NATIONAL INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SOMALIA

Independent Submission on the Implementation of

Human Rights Council Resolution 60/28

(A/HRC/RES/60/28)

Institutional Progress, Mandate Implementation

and Human Rights Transition

Reporting Period

4 February – 31 August 2026

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the National Independent Human Rights Commission of Somalia's (NIHRC) submission on the implementation of Human Rights Council Resolution 60/28.

When the current Commission commenced active operations on 4 February 2026, Somalia reached a historic milestone. For the first time in the history of the Somali Republic, an independent national human rights commission became operational, realising a constitutional and statutory commitment that had remained unfulfilled for many years. As Commissioners, we assumed responsibility for exercising that mandate with independence, professionalism and integrity, making the Commission accessible to the people of Somalia and earning public confidence in its role to promote and protect their rights.

This public purpose is central to the Commission's work. Human rights must have practical meaning in everyday life. Individuals should understand the rights and protections available to them, know where to seek support when violations occur, and have confidence that their concerns will be heard by an independent national body. NIHRC therefore has an important role in strengthening public understanding of human rights, expanding access across Somalia and ensuring that communities understand why the Commission exists and how it can assist them.

From the outset, it has been clear that the strength of NIHRC will ultimately be measured by its independence, credibility and ability to serve the people of Somalia. This requires strong governance, professional systems, accessible channels for rights-holders, credible monitoring and reporting, and the institutional confidence to address human rights concerns wherever they arise. It also requires a Commission that understands its constitutional position and safeguards its independence in its engagement with Government, international partners and other actors.

The first months of operation have demanded considerable commitment from all nine Commissioners and from those supporting the establishment of the NIHRC. We have been building the Commission while simultaneously beginning to discharge the responsibilities entrusted to us. I am proud of the seriousness with which the Commission has approached that task and of the collective determination that has characterised this period.

I also wish to acknowledge the support and cooperation provided by our national and international partners, including United Nations partners, RWI and peer national human rights institutions, whose technical engagement has contributed to the Commission's early development.

This progress has been achieved despite significant resource and operational limitations. These constraints have affected the pace and scale of some areas of work. The Commission has nonetheless continued to strengthen its systems, procedures and capacity as an independent, credible and effective national human rights body serving the people of Somalia and working towards GANHRI A-status accreditation. The progress made during this period reflects that shared commitment.

I also attach great importance to national ownership of Somalia's human rights future. Resolution 60/28 comes at an important point in the country's transition towards stronger national responsibility for human rights monitoring, protection and accountability.

The NIHRC intends to make a substantive contribution to that transition while preserving the distinct role entrusted to an independent national human rights body. We will cooperate closely with national bodies, Federal Member States, civil society, rights-holders, OHCHR, peer NHRIs and other partners, while retaining responsibility for our own priorities, methodology, analysis, findings and decisions.

The Paris Principles provide the international standards against which we are building the Commission. Our ambition to achieve GANHRI A-status accreditation should be understood against those standards. However, accreditation is not the end objective. It is a means of demonstrating that the Commission's governance, staffing, resources, accessibility and exercise of mandate consistently meet the requirements of these Principles. Our pathway towards accreditation will therefore be deliberate and evidence-led.

The longer-term objective is permanence: a Commission capable of sustaining its independence, credibility and effective exercise of mandate over time.

The systems established during this first period now need to mature, professional capacity needs to expand, the Commission's national reach needs to grow, and the exercise of our mandate needs to become increasingly systematic.

I am confident in the direction that has been established and in the commitment of my fellow Commissioners to continue this work.

This submission records the Commission's position at the end of its first reporting period. It reflects less than seven months of active operation, but it also demonstrates the Commission that NIHRC is working to become: independent in its judgement, accessible to the people, credible in its findings, professional in its practice and unwavering in its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights throughout Somalia.

H.E. Dr Maryan Qasim Ahmed
Chairperson
National Independent Human Rights Commission of Somalia

31 August 2026



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This submission presents the independent account of the National Independent Human Rights Commission of Somalia (NIHRC) for the period 4 February to 31 August 2026. NIHRC is Somalia's constitutionally recognised and statutorily established national human rights commission. Its authority derives from the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia and Law No. 16 of 27 June 2016, which establish the legal basis for its independence, mandate, governance, staffing, financing and exercise of human rights functions. The Commission is mandated to promote and protect human rights; receive and investigate complaints; monitor and report on violations; inspect prisons, remand centres and other places of detention; advise on legislation and public policy; and engage with national, regional and international human rights mechanisms. This submission also records NIHRC's contribution to implementation of Human Rights Council Resolution 60/28 and is presented in the Commission's own capacity to inform the consultation, assessment and reporting processes established under that Resolution.[1]

The reporting period captures the Commission's progression from establishment to active exercise of its mandate. Following the appointment of the nine Commissioners in December 2025, the Commission commenced active operations on 4 February 2026, when the Commissioners elected the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary from among their membership. During the first quarter of 2026, the Commission established the leadership, executive and administrative arrangements required to begin functioning and secured immediate capacity in the Office of the Director General, administration, finance and communications. An initial operational framework was approved on 14 February, covering core administrative arrangements, complaints procedures and the Commission's organisational structure. These measures enabled NIHRC to begin exercising its responsibilities at an early stage while developing the permanent staffing and operating arrangements required for sustained national delivery.

The Commission's development during the second quarter concentrated on translating its legal mandate into workable systems, procedures and professional practice. NIHRC progressed its Rules of Procedure and developed arrangements for financial management, procurement, human resources, safeguarding, data protection, complaints, records management, ICT and case management. Public accessibility was strengthened through the establishment of the 1122 complaints helpline, the dedicated complaints email address cabasho@nihrc.org.so, the Commission's website and public communications channels.

This operational development was accompanied by sustained engagement with national leadership and public authorities central to the exercise of the Commission's mandate. NIHRC met the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia and established working relationships across the justice, security and public administration sectors, including with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Somali Police Force, the Custodial Corps, the Office of the Attorney General, the judiciary and the Banadir Regional Administration. These

[1] United Nations Human Rights Council, Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights, A/HRC/RES/60/28, adopted 8 October 2025, para. 26.

engagements strengthened the Commission's capacity to exercise independent oversight, provide legislative and policy advice, monitor detention, promote accountability and secure the cooperation necessary for effective mandate delivery. Engagement with justice and custodial authorities also addressed prisoners' rights, safeguards for children and other persons at heightened risk, and practical arrangements for stronger detention monitoring and protection of persons deprived of liberty.

NIHRC also prioritised the professional capability required for credible and independent mandate delivery. Structured cooperation with the UN human rights presence in Somalia and OHCHR, including the Human Rights and Protection Group and the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section in Geneva, provided orientation and targeted technical support on governance, complaints and investigations, monitoring, detention oversight, reporting, legislative analysis and strategic planning. A week-long programme in April further deepened Commissioners' knowledge of international human rights and humanitarian law, monitoring and investigation methodologies, conflict-related violations, child protection and detention oversight.

