



PRESS RELEASE

Annual NANHRI Workshop on Implementation of Decisions of African Human Rights Bodies: Strengthening Capacity of NHRI Implementation Focal Points **Somerset Westview Nairobi – 28-29 August 2025**

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) convened the Annual Workshop on Implementation of Decisions of African Human Rights Bodies from 28-29 August 2025 at Somerset Westview Hotel, Nairobi. The workshop was held under the theme: *“Capacity Building for NANHRI–NHRI Implementation Focal Points.”*

The two-day workshop brought together 14 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from across Africa, as well as representatives from the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACtHPR), the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), the Pan-African Parliament, Equality Now, the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA), and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI).

Background and Objectives

The workshop built on the outcomes of the 7th NANHRI–African Union Commission (AUC) Policy Dialogue, held in May 2025 in Addis Ababa under the theme *“Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations: The Role of NHRIs & Other Human Rights Actors”*, which emphasized the need to institutionalize dedicated Implementation Focal Points within NHRIs. These focal points are tasked with enhancing structured engagement with governments, monitoring state compliance with AU human rights decisions, advocating for legislative and policy reforms, and bridging the gap between continental jurisprudence and national realities.

The workshop sought to:

- Equip focal points with skills to effectively monitor, advocate for, and report on the implementation of decisions of African human rights bodies;
- Promote peer learning and exchange of experiences among NHRIs;
- Clarify roles, responsibilities, and reporting structures of Implementation Focal Points;
- Identify capacity gaps and technical assistance needs for sustained support from NANHRI and partners.

Key Outcomes

Through interactive sessions facilitated by representatives of AU human rights bodies, civil society and the NANHRI Secretariat, the workshop achieved several milestones:

- Improved understanding of the mandates, responsibilities and operational frameworks of Implementation Focal Points.
- Preliminary needs assessment identifying gaps in institutional capacity and priority areas for technical support.
- Developed country-specific action plans by participating NHRIs outlining short, medium, and long-term priorities for institutionalizing Implementation Focal Points.
- Agreed on the need to review the 2016 NANHRI Guidelines on the role of NHRIs in monitoring implementation of decisions of the African Commission and African Court, ensuring relevance to current contexts.

Next Steps

The workshop identified two critical next steps:

1. Revision of the 2016 NANHRI Guidelines: The first cohort of focal points and stakeholders will provide comments and recommendations to update the Guidelines, ensuring stronger alignment with current challenges and opportunities.
2. Capacity building for a second cohort of Implementation Focal points: NANHRI, with the support of partners, will extend training and technical support to additional NHRIs to strengthen a continental network of focal points.