



## Press Release

### **African National Human Rights Institutions Conclude 7th NHRI Forum, Committing to Strengthen Accountability and Human Rights Protection Across Africa**

*Banjul, Gambia – October 17, 2024*

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), in collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia, successfully concluded the 7th edition of the NHRI-Forum held on the margins of the 81st Ordinary Session of the ACHPR. The Forum, which took place from October 13 to 16, brought together leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders committed to advancing human rights across the continent.

With the theme, *"The Role of African National Human Rights Institutions in Strengthening Accountability, Promotion, and Protection of Human Rights in Africa,"* the 7th NHRI-Forum explored a range of pressing human rights issues, including torture prevention, socio-economic rights, and the protection of vulnerable groups. During Part I of the Forum, NANHRI also launched a groundbreaking report on the status of transgender and intersex persons in Africa, providing new insights and data essential for informed policy and advocacy.

In Part II, held from October 15 to 16, participants emphasized the critical need for stronger partnerships between African NHRIs and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) to advance the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, Goal 11. This session highlighted the complementary roles of these institutions in promoting good governance, justice, and respect for human rights on a regional scale.

The four-day Forum attracted representatives from African NHRIs, the ACHPR, PAP, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, academia, and civil society organizations. Together, they identified key strategies to improve collaboration and support for NHRIs in their efforts to safeguard human rights across Africa.



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## Key Recommendations and Commitments

Following intensive deliberations, the participants issued a set of recommendations to reinforce human rights accountability and protection mechanisms across Africa, including:

- **Enhanced Collaboration:** African NHRIs, ACHPR, and PAP will work in partnership to embed human rights into national development plans, focusing on inclusive, accountable governance, and monitoring progress.
- **Data and Reporting Support:** National and regional stakeholders are encouraged to assist NHRIs in creating robust data systems and collaborative platforms, fostering evidence-based policymaking and alignment with SDG 16 and AU Agenda 2063, Goal 11.
- **Advocacy for Legal Reform:** NHRIs will advocate for legal reforms, especially concerning marginalized groups, and promote alternative custodial sentences for minor offences.
- **Strengthening NHRIs' Capacity:** African states are urged to provide NHRIs with adequate resources, ensuring they can effectively execute their mandate and remain independent.

NANHRI commends the ACHPR and PAP for their unwavering support and underscores the importance of multi-institutional cooperation in building a future where human rights, justice, and accountability are upheld across Africa.

## Moving Forward

The 7th NHRI Forum marks a pivotal step in advancing human rights protections and accountability frameworks across the continent. NANHRI remains committed to its mission and calls upon African states, civil society, and the international community to continue supporting these essential institutions in achieving a just, rights-respecting Africa.