The Commission simultaneously established a network of regional and international relationships intended to strengthen its capability and its participation in the wider human rights system. NIHRC participated for the first time in the IGAD Human Rights Institutions Annual Meeting in March and subsequently participated in the GANHRI Annual Meeting in Geneva. These engagements created direct relationships with regional and global NHRI networks and provided opportunities for peer exchange with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. Engagement with NANHRI in June established a defined pathway towards greater participation in the African NHRI network and further cooperation on peer learning, capacity development and future accreditation readiness. The Commission also developed bilateral engagement with peer human rights commissions in Qatar, the Netherlands and Ireland and continued engagement with international and regional actors relevant to its mandate.

Cooperation with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 24 May 2026. The cooperation developed into a practical programme focused on Commission priorities, including the NIHRC Introductory Guide, Code of Conduct, 2026 Establishment Report, Capacity Baseline Assessment, year-round evidence and reporting arrangements, senior leadership development, peer exchange and future GANHRI accreditation readiness. The value of this cooperation lies in the practical systems, tools and professional capability developed, with NIHRC retaining authority over its priorities, governance, policies and final decisions.

By the third quarter of 2026, all nine Commissioners were contributing collectively to an expanding programme of substantive human rights work. NIHRC had begun using its statutory powers through direct detention monitoring at Mogadishu Central Prison, intervention in an individual protection case and preliminary monitoring of reported civilian harm in Digta Margoos, Ari-Caddeeye and Jalalaqsi. The Commission engaged police, justice and custodial authorities on detention safeguards, complaints, accountability and independent oversight and

developed its role in implementation of the National Policy on Protection of Civilians. Its work also addressed women's and children's rights, disability and non-discrimination, minority and marginalised communities, displacement and humanitarian protection, migration, workers' rights, freedom of expression, journalist safety and digital rights.

These activities demonstrate a transition from organisational preparation into practical exercise of core protection, monitoring, advisory and reporting functions.

Engagement with civil society has also formed part of the Commission's developing national role. NIHRC engaged organisations working across civilian protection, media freedom, digital rights and child protection, including the Centre for Civilians in Conflict, the National Union of Somali Journalists and the Heritage Institute, and participated in engagement with the Child Rights Alliance comprising World Vision International, Save the Children International, SOS Somalia and Plan International. The Chairperson also maintained regular engagement with the Chairperson of the African Women Leaders Network, strengthening links with women's leadership and advocacy networks. These relationships provide additional channels for independent evidence, specialist expertise and community perspectives to inform the Commission's monitoring, advocacy and protection work.

This work is especially important as NIHRC develops arrangements for engagement beyond Mogadishu and prepares a phased model for access across Federal Member States. The Commission intends to combine direct missions, regional and mobile complaints access, civil society and rights-holder networks, local referral arrangements and digital and telephone access in order to improve the ability of people across Somalia to reach the Commission.

Resolution 60/28 has provided an important framework for NIHRC's contribution to Somalia's nationally led human rights transition. In July 2026, the Commission prepared its Position Paper on the post-UNTMIS Human Rights Transition, setting out its independent position on national ownership, continuity of human rights protection and the respective responsibilities of NIHRC, Government, Parliament, the judiciary, civil society, OHCHR and other actors. The Commission subsequently translated Resolution 60/28 into an internal implementation framework comprising 42 workstreams and developed a first technical iteration of the Somalia National Human Rights Benchmarks and Indicator Framework 2026–2030. The benchmark framework remains under development and will require co-development with the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up, wider national consultation, validation of baselines and data sources and agreement on monitoring responsibilities before adoption. NIHRC will retain responsibility for its own evidence, analysis, findings, recommendations and independent reporting.

The Commission established its first recurrent operating base through the 2026 State budget of $495,030, of which $274,521 had been utilised by 31 August. This allocation supported the Commission's core operations during its first seven months and provided an important basis for the development of its governance, administrative and mandate-delivery functions. The next phase will build on this progress through permanent professional recruitment, full operationalisation of complaints and case management, strengthened ICT and information-management systems, expanded monitoring and investigations capacity, and increased

mobility and logistical support for work beyond Mogadishu. NIHRC is also developing a phased approach to extending its national reach across Federal Member States. Additional programme financing under development during the reporting period is expected to complement the State-funded operating base as the Commission's responsibilities and national coverage expand.

The coming year will focus on consolidating the progress achieved during the Commission's first seven months and extending the reach and consistency of its work. Priorities include completing the permanent professional workforce, operationalising complaints and case management, strengthening investigations and detention monitoring, and improving evidence and reporting systems. The Commission will also expand engagement across Federal Member States, deepen cooperation with civil society and rights-holders, and strengthen its legislative and policy review functions.

NIHRC also plans to develop partnerships with Somali universities and academic bodies. These partnerships will draw on national legal, research and professional expertise to strengthen the capacity of Commissioners, personnel and partners, while supporting human rights teaching, applied research and professional development in Somalia.

The Capacity Baseline Assessment, scheduled for completion in early October 2026, will inform the sequencing and costing of the Commission's next stage of development. The 2026 Establishment Report is planned for publication on 10 December 2026. NIHRC will also continue developing the evidence of effective and independent mandate performance required for future GANHRI accreditation, with the second half of 2028 identified as the earliest intended application period, subject to readiness.

By 31 August 2026, NIHRC had progressed from commencement of operations to substantive human rights work within a period of less than seven months.

The Commission enters its next phase with nine Commissioners working collectively, an established legal mandate, functioning core operations, developing professional systems, substantive early experience and an expanding network of national, regional and international cooperation. Over the coming year, NIHRC will deepen the exercise of its mandate, strengthen professional capability and extend its reach across Somalia.

A central priority will be a comprehensive public-awareness and outreach programme to increase understanding of human rights, the purpose and role of the Commission, and the ways in which individuals and communities can access its support. This will build on the NIHRC Introductory Guide and public-awareness video campaign, alongside national media, digital platforms, civil society networks and direct outreach across Federal Member States, including rural and hard-to-reach communities. Through this next phase, NIHRC aims to become accessible, trusted and effective in protecting and promoting human rights throughout Somalia.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD 2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4
CONTENTS 8
ACRONYMS 10
1. Introduction 13
1.1 Purpose, institutional status and legal basis 13
1.2 Resolution 60/28 and Somalia's nationally led human rights transition 14
1.3 Methodology and approach to reporting on Resolution 60/28 14
2. Establishment and operationalisation of NIHRC 16
2.1 Constitution of the Commission and commencement of operations 16
2.2 Structure and operational development 17
3. Independence, governance and capacity in practice 20
3.1 Independence and governance 20
3.1.1 Collective governance and executive administration 20
3.1.2 Rules of Procedure and governance safeguards 20
3.1.3 UN technical support and applied peer learning 21
3.1.4 Technical cooperation with RWI: practical outputs and next-stage work 22
3.1.4.1 Follow-on work agreed during the reporting period 23
3.1.5 Current staffing arrangements and Commission control 24
3.1.6 Permanent recruitment and staffing safeguards 25
3.2 Resource adequacy and operational capacity 26
3.2.1 Financial autonomy, State financing and budget execution 27
3.2.2 Financial management and administrative controls 28
3.2.3 Premises, ICT, complaints access and secure information management 29
3.2.4 Mobility, security and field-operational capacity 29
3.2.5 Complementary programme financing and resource mobilisation 30
3.2.6 Next-stage resource requirements 30
4. Exercise of NIHRC's mandate during the reporting period 32
4.1 National human rights transition, benchmarks, monitoring and reporting framework – Part I 32
4.1.1 NIHRC position on the post-UNTMIS human rights transition 33
4.1.2 Resolution 60/28 implementation framework 33

