and Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission host the 13<sup>th</sup> NANHRI Biennial Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, and virtually

During the 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial conference, the NHRIs and other State and non-State actors on November 3-5, 2021 discussed recovery beyond COVID-19 under the theme: Impact of COVID-19 on Human Rights in Africa: The role of NHRIs in offering a human-rights based approach to better and sustainable recovery towards development beyond COVID-19.

The hybrid conference, which was held from Harare, sought to explore alternative approaches to promotion and protection of human rights during extra-ordinary situations. The conference was preceded by the NANHRI Steering Committee meeting and the General Assembly, which are key statutory governance meetings for NANHRI.

A biennial conference is one of the statutory and institutional events established by the NANHRI Constitution. Article 56 of the Constitution requires that a biennial conference is held once every two years to discuss themes that may be raised and agreed by the Members, the Steering Committee, and other partners. In 2021, it was agreed that COVID-19 had been a major issue negatively affecting human rights in Africa, hence the need to have discussion and a way forward on how the NHRIs can work with other partners in sustainable recovery programmes.

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

*“The role of data has been emphasised in sustainable recovery. It may be important for the NHRIs to receive specific training on data collection techniques and tools to be effective (in their work).”*

**Koffi Alikizang, Chef Division Promotion à la CNDH-Togo**

#### Output

*A new dynamic NANHRI website adopted.*

#### Output

*The [Harare Declaration and Plan of Action](#) was developed and adopted out of the discussions and presentations. It is expected that the NHRIs will use the document as a reference in planning their work. The Declaration is also a resource mobilization tool for NANHRI.*

#### Recommendation:

*NANHRI should focus on mobilising resources to support the implementation of the Harare Declaration and Plan of Action, besides monitoring the activity reports of NHRIs to check integration of the elements of the Declaration to evaluate outcomes, outputs, and results. Some partners have expressed interest in supporting implementation of the Declaration.*

### Achievements/challenges/opportunities

### Quarterly newsletters

At least three newsletters were developed and shared with members as well as published on the website and social media pages. They include quarterlies for Quarter 4, 2020, Quarter 1, 2021, and Quarter 2, 2021.



#### Output

*The activities of the Secretariat and the members were highlighted.*

### Migration to Office 365 for smoother operations

The Secretariat migrated all its computers to office 365, allowing for access to more Microsoft Office applications

#### Results

- The Secretariat has an alternative online meeting platform, Microsoft Teams.*
- Office documents are automatically backed up to a virtual platform, Cloud, a factor that eases access from anywhere and enhanced data security.*
- Virtual server has complemented the physical server at the office. This has ensured access to the Microsoft Office platform even when the physical server is offline.*

	Achievements/challenges/opportunities
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Resource mobilisation

The NANHRI Secretariat has pursued engagements with various partners with a view to diversifying sources of funding. Progress on these developments is shared below:

Partnership	Proposed/ongoing work	Target amount	Amount received/expected
UNDP, GANHRI and NANRI Tripartite Partnership Project	accelerating implementation of the Marrakech Declaration in Tanzania	USD 70,000	USD 75,000
UNDP AU treaties through Norwegian Government	supporting the implementation of AU treaties Workplan shared	USD 100,000	Awaiting disbursement
EU SHARP proposal	NANHRI and Health Action International submitted a proposal on sexual reproductive health rights- particularly assess and build the capacity of five NHRIs around SRHR as it relates to adolescents	€ 400,000	Proposal approved awaiting disbursement
German development cooperation (GIZ)	Engagements with the Africa Free continental Trade Area and engagements with the Africa Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	€ 250,000	Disbursed
ARASA grant	Capacity building of NHRIs around bodily autonomy and integrity	USD 59,000	Secured and utilised
DIHR Business and Human Rights	agreement was signed with the Danish Institute for Human Rights on a Business and Human Rights SDGS/ sustainable Oceans Project		First tranche of € 82,371.63 has been disbursed

CONCLUSION

Despite the raging COVID-19, the Secretariat implemented several activities to support the NHRIs deliver on their mandate. It also expanded partnership and programmes based on priority areas identified.

