

**The 14th Biennial Conference of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)**

**October 18 -20, 2023**

 **Hosted physically in Accra, Ghana, by NANHRI and CHRAJ**

***Theme:***

***Nurturing responsible business conduct and respect for human rights in Africa***

*“The role of African National Human Rights Institutions in centering human and people’s rights in the context of business operations, and the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement”*

***Daily Start 08:45hrs GMT***

**October 18, 2023: OPENING SESSION AND SCENE SETTING**

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| **0845 - 0900** | **Registration/ Preliminaries/housekeeping**  |
| 0900-1000hrs | **OPENING CEREMONY (5 min each)****Master of Ceremony – Mr. Gilbert Sebihogo –** Executive Director, NANHRI**OPENING REMARKS:** * **Dr. Hilarious Mugwadi** - Outgoing Chair, NANHRI
* **Adv. Joseph Whittal** - Chairperson, NANHRI
* **Ms. Maryam Abdullah Al Attyah** - GANHRI Chairperson,
* **XXXXXXXXXX -** Chief of National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, OHCHR /
* **H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye**- AU - Commissioner for Political Affairs, and Peace and Security - TBC
* UNDP/ UNECA representative
* Chairperson ACHPR

*(This part will keep changing depending on who we have on board as a funding partner)***OFFICIAL OPENING: Vice President (Ghana), Republic of Ghana (15 minutes)** |
| 1000 – 1030hrs | Health break / Group Photo / Media briefing |
| 1030 – 1130hrs | **SESSION 1: THE SITUATION OF BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA****Moderator –** Ms. Mercy Obonyo NANHRIPresentations:1. UNGPs and the status of National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights in Africa – **Mr. Chafi Bakari – AU Team leader – OHCHR EARO** *(7 minutes)*
2. AU Draft policy on BHR **– Mr. John Ikubaje**  Senior Political Officer and BHR focal point- AUC DPAPS*7minutes)*
3. Perspectives on the UNGP 10+ roadmap and opportunities for African BHR actors – **Prof. Damilola Olawuyi, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Member and African Representative –** *(7 minutes)*
4. Perspectives on the ACHPR resolution on BHR, with a focus on the legally binding instrument on BHR – **Hon. Solomon Ayele Dersso – Chairperson, Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations** uman h *(7 minutes)*
5. Reflections on host country (Ghana) NAP process *–* **Adv. Joseph Whittal – NANHRI chairperson, Chairperson- Centre for Human Rights and Administrative Justice** *(7 minutes)*

***Questions and Answers – 25 minutes*** |
| 1130 -1215hrs | **SESSION 2: BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BLUE ECONOMY****Moderator: Ethiopia Human Rights Commission****Expert presentations:**1. Presentation on the NANHRI guidance note on the role of NHRIs in the blue economy **– Ms. Mercy Obonyo & Mr. Mikkel Schmidt - Hansen – Special Advisor, Human Rights and Development, DIHR -** *10 minutes*
2. Expert presentation on BHR in the context of maritime security – **Dr. Ife Sinachi (TBC)** - *10 minutes*
3. Key findings of the Case study on BHR complaint handling in the fisheries and aquaculture sector **- Presentation by the National Human Rights Commission of the Gambia –** *10 minutes*

**Questions and Answers –** *15 minutes* |
| 1215 – 1300hrs | **SESSION 3: PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF JUST ENERGY TRANSITIONS ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS –** Assessing gaps, and opportunities for National Human Rights Institutions**Moderator:** Mr. Joseph Kibugu – Africa Programme Manager – Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)**Panelists:** East Africa NHRI rep: Kenya National Commission on Human Rights **(KNCHR)**CSO rep**: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) representative**Private Sector rep: **Global Business Initiative on Human Rights** ILO rep**: Ms. Githa Roelans, Head, Multinational Enterprises and Enterprise Engagement Unit, International Labour Organisation** State representative**: Ghana** Land Rights and Just Transition **– SEATINI / GLTN**REC representative**: ECOWAS Commission** |
| 1300 – 1400hrs | **Lunch break** |
| 1400 – 1515hrs | **SESSION 4: GLOBAL TRENDS ON MANDATORY HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE DIRECTIVES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON AFRICA****Moderator:** Mr. Arnold Kwesiga, Manager – Business and Human Rights, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa**Expert presenters:** Reflections on the EU Corporate Sustainability and Due Diligence Directives **- European Union representative** Presentation on EU regulatory developments and the CSDD **-**  **Elin Wrzoncki – Department Director – Human Rights and Business, DIHR** African CSO perspective on the EU regulatory development and implications to Africa **– Africa Coalition for Corporate Accountability rep**North Africa NHRI perspective on the EU regulatory development and Implications to Africa **– CNDH Morocco** |
| 1515 – 1645hrs | **SESSION 5: THE NEXUS BETWEEN BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT IN AFRICA****Moderator: South Africa Human Rights Commission****Panel discussion:** How does human rights contribute to conflict prevention? What are the drivers of conflicts in the context of business operations? What is the role of NHRIs in business related conflict prevention and early warning in Africa? How can businesses operating in conflict affected settings, take a conflict sensitive approach and respect human rights?**Panelists:*** **UN Working Group on BHR representative** – Prof. Damilola
* **Southern Africa NHRI representatives –** Mozambique NHRI
* **AU representative –** role of NHRIs in early warning and conflict prevention, and an overview on theAU continental and sub-regional conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms
* **Central Africa NHRI Perspectives - DRC –** Cameroon Human Rights Commission
* **Private sector representative –** UN Global Compact representative
* **Right holders’ representative** – perspectives on lived experience in a natural resource instigated conflict setting (**affected community rep from Sierra Leone)**