4.1.3 National human rights benchmarks and indicators 34
4.1.4 Monitoring methodology, data sources and verification 35
4.1.5 National coordination, FMS accessibility and action-plan process 36
4.1.6 Engagement with OHCHR and HRC reporting 37
4.2 Actual exercise of NIHRC's substantive mandate – Part II 37
4.2.1 Detention oversight, preliminary inquiries and civilian-protection accountability 38
4.2.1.1 Detention oversight and individual protection 38
4.2.1.2 Preliminary inquiries and civilian-harm monitoring 40
4.2.1.3 Civilian protection and security-sector accountability 40
4.2.1.4 Assessment at the reporting cut-off 41
4.2.2 Equality, vulnerable groups, displacement and socio-economic protection 42
4.2.2.1 Women's and children's rights 42
4.2.2.2 Disability, non-discrimination and marginalised communities 43
4.2.2.3 Displacement, humanitarian protection and migration 44
4.2.2.4 Economic and labour rights and responsible business conduct 45
4.2.3 Freedom of expression, media and digital rights 45
4.2.4 Legislative, policy and treaty review 47
4.2.5 Regional, international and peer-NHRI engagement 48
5. Conclusion 50
ANNEX 1. Resolution 60/28: NIHRC mandate, implementation status and report mapping 51
ANNEX 2. Technical cooperation, capacity development and peer learning 54
ANNEX 3. Staffing arrangements and transition to the permanent Secretariat 62
ANNEX 4. Programme financing and resource mobilisation 64
ANNEX 5. Next-stage capacity and resource requirements 65
ANNEX 6. Substantive mandate activity during the reporting period 69
ANNEX 7. Legislative, policy and treaty review tracker 70

ACRONYMS

AAIA	Aden Adde International Airport
ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
AUSSOM	African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia
AWLN	African Women Leaders Network
BRA	Banadir Regional Administration
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CIVIC	Center for Civilians in Conflict
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DG	Director General
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
ESC rights	Economic, social and cultural rights
EUCAP Somalia	European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FMS	Federal Member States
FRS	Federal Republic of Somalia
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HRC	Human Rights Council
HR	Human Resources
HRPG	Human Rights and Protection Group
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross

ICT	Information and communications technology
IDP	Internally displaced person
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IHL	International humanitarian law
IHRL	International human rights law
IHREC	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
JPHR-3	Joint Programme on Human Rights – Phase III
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MoFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NANHRI	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
NHRI	National human rights institution
NIHRC	National Independent Human Rights Commission of Somalia
NIHR	Netherlands Institute for Human Rights
NIRMS	National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, OHCHR
NMRF	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
NUSOJ	National Union of Somali Journalists
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OP	Operative paragraph
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
OSE-SCP	Office of the Special Envoy for Stabilisation and Civilian Protection

PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PSEA	**Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**
QNHRC	National Human Rights Committee of Qatar
RoP	Rules of Procedure
RWI	Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
SFMIS	Somalia Financial Management Information System
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SoDMA	Somali Disaster Management Agency
SOPs	Standard operating procedures
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTMIS	United Nations Transitional Mission in Somalia
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose, institutional status and legal basis

This section sets out NIHRC's legal and institutional basis, the framework established by Human Rights Council Resolution 60/28, and the methodology used for this submission.[1]

NIHRC is Somalia's constitutionally recognised and statutorily established national human rights institution (NHRI). Article 41 of the 2026 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia (FRS) establishes the Human Rights Commission and defines its constitutional functions. Articles 150 and 151 place the Commission within the constitutional framework for independent commissions and establish the relevant safeguards for its independence.[2]

Law No. 16 of 27 June 2016 provides the principal statutory framework governing NIHRC. Its 24 articles address the Commission's legal status, mandate and powers; composition and leadership; the Director General (DG) and personnel; decision-making and safeguards; Commissioner selection, appointment and tenure; financial arrangements; immunity, the Tribunal Committee, remuneration and other matters necessary for the Commission's organisation and functioning.[3]

Resolution 60/28 provides the current Human Rights Council (HRC) framework for Somalia's human rights transition. It recognises NIHRC's role within that transition, affirms national ownership, addresses the strengthening of national human rights capacity and sets out responsibilities for cooperation, technical assistance, monitoring and reporting.[4] The Resolution does not alter the Commission's domestic legal mandate. NIHRC continues to exercise the powers and functions conferred by the Constitution and Law No. 16.

The Commission also assesses its development and practice against the Paris Principles and the General Observations of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), which provide the principal international standards relevant to the independence and effective functioning of national human rights institutions (NHRIs). These standards inform the Commission's approach to independence, staffing, funding, reporting, engagement with international mechanisms and future accreditation, while leaving its domestic legal framework unchanged.[5]

The Somalia Human Rights Transition Plan 2025–2026 forms part of the national policy context for this process. It sets out the Government's transition towards stronger national human rights body, national monitoring and reporting capacity and sustained engagement with international human rights mechanisms.[6] As a policy and implementation instrument predating

[2] Federal Republic of Somalia, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Law No. 51 of 8 March 2026, arts 41, 150 and 151.
[3] Federal Republic of Somalia, Law No. 16 of 27 June 2016 on the Establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission.
[4] United Nations Human Rights Council, Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights, A/HRC/RES/60/28, adopted 8 October 2025, particularly paras 21 and 24–29
[5] United Nations General Assembly, Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Paris Principles), Resolution 48/134, 20 December 1993, annex; Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, General Observations of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation, adopted 21 February 2018
[6] Federal Republic of Somalia, Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development, Somalia Human Rights Transition Plan 2025–2026: Towards Resilient Justice, Equality, and Peace, particularly secs 2–2.3 and 6.

Resolution 60/28, the Plan informs this report but does not determine NIHRC's constitutional or statutory powers.

Accordingly, this report distinguishes between NIHRC's domestic legal mandate, the framework established by Resolution 60/28, the international standards applicable to NHRI independence and effectiveness, and national policy and implementation instruments.

1.2 Resolution 60/28 and Somalia's nationally led human rights transition

Resolution 60/28 places NIHRC within a nationally led human rights transition while maintaining distinct responsibilities for the Commission, the Federal Government, the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) and Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Paragraph 21 recognises a nationally led transition involving the FRS, NIHRC and the NMRF, with continued engagement with OHCHR and international human rights mechanisms. Paragraph 24 further provides for a nationally owned action plan led by the Federal Government through NIHRC and the NMRF and developed in consultation with relevant partners.[4]

Within this framework:

a) NIHRC is recognised in paragraph 28 for its national mandate to monitor, investigate, report on and contribute to redress for human rights violations, and to engage with the HRC and other international human rights mechanisms. Paragraph 25(e) also envisages NIHRC working with the NMRF on nationally owned human rights benchmarks and indicators.
b) The NMRF carries national reporting, monitoring and follow-up responsibilities under the Transition Plan, including human rights baseline assessment, development and tracking of national metrics and management of the Information Management System. Its role in developing national benchmarks and indicators is shared with NIHRC where specified by Resolution 60/28.
c) OHCHR retains separate responsibilities for technical assistance and capacity-building, support to nationally owned benchmarks and indicators, assessment and monitoring of the human rights situation in consultation with NIHRC, civil society and relevant authorities, and reporting to the HRC at its 63rd and 66th sessions.

