



STRATEGIC PLAN

(2022-2024)



AfriPAHR

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ASSOCIATION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

VISION

Our vision is an Africa in which every person's human rights are protected, and where each person can enjoy democracy and freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as free and equal citizens.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide a platform for African parliamentarians to promote and advance democracy and human rights in Africa, with a specific focus on freedom of religion or belief, through diplomacy and strategic alliances.

CORE VALUES

TEAMWORK AND PARTNERSHIP

– AfriPAHR will collaborate with African and international stakeholders.

DIVERSITY

– AfriPAHR is committed to diversity in all its work, including regional, gender, political, ethnic, religious and belief diversity.

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY

– AfriPAHR will promote principles which ensure that everybody has an equal opportunity and is not treated differently or discriminated against.

HUMANITY

– AfriPAHR members are inspired and guided by the connectedness and compassion among human beings as part of the human family.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

In 2017, the African Parliamentarians Association for Human Rights (AfriPAHR) was born out of the desire of a group of parliamentarians to create a network of both current and former parliamentarians passionate about advancing democracy and human rights, with a specific focus on freedom of religion and belief, on the African continent. Their work is informed by the lived experience of their citizenry.

Against the backdrop of growing concerns for violations of human rights in Africa, AfriPAHR was established based on the notion that a regional network of like-minded parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders was needed to address the gaps of current institutional frameworks on

human rights. Also, highlighting and promoting the strengths of existing systems for a free and fairer society. With a vision to promote, nurture and strengthen democracy and human rights, especially the right to freedom of religion or belief in Africa, AfriPAHR's work is underpinned by globally accepted conventions and declarations. These include the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, the AU's African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.



AFRIPAHR'S ROLE AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The strategic objectives of the network for the next three years (2022 – 2024) are as follows:

- To equip AfriPAHR parliamentarians with the requisite skills, knowledge, tools and resources for actions and advocacy,
- To strengthen advocacy on democracy and human rights, with a specific focus on freedom of religion and belief, for all persons especially in Africa, and
- To network with like-minded continental and international organizations in advancing fundamental principles of democracy and human rights, with a specific focus on freedom of religion and belief, especially on the African continent.

In order to achieve its strategic objectives, AfriPAHR will:

- 1.** Enhance parliamentarians competence on human rights with a specific focus on freedom of religion or belief through:
 - Training and competence building
 - Experience exchange and peer-to-peer learning
 - Identifying and developing a range of tools and resources for network members
- 2.** Mobilize and support parliamentarians in meaningful advocacy by:
 - Initiating public and private advocacy campaigns on relevant issues on the national and regional level
 - Expanding the AfriPAHR network and enhancing parliamentarians' engagement
 - Creating platforms for networking and peer-to-peer support
- 3.** Build strategic alliances and partnerships with relevant local, regional, and international stakeholders that complement and strengthen AfriPAHR's work.

AfriPAHR recognizes that local legitimacy and ownership are crucial for its actions and outputs. Understanding the terrain and local context is important in determining appropriate language, approaches and actions that best benefit a region or country. AfriPAHR will work to listen to the experiences and needs of those impacted by AfriPAHR's work areas and topics of focus to inform its work priorities and actions.

At the same time, it is necessary as a network to work within appropriate boundaries and to ensure that network activities fall within AfriPAHR's mandate and area of focus. Periodic mapping exercises in alliance/ collaboration with relevant actors (NGOs, academics) complemented by dialogues will, for example, inform drafting of action plans for the network.





SUSTAINABILITY AND ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

AfriPAHR is led by a Steering Group which consists of current and former parliamentarians from across Africa. All members participate in AfriPAHR as individuals and not as representatives of political or government bodies or any other organization.

The network is supported by a Secretariat responsible for the day-to-day management of the network. The secretariat coordinates actionable programs to achieve the key strategic objectives for the network's functioning, growth and sustainability. The Secretariat is charged with rolling out the communication, media and advocacy strategies of the network including its social media presence and maintaining its website. Furthermore, the Secretariat proposes possible thematic focus areas and actionable programs to the Steering Group and develops and supports parliamentarians' advocacy initiatives.

PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCES

AfriPAHR will continue to strive to expand its network with national, regional and international groups and organizations with similar interests. Its current partners include International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB), African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA), The University of South Africa, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) and the Thabo Mbeki Foundation.

Stable sources of finances are a prerequisite for the successful running of AfriPAHR. To this end, AfriPAHR will continue to explore innovative approaches in seeking funding, including identifying additional donors and partners to work with in line with its principles and core values.



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