



NANHRI Working Group on Migration Meeting

**Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
January 31, 2025**

**Opening Remarks by Ms. Amina Bouayach, Chair of
the Working Group**

Good morning

Dear colleagues, Members of the NANHRI Working Group on Migration,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to our Working Group's first meeting in 2025. This gathering will give our work as a group new dynamism and renewed commitment.

Before we begin, allow me once again to express our heartfelt condolences for the loss of our dear friend Ms. Roseline Odede— a wonderful woman who demonstrated strong dedication in fulfilling her responsibilities to protect and promote human rights.

Let us observe a minute of silence in her honor.

Today's meeting comes at a crucial time given the significant developments in migration across the African continent.

Migration dynamics in Africa are constantly evolving. According to the latest data, approximately 21 million Africans currently live in another African country.

Within this context, North Africa stands as a key crossroads. Over the years, the region has become a major departure point for thousands of migrants on sea journeys

However, this journey certainly involves danger. The Mediterranean migration routes, particularly those in the western and central regions, are among the most hazardous in the world.

Between 2014 and 2022, over 20,000 people lost their lives or went missing in these waters.

The causes of these movements are multiple and deeply interconnected. Beyond armed conflicts and political instability in some areas of the continent, the devastating effects of climate change, are also a driving force.

In East Africa, for example, the extreme drought of 2023 affected more than 27 million people, further exacerbating an already vulnerable situation, due to conflicts and regional instability.

The urgency of the situation obliges us to make it a top priority. As migration challenges intensify, our need to strengthen our commitment is more pressing than ever, with the numbers, contexts, and consequences becoming increasingly alarming.

To overcome these challenges, we, as national human rights institutions, have a key role to play in terms of addressing violations, monitoring, reporting, impacting laws and policies, as well as engaging with national and international stakeholders.

As a group, we can do better of course. And we can provide various platforms where we can exchange inspiring success stories.

To start our discussions, allow me first to reflect on some actions undertaken by our group since our last meeting on October 30, 2023, during which we explored ways for cooperation in developing a joint NHRI pledge initiative for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023.

On this occasion, the CNDH presented its own pledge. I also presented the pledge of GANHRI, thereby showcasing our commitment as a big family of NHRIs.

In coordination with the IOM, the CNDH also conducted a session for African NHRIs on the methodology for drafting and preparing such pledges.

The second major action led by our group was the organization of a side event last November, held on the sidelines of the COP 29 in Baku. This event focused on migration and adaptation in the context of climate change in Africa.

In discussing our group's actions, I would like to draw your attention to the collaboration roadmap project that the CNDH, in its capacity as Chair of the Working Group, received from the United Nations Committee on migrant workers.

This document has been shared with NANHRI's Secretariat and with all of you. I recall mentioning this initiative during NANHRI's last General Assembly.

CNDH has also organized, together with the IOM on December 11, 2024, a workshop on the prevention of disappearances in the context of migration, the protection of the rights of families, and the humane management of borders.

Through this initiative, the CNDH brought together all relevant stakeholders to share the challenges faced, exchange best practices, and make recommendations to support efforts, aimed at achieving Objective 8 of the Marrakech Compact, which is to save lives and establish coordinated international efforts for the management of the missing migrants' issue.

I hope that yesterday's seminar was interesting and that the new concept implemented by the Moroccan authorities for the management of migration across borders will enable us to further develop our protection actions.