Government ministries, justice and security institutions and other public authorities remain responsible for implementation within their respective areas of competence.

1.3 Methodology and approach to reporting on Resolution 60/28

This report provides an evidence-based account of NIHRC's implementation of and engagement with HRC Resolution 60/28 during the reporting period. It draws on the Commission's legal and administrative records, financial documentation, policies and manuals, strategies and workplans, correspondence, activity records, technical outputs and other documentation produced or maintained by NIHRC.

The assessment records progress according to the stage reached during the reporting period. This includes completed activities and adopted instruments, as well as substantive work

undertaken through draft policies, procedures, systems, strategies and other outputs that were under development or progressing towards approval or implementation at the reporting cut-off. Where relevant, the report identifies the status reached so that development, approval and operational implementation are clearly distinguished.

Responsibility is attributed according to the role of each actor. NIHRC's own actions and outputs are reported as Commission activity, while Government, NMRF, OHCHR, UN and partner contributions are identified where relevant to implementation. Joint activities are recorded accordingly. Financing is attributed to NIHRC where resources were received, controlled or directly used for Commission activities.

The report also draws on relevant national human rights developments to assess the context in which NIHRC exercises its monitoring, investigative, advisory, protection and reporting functions. The focus throughout remains on the Commission's progress, exercise of mandate and requirements for the next stage of implementation.

2. Establishment and operationalisation of NIHRC

This section traces NIHRC's transition from legal establishment to active operation. It covers the constitution of the current Commission, establishment of its leadership and Secretariat, organisational arrangements and the initial operating systems developed during the reporting period. Within Resolution 60/28, this work relates principally to OP1(m), OP16(b) and OP28, concerning the Commission's establishment, strengthening, independence and effectiveness. By the reporting cut-off, nine Commissioners had been appointed, the Commission's leadership had been elected and active operations had commenced, while work to strengthen its staffing, governance and operating capacity continued. A consolidated assessment of NIHRC's implementation of the relevant provisions of Resolution 60/28 is provided in Annex 1. The substantive exercise of the Commission's human rights mandate is addressed in Section 4.

2.1 Constitution of the Commission and commencement of operations

Although NIHRC was established in law in 2016, the current Commission was constituted through the appointment of nine Commissioners in 2025. Law No. 16 provides for a nine-member Commission and sets out the statutory framework governing the selection, appointment and composition of its membership.[3] The composition of the Commission also meets the statutory participation requirements concerning women and persons with disabilities, reflected in OP1(m) of Resolution 60/28.

The appointment process proceeded through a series of national selection and approval stages during 2025. NIHRC records identify the commencement of the selection process on 25 April 2025, followed by screening, assessment and interviews between April and June, Cabinet endorsement on 3 July, approval by the House of the People on 11 October, approval by the Upper House on 19 November, and Presidential appointment in December 2025.

On 4 February 2026, the nine Commissioners convened and elected the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary from among the membership of the Commission. This established the Commission's leadership and marked the commencement of active operations.

The DG, Director of Administration and Finance and Director of Communications were identified through vacancies advertised internally within the Federal Government and interview processes conducted by panels of Commissioners. The DG began serving in February 2026 following appointment by the Chairperson and secondment from the Somali Civil Aviation Authority. As the holder of a distinct statutory office under Article 10 of Law No. 16, the DG is responsible for the administrative management of NIHRC and reports directly to the Commission.

The Director of Administration and Finance began serving on 7 February 2026 and the Director of Communications on 29 April 2026. Both were appointed by the Chairperson and seconded from the Ministry of Finance. Several additional Administration and Finance personnel were also seconded from the Ministry of Finance to support the Commission's administrative and financial functions.

The Director-level and other seconded Secretariat personnel fall within Article 11 of Law No. 16, which expressly permits NIHRC to request seconded personnel from Federal Government institutions and subjects them to Law No. 16, the Commission's internal regulations and its directives while serving within NIHRC. The DG remains governed separately by Article 10.

These arrangements enabled NIHRC to establish immediate operating capacity while retaining authority over the functions performed within the Commission. NIHRC identified the staffing requirements and, through panels of Commissioners, conducted the selection processes for senior personnel and retains direction and supervision over their work. The next phase will progressively establish a permanent professional Secretariat through open, transparent and merit-based recruitment under NIHRC's authority, consistent with applicable Somali law and the Paris Principles.

In parallel, the Office of the Chairperson was supported by two Senior Advisers from May and June 2026 respectively, who provided their professional time and expertise, without remuneration from the Commission. This continues to provide dedicated senior advisory capacity to NIHRC's operations.

2.2 Structure and operational development

Following the establishment of its leadership and initial senior administrative capacity, the Commission began operating through interim arrangements while its fuller governance, administrative and mandate-delivery systems were being developed. These arrangements supported immediate coordination, administration, record-keeping and the commencement of substantive mandate activity.

Early development was also supported by technical resources made available to the Commission. In February 2026, NIHRC received a structured resource package compiled by the UN Transitional Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG), covering international and regional human rights standards, Somalia-specific human rights materials, NHRI practice, complaints handling, human rights indicators and accreditation resources. These materials provided an early reference base for the Commission as it developed its governance, operational systems and approach to future accreditation.

Experience during the Commission's first weeks of operation informed the formulation of a more structured framework for the next phase. On 31 March 2026, NIHRC developed its Institutional Establishment Strategy – Phase Zero to guide its first twelve months of operation. The Strategy formed part of the Commission's wider operationalisation process, alongside technical engagement and capacity support from the HRPG of the UNTMIS. It set out priorities covering governance, Secretariat development, phased staffing, organisational structure, financial arrangements and the progressive development of systems required for mandate delivery.

The establishment-phase organisational model places the nine-member Commission at the governance level, with the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary serving as elected officers within the Commission. The DG leads the Secretariat and is accountable directly to the Commission. The model identifies functional areas covering complaints, investigations and

legal services; monitoring, research and reporting; administration and finance; policy, planning and partnerships; human rights promotion and training; ICT and human resources; and communications and public engagement. It is intended to develop progressively in accordance with workload, staffing requirements and available resources.

Alongside these internal arrangements, NIHRC established its initial public communications presence. The Commission's official website, www.nihrc.org.so, is operational, together with its official X account, @Somalia_NIHRC, and Facebook page, Somalia.NIHRC. The Commission has also prepared public information materials explaining its mandate, functions and role, including audiovisual content intended for dissemination through social media and national media channels.

Development of the Commission's complaints-access and case-management function also advanced substantially during the reporting period. NIHRC established the dedicated short-code complaints helpline 1122 and the complaints email cabasho@nihrc.org.so, with the interim Complaints Desk at headquarters designated to manage these channels. Formal complaints intake had not commenced by the reporting cut-off. In parallel, the Commission developed a first draft Complaints Handling Procedures Manual and proposed standard forms covering complaint intake, admissibility screening, informed consent and confidentiality, referral and review. A proposed digital case-reporting and management system was also developed, providing for consent-based intake, unique case registration, assignment to designated case workers, status tracking, restricted access to sensitive information and auditable case histories. Pending procurement and implementation of the full integrated management system, interim arrangements for the secure storage of future confidential case files have been established. Further development of the complaints and case-management function, including the full digital environment, staffing, security safeguards and wider accessibility, is assessed in Section 3.

