



The 15th Biennial Conference of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

NANHRI convenes its 15th Biennial Conference on the theme *Original Aspects of African Human Rights Instruments and Jurisprudence*

Yaoundé, Cameroon | 5–6 February 2026

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) will convene its **15th Biennial Conference** on **5 and 6 February 2026** in **Yaoundé, Cameroon, in the premises of the Economic and Social Council**. Organised in collaboration with the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC), this high-level meeting will bring together members of Government, Chairpersons of African human rights mechanisms, Chairpersons and senior officials of the 46 African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), representatives of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the diplomatic corps, universal and regional organisations, technical and financial partners, traditional authorities, academics, civil society organisations, as well as human rights experts and practitioners from across the African continent and beyond.

Held under the theme ***Original Aspects of African Human Rights Instruments and Jurisprudence. Leveraging African Human Rights Instruments and Jurisprudence for Strengthened Implementation of Human Rights: the Strategic Role of African National Human Rights Institutions***, the Conference will provide a forum for reflection and discussion on the specificities of the African human rights system.

The Biennial Conference, convened pursuant to Article 56 of NANHRI's founding instrument, serves as a key continental platform for dialogue, reflection, and collective action on priority human and peoples' rights issues on the continent. The 2026 conference will focus on the distinctive features of *Africa's human and peoples' rights system*, including collective rights, enforceable socio-economic and cultural rights, communal responsibilities, as well as culturally grounded approaches to justice.

Participants will explore how African human rights instruments, including the **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights**, the **Protocol to the African Charter**

on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa and other binding and non-binding African instruments, together with the jurisprudence developed by African human rights protection mechanisms, can be more effectively leveraged to strengthen human rights promotion and protection in each African country.

In a context characterised by conflicts, persistent inequalities, environmental challenges, digital transformation, and governance shifts, the conference will examine how uniquely African legal instruments and jurisprudence offer appropriate, legitimate and operational responses to the current challenges the continent faces.

During the two-day conference, participants will engage in expert presentations, round-tables, plenary sessions and group work aimed at *building the capacity of national human rights institution (NHRIs), fostering peer learning and deepening collaboration with African human rights protection mechanisms and the Pan-African Parliament.*

Key expected outcomes of the conference include the adoption of the ***Yaoundé Declaration*** and the ***development of an action Plan on the application of original African human and people's Rights principles, A strategic implementation action Plan***, as well as ***practical guidelines*** to support NHRIs in operationalising African human rights instruments and jurisprudence at national and regional levels.

Through this 15th Biennial Conference, NANHRI reaffirms its commitment to strengthening human rights protection systems and to promoting a contextualised approach to the implementation of human rights across the continent.

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