***Questions and answers – 30 minutes*** |
| **1645hrs**  | **Health break & End of day 1** |

**DAY 2: October 19, 2023**

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| 09:00-09:15hrs | **Recap of Day One- Rapporteur** |
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| 0915-1045hrs | **SESSION 6:** **THE TRIPPLE NEXUS** **BETWEEN BUSINESS TRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS** - Implementation of the NANHRI Guiding Framework on Mainstreaming Human Rights in the AfCFTA, and the Addis Ababa Declaration and Plan of Action on accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTAModerator: **Ms. Jacquiline Pimer – AfCFTA Specialist, UNECA**A: Expert presentation: **NANHRI secretariat / Consultants who developed the framework) –** *(25 minutes)***B: NANHRI Secretariat presentation:** The Addis Ababa Declaration and Plan of Action on accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA – (25 minutes) – **Mr. David Barissa, Senior Programmes Officer – NANHRI****C: Resolutions** on BHR and AfCFTA as adopted by the ACHPR (10minutes) – **Ms. Abiola Idowu - Ojo – ACHPR****D.** CSO perspectives **- Mr. Edmund Foley, Director of Programs, Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)****Plenary discussion:** Reflections on the presentations, assessing opportunities and the role of NHRIs and other key stakeholders in implementing the guiding framework, the resolutions and the declaration – *(30 minutes)* |
| 1045 -1115hrs | **HEALTH BREAK** |
| 1115-1215hrs | **SESSION 7: PANEL DISCUSSION ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE REMEDY FOR BHR VIOLATIONS IN AFRICA:** The role of national and regional institutionsModerator: TBD**Panelists:** **State representative** – Hon. Diana Asonaba - Dapaah, Deputy Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Ghana – 7 *minutes***SAHEL NHRI representative** – Burkina Faso NHRI – 7 *minutes***ACHPR representative** – ESCR Working Group / Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations – 7*minutes***African Court on Human and People’s Rights representative** – TBD – 7*minutes* **ACERWC representative** – TBD – 7 *minutes***CSO representative** – Pan African Lawyers Union – 7 *minutes*Independent Recourse Mechanisms representatives - **African Development Bank – David Simpson –** *7 minutes***Plenary discussion:** *30 minutes* |
| 1215 -1315hrs | **SESSION 8: BHR, CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE –** assessing trends, opportunities and engagement of NHRIs in this nexus* Impact of multinational corporations and extractive industries on the environment and human rights

**Moderator:** RWI**Expert Presenters:** **UNECA –** Director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management**African Climate Policy Centre rep** ***Questions and Answers: 30 minutes*** |
| 1315 -1415hrs | **Lunch** |
| 1415 – 1700hrs | **Introduction and guidance on the afternoon parallel sessions:** Allocation and instructions to the different meetings**SESSION 9: PARALLEL MEETINGS ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOW THEY IMPACT VARIOUS VULNERABLE GROUPS** **Instruction:** Each parallel meeting is required to hold discussions on the specific theme, then develop key messages and recommendations for NHRIs and other actors, to be presented back in plenary on Day 3**PARALLEL MEETING 1: Legally binding Instrument on BHR****Guiding questions: TBD****Group facilitator:** Abiola Idowu- Ojo - ACHPR**Rapporteur:** NHRI Burundi rep**PARALLEL MEETING 2: The intersectionality between Business and Human Rights, environmental justice and climate change*** Discussions on opportunities, gaps, andImpacts of businesses on environmental governance and climate change. Suggest recommendations for NHRIs and other human rights actors

**Group facilitator:** NHRI Liberia**Rapporteur:** NHRI Rwanda**PARALLEL MEETING 3: The implication of the digital transitions on human rights, and the role of NHRIs**Group facilitator: **OHCHR / GIZ B- Tech Project representative**Rapporteur: **Nigerian Human Rights Commission****PARALLEL MEETING 4: BHR in the context of natural resource governance and conflict in Africa****Guiding questions: TBD**Group facilitator: NHRI MaliRapporteur: NHRI Cote d’ Ivoire |
| 1700hrs | **Health break & End of Day 2** |
| **DAY 3: October 20, 2023** |
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| 09:00-09:15hrs | **Recap of day two** |
| 0915-1000hrs | **SESSION 10: Report back session on the key messages and recommendations from the parallel meetings of Day 2 afternoon** **Moderator: Madam Mary Nartey – Director (**CHRAJ**)***(10 minutes per group)* |
| 1000 – 1100hrs  | **Moderated plenary discussion, questions and answers on shaping the BHR agenda for the next implementation period before the 15th Biennial Conference** – reflections on the role of NHRIs visa vis the key messages and recommendations presented above**Moderator : Chair, Sierra Leone NHRI** |
| 1100 – 1115hrs | **Health break** |
| 1115 – 1245hrs  | **SESSION 11:  PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE ACCRA DECLARATION OF NHRIs****Moderator: Mr. Gilbert Sebihogo – Executive Director - NANHRI Secretariat*** Presentation of the draft Accra Declaration of the 14th Biennial Conference of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions. - **Rapporteur**

Adoption of the Accra Declaration - **NANHRI Chairperson Adv. Joseph Whittal** |
| 1245-1315hrs | **Official Closing remarks** : Ghana State Representative – Attorney General Ghana (Confirmed)**Vote of Thanks:** NANHRI Chairperson |
| 1315 – 1400hrs | **Lunch** |
|  | Free Afternoon. Tour of Accra City |
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| **END OF 14TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE** |