Procurement of the wider ICT environment is underway. The remaining requirements for full digital deployment, including staffing, technical validation, cybersecurity safeguards and training, are assessed in Section 3.2.

These arrangements enabled NIHRC to operate and begin exercising substantive elements of its mandate during the reporting period, while continuing to develop the permanent staffing, complaints and case-management, ICT and information-security, monitoring, reporting, records-management and national-access arrangements required for sustained delivery. Figure 1 summarises NIHRC's current organisational structure and the relationship between the Commission, its elected leadership, the DG and the Secretariat.

These measures demonstrate substantive progress against the strengthening and effectiveness requirements reflected in OP16(b) and OP28.

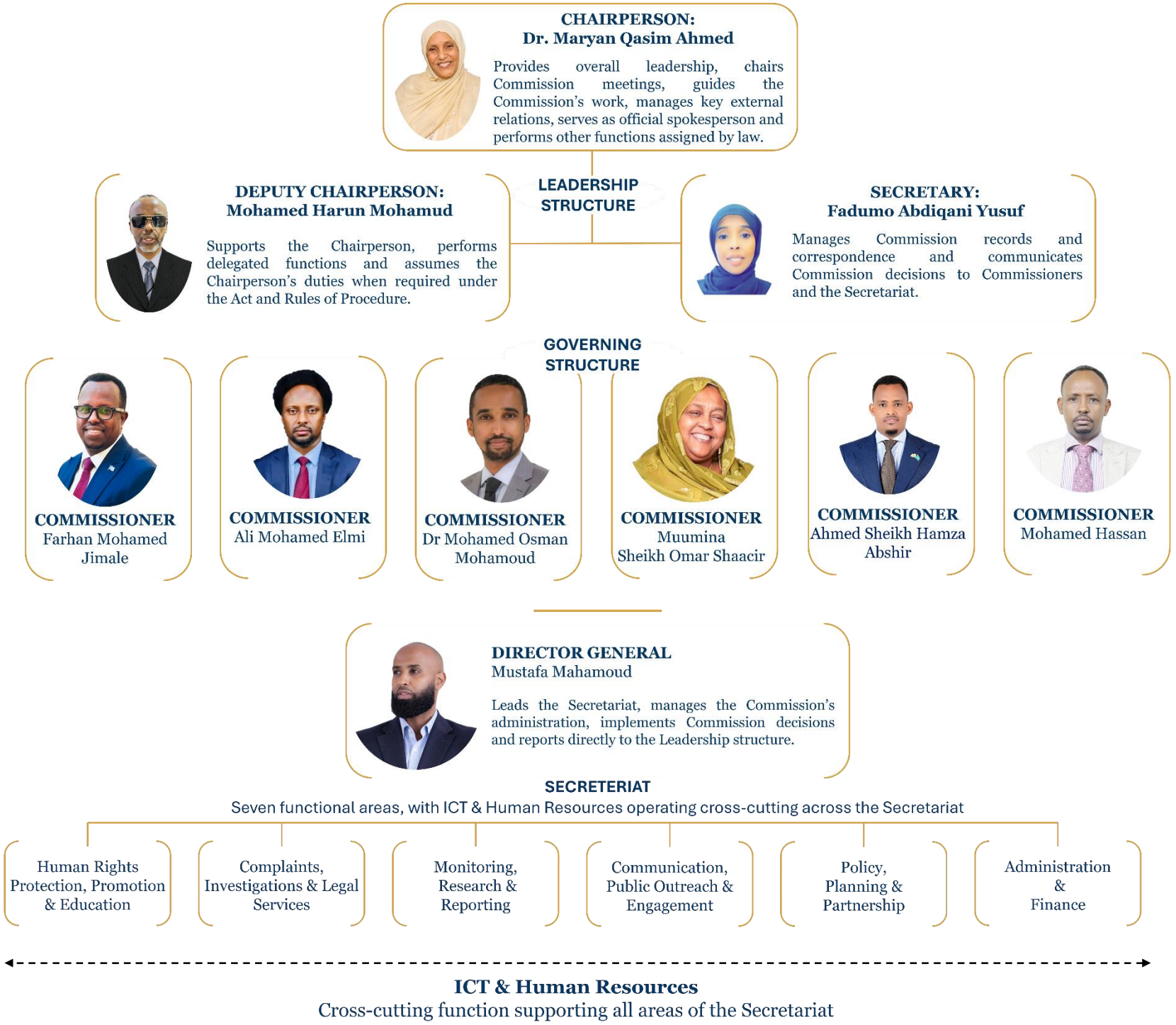


Figure 1. NIHRC Organisational Structure

NIHRC is governed collectively by its nine Commissioners.

The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary form the Leadership Structure, while the Director General leads the Secretariat and reports directly to the Leadership structure/Commission.

The Secretariat comprises seven functional areas, with ICT & Human Resources operating cross-cutting across all Secretariat functions.

The Secretariat will be strengthened progressively as permanent staffing and

3. Independence, governance and capacity in practice

This section examines how NIHRC is giving practical effect to its constitutional and statutory independence through its governance, administration, staffing, financial management, operating systems and technical cooperation. It assesses the arrangements in place during the reporting period, the progress achieved and the requirements for the Commission's next stage of development.

The principal provisions of Resolution 60/28 relevant to this section are OP16(b) and OP28, which concern the strengthening, independence and effectiveness of NIHRC. OP21 and OP25 are also relevant insofar as they address nationally defined capacity-building priorities and technical assistance supporting the human rights transition. A detailed assessment of the relevant Resolution 60/28 provisions is provided in the Annex 1.

3.1 Independence and governance

3.1.1 Collective governance and executive administration

NIHRC's independence in practice depends in part on a clear allocation of authority between the Commission and the Secretariat. Law No. 16 places decision-making authority in the nine-member Commission on matters reserved to it by law, while the DG exercises responsibility for the Commission's administrative management and reports directly to the Commission.

During the reporting period, NIHRC applied this distinction in developing its governance and operating arrangements. Collective Commission authority has been maintained over matters requiring formal Commission determination, while day-to-day administration and implementation of Commission decisions are led through the DG and Secretariat. The current organisational structure and reporting relationships are set out in Figure 1 in Section 2.

This separation provides an important practical safeguard for Commission independence by distinguishing collective governance and oversight from executive administration.

3.1.2 Rules of Procedure and governance safeguards

NIHRC has advanced a substantive draft of its Rules of Procedure (RoP) to govern Commission meetings and decision-making, leadership functions, Secretariat arrangements, ethics, conflicts of interest, financial governance and other internal procedures. The substantive draft is awaiting Commissioner sign-off, after which it will undergo final legal and consistency review, Somali translation and completion of the Commission's approval process.

The drafting process has been used to test proposed arrangements against Law No. 16 and the 2026 Constitution. Particular attention has been given to preserving the authority of the full Commission on matters requiring collective decision; maintaining the statutory separation between Commission functions and the DG's administrative responsibilities; and ensuring that internal arrangements do not create powers or reporting relationships inconsistent with the enabling law. The draft has consequently been refined to ensure that the Leadership Structure does not determine matters reserved to the Commission and that the DG's direct accountability to the Commission under Article 10(3) is preserved.

