



The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions Concludes the High-Level Induction Workshop for New Commissioners and Heads of Secretariat in the SADC Region - held in Lilongwe, Malawi on the 12-13 of September 2024.

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) successfully concluded a two-day high-level induction workshop for newly appointed Commissioners and Heads of Secretariat of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the Southern African region.

The workshop held on September 12th and 13th 2024, at Bingu International Convention Center in Lilongwe Malawi aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively promote and protect human rights within their respective countries.

The workshop underscored the vital role of NHRIs as enshrined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and further elaborated upon by the Paris Principles. These principles define the essential characteristics of NHRIs, including their independence, mandate, and functions.

Participants gained a deeper understanding of the importance of upholding these principles to ensure effective human rights protection.

The workshop fostered a space for peer learning and exchange of best practices. Commissioners and Heads of Secretariat from the NHRIs in Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, and Eswatini shared their experiences and challenges, fostering a sense of regional collaboration.

In addition to peer learning, the workshop featured contributions from national, regional, and international experts. The experts provided insights on various topics, including:

- The role of NHRIs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions;
- African regional human rights mechanisms, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- Building strong partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The workshop covered a range of topics designed to equip Commissioners with the tools they need to fulfill their mandates effectively. These topics included:

- The role of NANHRI in supporting NHRIs, in processes such as the accreditation process;
- The core functions and responsibilities of Commissioners and Heads of Secretariat, from providing policy direction to overseeing programs and advocating for human rights;
- Strategies for integrating human rights protection into national development plans.

The workshop concluded with a sense of optimism and a commitment from participants to strengthen NHRIs in their respective countries. They expressed gratitude to NANHRI for its leadership and support in this vital capacity-building initiative.

NANHRI remains dedicated to supporting NHRIs across Africa and will continue to provide programs and resources to empower them to effectively promote and protect human rights for all. Finally, NANHRI commends the efforts of the NHRIs that partook in the induction in their continued work in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the SADC region and the positive benchmark that has been echoed across the African continent as a whole.