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**General Assembly Meeting of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) hosted by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and the NANHRI Secretariat**

**Draft Minutes**

**Date: November 2, 2021 | Venue: Harare and Virtually | Time: 09:00:12:40GMT**

**Members Present:**

List attached as Appendix 1

**Introduction:**

The Executive Director, Mr. Gilbert Sebihogo, welcomed the members and thanked them for their continued support towards NANHRI. He also thanked members for attendance in the General Assembly despite the heavy schedules at this time of the year. He noted that due to COVID-19, members had not met since the last physical General Assembly Meeting in Cairo on November 4, 2019.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome Address by NANHRI Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Elasto Mugwadi, the Chair of Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission**

Dr. Mugwadi welcomed the members of the NANHRI to the General Assembly, which was being held ahead of the 13th Biennial Conference of the organisation. He regretted that due to COVID-19, it was impossible to convene a physical meeting, hence they missed an opportunity of enjoying the hospitality of Zimbabwe. He, however, appreciated the work members have been doing in promotion and protection of human rights in the face of the pandemic, and urged them to work more as this is the ultimate test of their resilience in delivering on their mandate.

**Opening Remarks by NANHRI Chairperson Amb. Moushira Khattab, President of the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt**

Amb. Khattab thanked the government of Zimbabwe and the ZHRC for generously hosting the General assembly and the 13th Biennial Conference of NANHRI. Being the first time she was attending the NANHRI meetings, she also acknowledged and appreciated her predecessor Mr. Mohamed Fayek. She noted that under Mr. Fayek’s leadership, NANHRI admitted two new members to reach 46. One of the members, the National Human Rights Commission of the Gambia has applied for the GANHRI accreditation and she hoped it will be the 25th A-Status NHRI in Africa. In addition, under his leadership, NANHRI held the inaugural NHRIs Forum in April 2020, which will be a critical event on the margins of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights’ ordinary sessions. On this platform, members will discuss the situation of human rights in Africa with a view of consolidating a position through a statement for transmission and consideration at the ordinary sessions of the African Commission. Mr. Fayek also worked closely with NANHRI Secretariat in the development of the new Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

Amb. Khattab assured members that even as she joins the Steering Committee , she will support the incoming Chairperson Dr. Mugwadi and the Secretariat in the implementation of the new strategic plan for NANHRI to impact more on the situation of human rights on the continent.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Adoption of Agenda**

The Chairperson proposed the adoption of the agenda (attached herein as Annex 2). There being no comments from members, the proposed Agenda was adopted.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: Adoption and confirmation of minutes of previous GA meeting held on November 4, 2019 in Cairo, Egypt**

In the absence of any comments from members, the minutes of the previous meeting of the General Assembly held on November 4, 2019 in Cairo were adopted.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Presentations of:**

1. **The NANHRI’s Secretariat’s annual activity report (activities, successes, challenges and lessons) and financial audited reports**

Members received updates of NANHRI’s Secretariat activities for the period covering the period January to December 2020 and January to October 2021 as presented by the NANHRI Executive Director.

The 2020 Report was based on the five goals of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan while the activity report of January -October 2021 covered the three strategic Objective of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

The Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2020 was presented by independent auditors, MGN Associates. Members were taken through the financial statements particularly the income statements and the balance sheet.

Members lauded the Secretariat for exceptional performance in the implementation of various activities despite the pandemic. NHRIs of Cote d’Ivoire and Mauritania shared testimonies of the support they had received from the Secretariat in the period under consideration. On the financial report, it was suggested that in future, the financial report be accompanied by notes of the financial statements explaining particularly variances in areas such as expenditure, payables, liquidity etc.

After deliberations, the audited financial and activity reports were received and adopted by members.

1. **Recommendation for appointment of new NANHRI Auditors**

The NANHRI Vice Chairperson presented the name of the proposed auditor – MGK Consulting. Members requested the Secretariat to explain the recruitment process for the auditor as well as their qualifications. The appointment of MGK Consultants was approved by members with the suggestion that moving forward, the request for approval should be accompanied by a briefing on the scores and justification for selecting a particular company.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: Reports from NANHRI Working Groups**

1. **Report from the NANHRI Working Group on Migration (2020-2021)**

The Chairperson of Working Group (WG) on Migration Ms. Amina Bouayach, thanked the WG members namely the NHRIs of; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Niger, and Morocco. She applauded the members for their availability, support and engagement in protecting the rights of migrants on the continent and internationally.

**Achievement**: A plan of Action for short-term and medium term has been adopted.

**Activities**: In September 2020, the WG organized an exchange meeting on ‘’The protection of refugees and migrants’ rights during COVID-19. The NHRIs of South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria and Morocco shared their experiences and challenges.

**Measures taken**: The WG has submitted written recommendations to the UN Network on Migration for better implementation of GCM. The WG Recommended adoption of migration laws based on human rights and especially during crisis like COVID-19.

The WG participated in several webinars organized by international stakeholders especially on migration.

**Achievements:** Engagement with regional and international actors has been strengthened. Especially with IOM, OHCHR; ACHPR, GANHRI and the African Civil Society who participated in Working Group’s different events.