The RoP represents substantive progress in converting the Commission's legal framework into a defined system of internal governance. Its completion will provide a common procedural basis for Commission decision-making, administration and accountability.

3.1.3 UN technical support and applied peer learning

During the reporting period, NIHRC pursued a structured programme of technical cooperation and peer learning to strengthen the professional capability required for independent mandate delivery. This developed progressively from early orientation and specialist resources into applied work on governance, complaints and investigations, monitoring, detention oversight, reporting, legislative analysis, public finance, civil-society engagement and comparative NHRI practice.

From February 2026, the UNTMIS HRPG provided sustained Somalia-based support to the Commission. An initial resource package brought together international and regional human rights standards, Somalia-specific materials, NHRI practice, complaints handling, human rights indicators and accreditation resources. During the same period, NIHRC established a direct specialist working channel with OHCHR's National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section (NIRMS) on NHRI development, governance, operational independence, Commission systems and accreditation readiness. This early support established the technical basis for the more structured capacity-development work that followed.

In April, a five-day induction programme for Commissioners and senior personnel established a common technical baseline across NIHRC's principal protection and promotion functions. The programme covered the Commission's mandate, international human rights and humanitarian law, monitoring and investigations, civilian protection, detention, children's rights, sexual violence, public budgeting, engagement with State and civil-society actors, communications and Secretariat functions. Practical methodologies were introduced for monitoring and verifying violations, complaints and investigations, detention oversight and engagement with State and non-State actors.

In May, this work progressed into a more detailed operationalisation programme organised by OHCHR Geneva/NIRMS with support from HRPG. The programme examined independence, financial autonomy, governance, complaints and investigations, public inquiries, monitoring, reporting, advocacy, UN engagement and strategic planning. NIHRC used the process to subject its emerging RoP, Code of Conduct, organisational arrangements and complaints-management approach to structured technical and comparative review. It also clarified the practical distinction between collective Commission governance, Secretariat administration and internal coordination, while refining priorities under the Phase Zero establishment strategy.

Regional and peer engagement developed alongside this technical support. NIHRC's participation in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States NHRIs Network and the GANHRI Annual Meeting established direct relationships with GANHRI, Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and other peer NHRIs. These engagements expanded the Commission's access to African and international NHRI practice, strengthened bilateral channels with regional counterparts and advanced its engagement with the wider African NHRI network.

This was followed in June by a peer-learning programme in Kenya hosted by OHCHR and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR). The programme provided detailed comparative examination of complaints and investigations, legal redress, governance and human resources, research, ICT, planning and monitoring, finance, procurement, audit and risk, communications, stakeholder engagement and resource mobilisation. It gave NIHRC practical comparator models for functions under development within the Commission and informed continuing work on Secretariat structures, complaints and case management, ICT, financial and procurement controls and public engagement. The programme also strengthened direct cooperation with KNCHR and further connected NIHRC with NANHRI and other technical partners.

Specialist development continued in July through a five-day HRPG programme covering monitoring and documentation, freedom of expression, conflict-related sexual violence, human rights reporting, legislative analysis, civil-society engagement, minority inclusion, economic, social and cultural rights, public budgets and gender-responsive budgeting. The programme strengthened the Commission's ability to verify allegations, translate evidence into findings and recommendations, assess domestic legislation against applicable human rights standards, analyse socio-economic rights and examine public expenditure through human rights, equality and gender lenses. These capabilities directly support the monitoring, reporting, legislative-review and thematic work addressed elsewhere in this report.

The Commission also moved from technical preparation into direct mandate-focused engagement on detention. A prison-oversight roundtable with the Custodial Corps and justice authorities, supported by UN justice and corrections actors and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), advanced practical engagement on detention standards, access to places of deprivation of liberty and NIHRC's independent prison-monitoring mandate. In August, specialist Training of Trainers on human rights and public budgeting further strengthened internal capability to analyse Government revenue, allocations and expenditure against human rights obligations and to transfer that expertise across the Commission.

Taken together, these engagements strengthened NIHRC's professional capability across governance, complaints, investigations, monitoring, detention oversight, legislative review, reporting, public finance analysis and external engagement. They also established regional and international relationships that provide continuing access to comparative NHRI practice, technical expertise and peer cooperation. A detailed record of the technical-cooperation and peer-learning activities, including dates, areas of support and specific outcomes, is provided in Annex 2.

3.1.4 Technical cooperation with RWI: practical outputs and next-stage work

NIHRC formalised its cooperation with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 24 May 2026. The cooperation covers strategic support, capacity development, training, research and related technical assistance. NIHRC retains authority over its priorities, governance, policies and final decisions, with RWI providing technical advice, comparative NHRI practice and facilitation. This principle of Commission ownership has remained central to the cooperation.

During June and July, NIHRC and RWI identified the areas in which targeted support could contribute most directly to the Commission's establishment and early mandate delivery. This work culminated in a two-day co-creation workshop in Mogadishu on 17–18 August. The workshop moved the cooperation from general technical support into a defined programme of practical Commission outputs. Four immediate priorities were agreed: the NIHRC Introductory Guide, Code of Conduct, 2026 Establishment Report and Capacity Baseline Assessment. The parties also agreed a year-round reporting and evidence system and further work on leadership development, peer exchange and accreditation readiness.

The Introductory Guide provides NIHRC with a common reference on its legal identity, mandate, independence, governance and relationship with the wider national, African and international human rights system. It is intended to support consistent orientation across the Commission and provide an accessible public explanation of NIHRC's role and functions. This is particularly relevant to the Commission's wider objective of strengthening public understanding of human rights and awareness of how individuals and communities can engage with NIHRC.

The Code of Conduct work has established a Commission-specific framework addressing independence, impartiality, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, professional conduct, use of Commission resources and accountability. Its development has also required careful consideration of the different legal and disciplinary arrangements applicable to Commissioners, civil servants, advisers and other personnel. Outstanding legal and enforcement questions remain subject to Commission review before adoption.

The reporting and Capacity Baseline workstreams address two further priorities for the Commission's development. NIHRC agreed a reporting approach based on continuous evidence collection, source verification, recommendation tracking and retention of activity, monitoring, complaints, legislative, communications, training, financial and administrative records. In parallel, the Capacity Baseline Assessment is designed to establish the Commission's current capabilities, identify material gaps and provide a sequenced basis for future development and external support.

The August process also produced a Consolidated Record, Decisions and Implementation Framework, converting workshop decisions into a documented sequence of actions, responsibilities and follow-up. This provides NIHRC with a mechanism for tracking delivery and maintaining continuity between technical discussions and Commission decisions.

Taken together, the RWI cooperation has generated practical tools and working arrangements directly relevant to governance, ethical conduct, reporting, evidence management, public understanding, capacity planning and future accreditation readiness. The detailed position of each workstream and the outputs recorded at the reporting cut-off are provided in Annex 2.

3.1.4.1 Follow-on work agreed during the reporting period

The August co-creation process established the next phase of NIHRC–RWI cooperation. Immediate priorities are the completion and national publication of the NIHRC Introductory Guide, finalisation of the Code of Conduct and Capacity Baseline Assessment, alongside strengthened annual-reporting arrangements and preparation of the 2026 Establishment Report.