With the improvement of the situation against COVID-19, NANHRI looks forward to more vibrant engagements contributing more to sustainable recovery through enhanced resilience in achieving an Africa where human rights culture is the norm.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021					7
Statement of Income and Expenditure					
		2021 KES	2021 USD	2020 KES	2020 USD
Income					
Members Contributions	5	19,931,270	180,701	16,185,400	173,704
Grants and donations	6	122,858,533	1,113,858	68,266,731	652,074
Other income	7	11,764,384	106,668	3,556,904	33,975
Total income		154,554,187	1,401,217	88,009,035	859,753
Expenditure					
Programme expenses	8(a)	43,971,452	398,653	25,699,916	245,482
Administration expenses	8(b)	35,661,272	323,312	24,890,470	237,748
Provision for bad debts	10	60,283,510	455,880	-	-
Total expenditure		139,916,234	1,177,845	50,590,386	483,230
Surplus for the year		24,637,953	223,372	37,418,649	376,523
The accounting policies on pages 11 to 14 and the notes on pages 15 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.					

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021						8
Statement of financial position						
	Notes	2021 KES	2021 USD	2020 KES	2020 USD	
ASSETS						
Non-current assets						
Property and equipment	9	992,466	8,997	1,384,622	12,683	
Current assets						
Account receivables	10	25,613,107	241,279	62,710,232	574,418	
Cash and cash equivalents	11	154,979,652	1,405,074	98,436,875	901,669	
Total current assets		180,592,759	1,646,353	161,147,107	1,476,087	
Total assets		182,585,225	1,655,350	162,531,729	1,488,770	
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES						
Reserve funds						
General fund		160,306,663	1,453,397	135,279,555	1,239,144	
Capital fund		292,466	8,997	1,384,621	12,683	
Restricted fund		1,986,033	12,330	1,960,033	12,456	
Total funds		162,585,162	1,474,724	138,624,209	1,264,283	
Current liabilities						
Other payables	12	19,923,063	180,626	24,907,520	224,486	
Total reserves and liabilities		182,585,225	1,655,350	162,531,729	1,488,770	
The financial statements on pages 7 to 17 were approved for issue by the Steering Committee on 11/03/2022 and were signed on their behalf by:						
						
Dr. Elasto Hilarius Mugwadi : Chairperson						
						
Mr. Gilbert Sebuhogo : Network Executive Director						
The accounting policies on pages 11 to 14 and the notes on pages 15 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.						

Accreditation status of the members of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions as of December 2021

Country	Institution	Status
1. Algeria	Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme	B
2. Benin	Commission béninoise des droits de l'homme	C
3. Burkina Faso	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	Status has lapsed
4. Burundi	Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme	A
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 national des droits de l'homme	A
11. Democratic Republic of the 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	A
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	A
27. Mauritius	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	A
28. Morocco	Conseil national des droits de l'homme	A
29. Mozambique	Commission Nationale des Direitos Humananos- Mozambique	
30. Namibia	Office of the Ombudsman	A
31. Niger	Commission Nationale des Droits Humains	A
32. Nigeria	National Human Rights Commission	A



33. The Republic of Congo	<i>Commission nationale des droits de l'homme</i>	B
34. Rwanda	National Commission for Human Rights	A
35. Senegal	<i>Comité sénégalais des droits de l'homme</i>	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. Eswatini	Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration	
41. Tanzania	Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance	A
42. Togo	<i>Commission nationale des droits de l'homme</i>	A
43. Tunisia	<i>Comité Supérieur des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales</i>	B
44. Uganda	Uganda Human Rights Commission	A
45. Zambia	Zambia Human Rights Commission	A
46. Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission	A

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