Regarding the follow up on the GCM, the WG participated in the regional review process by organizing a consultation meeting of NANHRI members on 26 August 2021. The WG participated in two other similar consultation meetings at the African and Arab levels.

1. **Report of the NANHRI WG on SDGs**

The report was presented by the Chairperson of the working group, Commissioner Joseph Whittal. In the period under consideration, the SDG WG, which comprises the NHRIs of Kenya, Cameroon, South Africa, Malawi and Ghana reported the following achievements: involvement of other NHRIs in the activities of the WG through virtual engagement; improved collaboration with national planning commissions and statistical offices to improve in-country reporting on SDGs; improved participation of NHRIs in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Processes; conducting sensitization webinars on HRBA to SDG implementation; participation in SDG 4.7 on mainstreaming human rights education in school curricula; participation in regional and international fora on SDGs among others.

The WG also shared their workplan for the next one year, which included among others; in-country capacity building for select NHRIs, capacity building for government officials on HRBA approach to development; participation at side events at SDG conferences and fora; engagement with the VNR processes among others.

NANHRI Members expressed their appreciation of the work done by the Working group on Migration as well as the SDG Working Group and adopted the two reports.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Elections**

The Executive Director took the Members through the guidelines on the elections and positions that were to be filled as per the Constitution. The vacant positions included:

* Election of the NANHRI Leadership (Steering Committee) and working groups
* Election of NANHRI Representatives to the GANHRI Organs and Working Groups

The following were elected to various positions:

* ***Election of NANHRI leadership (New Steering Committee members) and working groups***
1. **NANHRI Chairperson:** Dr. Elasto Hilarious Mugwadi – the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC)
2. **NANHRI Vice Chairperson**: Mr. Joseph Whittal, Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice Ghana (CHRAJ) and host of the next (14th) NANHRI Biennial Conference
3. **Outgoing Chairperson of NANHRI:** Amb. Moushira Khattab, the President of the National Council for Human Rights Egypt.
4. **Member, Northern Africa Sub-region:** Ms. Amina Bouayach, President of the National Council of Human Rights of Morocco;
5. **Member, Southern Africa Sub-region:** Ms. Scader Louis, Chairperson of Malawi Human Rights Commission.
6. **Member, Central Africa Sub-region:** Mr. Mwamba Mushikonke Mwamus, Chairperson of the *Commission Nationale des Droits de l’Homme de la République Démocratique du Congo*
7. **Member, Eastern Africa Sub-region:** Mrs. Marie Claire Mukasine, Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda.
8. **Member, Western Africa Sub-region:** Mr. Yaovi Sronvie, Rapporteur Général *Commission Nationale des Droits de l’Homme* du Togo
* ***NANHRI Working Group on Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063***

The Working group on Sustainable Development under Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 retained Commissioner Joseph Whittal as the Chairperson. The membership was expanded from five to include the NHRIs of Kenya, Cameroon, South Africa, Malawi, DRC, Ghana, Algeria and Sierra Leone.

* ***NANHRI Working Group on Migration***

The Working Group on Migration retained Ms. Amina Bouayach as the Chairperson representing the NCHR of Morocco. The other members include the NHRIs of Kenya, Zimbabwe, Niger and DRC.

* ***Election of NANHRI Representatives to the GANHRI Organs and Working Groups***
* ***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 Morocco, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe.

* ***GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation***

The member of NANHRI elected to serve on the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation is the South African Human Rights Commission for a 2 year term to take over from the National Council of Human Rights of Morocco in October 2022 while the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana was elected as alternate member .

* ***GANHRI Finance Committee***

The Malawi Human Rights Commission was elected to serve on the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Finance for a two year term.

* ***GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights***

The members of NANHRI elected to serve on the GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights are the National Council for Human Rights of Morocco and the Malawi Human Rights Commission for a 2-year term.

* ***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 WG on SDGs for a 2-year term.

* ***GANHRI Working Group on Ageing***

The National Council for Human Rights Egypt was elected to serve as representative of NANHRI in the GANHRI Working group on Ageing for a 2-year term.

***Election of Drafting Committee of the Harare Declaration and Action Plan***

 The drafting committee of the Harare Declaration consisted of two volunteers namely; Morocco and Zambia, alongside the NANHRI Secretariat and the host institution of the 13th Biennial Conference, Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.

* ***NANHRI Working group on the rights and welfare of the African child***

A working group on the rights and welfare of the African child was created. The members of the NANHRI elected to serve in this group are Egypt as the chair, DRC, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Algeria, Morocco, Malawi and South Africa.

* ***Chairpersonship transition***

The new Chairperson of NANHRI thanked the members for entrusting him with the leadership of the Network. He vowed to steer the network into fulfilling its mandate.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Presentation and launch of the NANHRI new website / NANHRI Strategic Plan, 2021-2025**

NANHRI Secretariat made a presentation on the new NANHRI website and NANHRI Strategic Plan, 2021-2025. These two were officially launched.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: AOB**

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned at 15:00GMT

**Minutes confirmed this …………….... day of …………………….…………… 2021.**

**Signed by:**

Gilbert Sebihogo Dr. Elasto H Mugwadi

**NANHRI Executive Director NANHRI Chairperson**

**Appendix 1: (List based on the Zoom platform log-in)**

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