A five-day Senior Leadership Workshop is scheduled for October 2026 to take this work forward. The programme will combine finalisation of these core products with senior-level work on collective governance and leadership, GANHRI accreditation readiness, comparative NHRI practice and operating in conflict and crisis settings. It will also include dedicated training on HRC 60/28, including NIHRC's role within the national human rights transition, implementation and monitoring responsibilities, evidence requirements, engagement with relevant national and international mechanisms, and the Commission's independent reporting functions. The programme is intended to consolidate a common senior-level approach to governance, mandate delivery, reporting and external engagement as the Commission moves beyond its establishment phase.

NIHRC and RWI have also agreed a High-Level Dialogue and Peer Exchange involving Commission leadership, Federal authorities, Federal Member State representatives, civil society, rights-holders, peer NHRIs and technical partners. The dialogue will address independence, governance, mandate delivery, complaints, reporting and national accessibility, while strengthening peer relationships and extending engagement beyond Mogadishu. NIHRC will retain responsibility for the scope, participation and outcomes of the process.

Work towards future GANHRI accreditation will proceed through the development of a structured readiness roadmap examining NIHRC's legal framework and practice against applicable international standards. This will cover independence, appointments and tenure, staffing, financing, accountability, reporting and national reach, with recommendations distinguishing actions within the Commission's control from matters requiring action by Government or Parliament. The second half of 2028 remains the earliest intended application period, subject to sufficient evidence of effective and independent operation.

The August process also initiated academic and research cooperation with Somali universities. Proposed areas include a Somalia-contextualised curriculum on international human rights law and international humanitarian law, common teaching materials, faculty Training of Trainers, applied research and legal-clinic models. The purpose is to draw systematically on Somali academic, legal and professional expertise to strengthen the capability of Commissioners, personnel and partners and contribute to nationally grounded human rights teaching and research.

These agreed activities extend the practical cooperation already underway into leadership, mandate delivery, national and peer engagement, academic cooperation and future accreditation readiness. A detailed record of the agreed activities and intended outputs is provided in Annex 2.

RWI has indicated that the current inception phase may inform consideration of a wider multi-year programme. Any subsequent programme or financing arrangement remains subject to RWI and donor approval processes and is not treated in this report as secured support.

3.1.5 Current staffing arrangements and Commission control

As described in Section 2, NIHRC established the executive and administrative capacity required to commence operations during its establishment phase and has since finalised its Secretariat structure. By the reporting cut-off, recruitment against that structure was actively underway, including permanent Director-level recruitment and development of the wider professional workforce.

The staffing arrangements operate within the framework established by Law No. 16. Article 10 establishes the Director General as the Commission's chief executive, responsible for administrative management and directly accountable to the Commission. Article 11 gives NIHRC authority to recruit the personnel required for its work and expressly permits the Commission, where necessary, to request personnel on secondment from Federal Government bodies. Personnel serving through secondment perform their NIHRC functions under Law No. 16, applicable Commission rules and Commission direction.

The use of seconded personnel during the establishment period has enabled NIHRC to secure immediate professional and administrative capacity while developing its permanent workforce. The central safeguard is that NIHRC retains authority over the work performed within the Commission. Staffing arrangements do not transfer control over the Commission's mandate, priorities, investigations, findings, recommendations or decisions to the body from which an individual may have been seconded. This is particularly important for personnel working with complaints, investigations, monitoring, confidential information and other functions requiring independence from bodies that NIHRC may itself be required to scrutinise.

NIHRC is now progressing its permanent recruitment programme under the approved Secretariat structure. Recruitment is being conducted through Commission-controlled, documented and merit-based processes, with the detailed safeguards governing those processes addressed in Section 3.1.6. A detailed staffing position at the reporting cut-off is provided in the Annex 3.

3.1.6 Permanent recruitment and staffing safeguards

NIHRC has established an operational recruitment framework for permanent appointments and is actively applying it to recruitment within the approved Secretariat structure, including additional Director-level positions. Permanent recruitment has therefore commenced and represents the next stage in developing the Commission's professional workforce following the establishment-phase arrangements described above.

The framework gives practical effect to NIHRC's authority over its staffing under Law No. 16 and is tied directly to the Commission's approved organisational structure, staffing requirements and job descriptions. Recruitment processes are initiated and controlled by NIHRC, with appointment decisions taken through authorised Commission procedures. Vacancies are publicly advertised and assessed against eligibility and competency requirements defined in advance. The process provides for documented shortlisting, technical or competency assessment where appropriate, structured interviews and standardised scoring.

Selection panels are constituted for each recruitment exercise and operate against agreed assessment criteria. Panel members are required to disclose conflicts of interest and recuse themselves where necessary. Qualifications and employment history are verified before appointment, and panel recommendations, approvals, appointment documentation, terms of service and reporting arrangements are retained as part of the Commission's recruitment record. Each exercise therefore produces an auditable record of the vacancy notice, criteria, applications, shortlist, assessments, panel declarations, scores, recommendations, approvals and final appointment decision.

Pluralism forms part of the recruitment framework alongside competence and merit. Recruitment takes account of gender, clan representation, minority communities and persons with disabilities while maintaining the professional and technical requirements of each post. In the Somali context, this includes applying the 4.5 representation framework in a manner that supports inclusion while preserving merit, competence and suitability for the functions to be performed.

The framework also reflects the particular independence and confidentiality requirements associated with the work of a national human rights commission. Personnel appointed to functions involving complaints, investigations, monitoring, protected information or other sensitive responsibilities are subject to confidentiality, conflict-of-interest and professional-conduct requirements. These safeguards are intended to ensure that personnel can perform their functions under NIHRC's authority and without inappropriate external influence, particularly where the Commission may be examining the conduct of public authorities or handling information requiring heightened protection.

This approach is consistent with GANHRI General Observation 2.4, which emphasises that an NHRI should retain control over its staffing and apply open, transparent and merit-based recruitment processes that support pluralism. It also contributes directly to the strengthening, independence and effectiveness of NIHRC contemplated under OP16(b) and OP28 of Resolution 60/28.

Alongside permanent recruitment, NIHRC is developing a separate apprenticeship framework to create a structured pathway for entry-level professional learning and future workforce development. The framework will establish transparent entry criteria, clearly defined placements, supervision and learning requirements, safeguarding and confidentiality standards, appropriate restrictions on access to sensitive information and clear accountability arrangements. Apprentices will support suitable supervised functions without substituting for permanent professional personnel or exercising functions reserved to Commissioners or authorised NIHRC personnel.

3.2 Resource adequacy and operational capacity

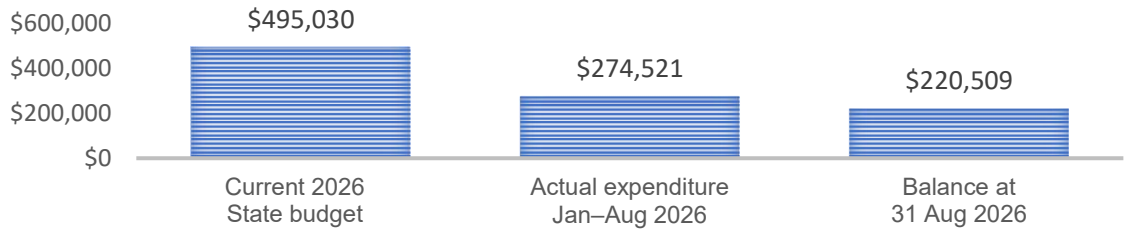
Financial and operational capacity forms a central component of NIHRC's independence and effectiveness. Article 20 of Law No. 16 provides that the Commission shall have its own budget within the national budget and shall manage the funds allocated to it independently, subject to applicable public financial-management requirements and oversight by the Auditor General. These safeguards are directly relevant to OP16(b), which calls for NIHRC to be strengthened and adequately resourced to perform its mandate, and to OP28, which recognises the importance of strengthening the Commission's independence and effectiveness.

