

Thematic topic for the Biennial Conference: HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL AT THE HEART OF RECOVERY EFFORTS DURING AND AFTER COVID-19

CFNHRI's Biennial Meeting, 2022

16 - 17 June 2022, 09:30 -17:00 (Thursday and Friday)

Kilimanjaro Ballroom, Marriot Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

Concept Note

1. INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institution (CFNHRI) is an unincorporated global network of National Human Rights Institutions working to ensure that international human rights standards are respected across the Commonwealth.

The CFNHRI promotes, protects and improves human rights in the Commonwealth through influencing the progression of human rights within the processes of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), providing a united voice on human rights priorities, and ensuring members and other stakeholders can learn from the insight, experiences and expertise contained within the Forum.

The CFNHRI holds an Annual Meeting (usually in February or March). Additional to the Annual Meeting, the CFNHRI organizes a Biennial Conference which usually takes place at the same time and location as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The Chair of the CFNHRI must be an 'A' Status institution and is appointed on a rotating basis at the biennial conference. It is assumed that the role will be taken up by the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) located in the host country of CHOGM.

It is against this framework that The Equality and Human Rights Commission, Great Britain which is the NHRI that is currently chairing the CFNHRI from 2018 with a term that shall end in June 2022 to pass the baton to the National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda until 2024.

From 16 to 17 June, delegates from 56 NHRIs and Ombudsman offices will be gathered in Kigali, Rwanda, to attend a CFNHRI's Biennial Meeting themed "***Human Rights for All at the***

Heart of Recovery Efforts During and After COVID-19.” This conference will take place alongside the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

Building on progress since the 2018 biennial conference in London, NHRIs are expected to discuss ways the contemporary Commonwealth analyzes how human rights are considered while adopting and implementing anti-COVID-19 measures and how recovery efforts put at the center the rights of the population without leaving anyone behind.

The discussions will focus on impact of COVID-19 on socio-economic rights as well as civil and political rights and the role of NHRIs in efficiently promoting and protecting them towards recover processes.

This concept note contains the following:

- Objectives, expected outcomes and expected outputs;
- Conference format, venue and dates;
- Budget estimate;
- Agenda.

2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the conference is to contribute to realization of human rights through effective participation of Commonwealth NHRIs alongside efforts needed to better recover from impact of COVID-19.

The specific objectives are:

- To raise emerging issues that infringe the full enjoyment of human rights during and after COVID-19;
- To share experience on how the rights guaranteed in Commonwealth respective States’ Constitutions and in international treaties are effectively enjoyed by all despite existing challenges/limitations imposed by COVID-19;
- To reflect together on measures to be taken by duty bearers in order to deal with the raised issues without infringing human rights;
- To adopt resolutions that will serve as guidelines within NHRIs towards the full realization of civil, political and socio-economic rights for all during and after COVID-19;
- To develop actions that shall be taken by NHRIs by the year 2023.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are expected:

- ✚ A consolidated document on impact of COVID-19 on rights of all categories of persons with suggestions of actions to be taken by duty bearer is availed to all participants;
- ✚ Rights of all persons from Commonwealth States are effectively promoted and protected during and after COVID-19;
- ✚ Human rights are mainstreamed in all plans to fight against COVID-19 among Commonwealth States during COVID-19 recovery period;
- ✚ An independent permanent secretariat is established to ensure follow up to the Forum's actions towards achieving the takes from the conference as imbedded in the theme *Human Rights for All at the heart of recovery efforts during and after COVID-19*.

4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- ✓ Emerging issues that infringe the full enjoyment of human rights by all rights holders during and after COVID-19 are raised and discussed;
- ✓ NHRIs delegates learn from each other good practices on their respective role on how to effectively protect, promote and respect human rights despite the challenges/limitations imposed by COVID-19;
- ✓ Resolutions on Human Rights for All at the heart of recovery efforts during and after COVID-19 are adopted;
- ✓ Two (2) year actions are developed for the Commonwealth NHRIs to ensure that priorities in realization of human rights for all are taken, especially during and after COVID-19.

5. CONFERENCE FORMAT

The conference sessions shall entail: presentations, panel and plenary discussions as well as group work sessions.

6. VENUE AND DATES

The conference will take place at Marriot Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda from 16 - 17 June 2022.

7. DRAFT AGENDA

DAY 1: THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2022	
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks
09:30 – 09:45	Group Photo
09:45 – 10:45	Session 1: Successes and challenges of CFNHRI 2018 – 2022 Chair: Equality and Human Rights Commission (Great Britain)
10:45 – 11:00	Refreshment break
11:00: 11h30	Session 2: Update on sustainability work/ development of permanent secretariat for CFNHRI Chair: Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
11:30: 12: 30	CFNHRI terms of reference Chair: Equality and Human Rights Commission
12:30: 13h00	Implementation of the London Declaration on Sport and Human Rights Chair: Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
13:00 -14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:15	Handover Ceremony between the outgoing Chair and the incoming Chair of the Commonwealth Forum of NHRIs
14:15 – 15:15	Session 3: Short and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic: call for reflections on the draft Kigali Declaration
15:15 – 15:30	Refreshment break
15:30: 16:00	Departure to the Kigali Genocide Memorial (Arranged by the Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights)

16:00- 18:00	Visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial
19:30-21:00	Welcome Dinner: Ubumwe Grand Hotel
	DAY 2: FRIDAY 17 June 2022
9:30-10:30	Session 4: Panel discussion on the role of NHRIs in addressing COVID-19 challenges on civil, political and socio-economic rights. Chair: Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights
10:30-10:45	Refreshment break
10:45 – 11:45	Session 5: Leaving no one behind: Working in partnership to mainstream human rights in emergency response and recovery. Chair: Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights
11:45 – 12:45	Breakout session: The role of NHRIS in effective promotion and protection of Human Rights during and after COVID-19.
12:45-13:00	Feedback from the breakout session
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Session 6: Looking to the future Chair: Rwanda National Commission for Human Rights
15:00 – 15:40	Questions and Answers and agreement on actions for future work.
15:45 – 16:00	Refreshment break
16:00 -16:30	Adoption of the Kigali Declaration
16:30 – 17:00	Closing remarks

N.B: After attending the biennial meeting, delegates can attend other CHOGM side events forums:

Youth forum: 19-21 June 2022

Women’s forum: 20-21 June 2022

People’s forum: 21-22 June 2022

Business Forum: 21-23 June 2022



Details about registration and accreditation to these forums can be accessed through this link: <https://www.chogm2022.rw/forums-accreditations/>