NIHRC has already established the core operating base required for its work, including functioning premises, executive and administrative capacity, financial-management arrangements, public complaints-access channels, records controls and an expanding programme of mandate delivery. The next stage is therefore focused on scaling and consolidating the staffing, financial systems, secure digital infrastructure, mobility, field capacity and national accessibility required for sustained delivery across Somalia. This also engages OP21 insofar as NIHRC is defining its own capacity-building and technical-assistance priorities within the nationally led transition.

3.2.1 Financial autonomy, State financing and budget execution

The Federal Government approved NIHRC's first dedicated State budget for 2026. The original budget of $474,000 comprised $354,000 for allowances and personnel expenditure and $120,000 for goods and services, including premises, utilities, stationery, fuel and other operating expenditure. During the reporting period, a further $21,030 Government salary provision accompanied the secondment of the Director General, bringing NIHRC's total 2026 State budget to $495,030. By 31 August 2026, $274,521 of this budget had been disbursed and utilised, leaving $220,509 available against the approved budget for the remainder of the financial year.

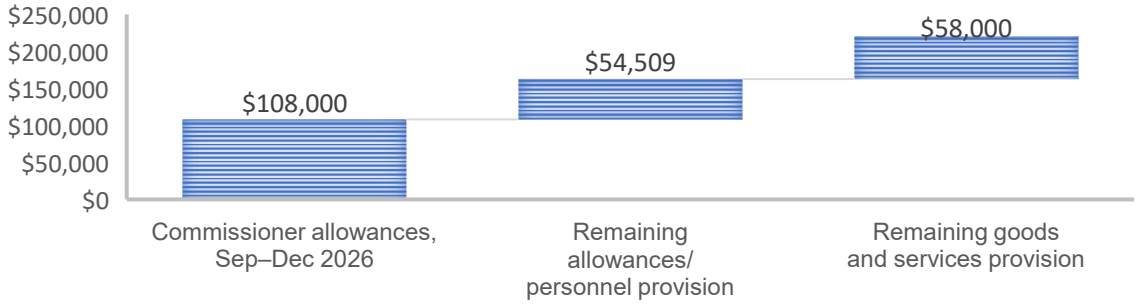
FIGURE 2. NIHRC 2026 STATE BUDGET: ALLOCATION, EXPENDITURE AND BALANCE AT 31 AUGUST 2026



By 31 August 2026, NIHRC had recorded expenditure of $274,521, comprising $212,521 in allowances and personnel expenditure and $62,000 in goods and services. This left a budget balance of $220,509 for the remainder of the financial year.

The remaining balance is substantially accounted for by recurrent obligations through December 2026. The State budget provides for a monthly allowance of $3,000 for each of the nine Commissioners, reflecting their continuing responsibilities for collective governance, oversight and decision-making and their substantive work across monitoring, investigations, detention oversight, legislative and policy review, reporting, public engagement and national and international representation.

FIGURE 3. NIHRC 2026 BUDGET: COMPOSITION OF REMAINING PROVISION



Of the $220,509 remaining at 31 August, $108,000 is required for Commissioner allowances for September to December, $54,509 remains within the allowances and personnel provision for other applicable personnel-related obligations, and $58,000 remains for goods and services, including premises, utilities, fuel, communications and other operating expenditure.

The 2026 State budget has therefore provided NIHRC with a defined recurrent operating base during its first year of active operation. Budget execution during the reporting period financed the Commission's core governance, personnel and operating costs while supporting the establishment of the administrative arrangements required for mandate delivery. The balance remaining at 31 August should be understood in the context of continuing obligations through the final four months of the financial year, rather than as uncommitted surplus funding.

As permanent recruitment progresses and NIHRC expands the scale and geographic reach of its mandate delivery, its financing requirements will also develop. The Capacity Baseline Assessment and subsequent costing work will provide the Commission-led basis for determining the additional recurrent, programme and capital requirements associated with a fully staffed Secretariat, strengthened systems, field deployment and wider national accessibility. This is directly relevant to OP16(b) of Resolution 60/28, which calls for NIHRC to be adequately resourced to monitor, investigate, report and contribute effectively to accountability and redress.

3.2.2 Financial management and administrative controls

NIHRC has established financial-management arrangements to administer its State budget and maintain expenditure and budget records during the establishment period. Current arrangements use QuickBooks Desktop and Excel-based ledger controls for accounting and expenditure tracking, alongside the Ministry of Finance's Somalia Financial Management Information System (SFMIS) for Treasury warrant releases and allotment tracking. These arrangements support the budget-execution position reported in Section 3.2.1 and provide the Commission with an operational basis for managing and accounting for public resources.

Alongside these operating arrangements, NIHRC has developed a suite of financial and administrative control instruments. The Finance Policies and Procedures Manual, Version 1.0, dated 1 July 2026, has been prepared and is awaiting Commission approval. It establishes a framework covering budgeting, expenditure management, accounting, financial reporting, asset management, internal controls, audit and donor-funded resources. Its effective date is expressly linked to Commission approval.

The Procurement Policy and Procedures Manual, Version 1.0 was initially developed on 17 May 2026 and revised on 12 July 2026. It is also awaiting approval and provides the proposed framework for procurement planning, competition, evaluation, award, contract management and associated accountability controls in accordance with applicable national procurement legislation.

The Finance and Procurement Manuals form part of a wider programme to formalise NIHRC's administrative and operational controls. At the reporting cut-off, additional instruments under development included the Human Resources Manual, whistleblower and data-protection policies, gender and inclusion policy, child-protection and safeguarding policy, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, resource-mobilisation strategy and stakeholder-engagement strategy. Governance and mandate-specific instruments, including the Rules of Procedure, Code of Conduct and complaints, ICT, case-management and records procedures, are addressed in the relevant sections of this report.

Effective implementation of these instruments will require corresponding Secretariat capacity and operational resources, particularly within Administration and Finance, Human Resources and ICT.

Permanent recruitment is underway, with implementation capacity expected to expand alongside staffing, systems and available financing. Completion and operationalisation of these controls will further strengthen the financial and administrative systems supporting NIHRC's independence and effective mandate delivery under OP16(b) and OP28.

3.2.3 Premises, ICT, complaints access and secure information management

NIHRC operates from its principal headquarters in central Mogadishu and retains a secondary operational office within Zone 1 of Aden Adde International Airport (AAIA). The headquarters provides the Commission's main working base for Commissioners and Secretariat personnel, including office, meeting and consultation space, while the AAIA location provides an additional secure facility for meetings and engagement requiring a higher-security environment.

The Commission is also strengthening the digital infrastructure required to support its administrative and mandate functions. Procurement of dedicated ICT infrastructure is underway, with the intended environment supporting secure records, complaints and case management, reporting, controlled access, backup arrangements and wider information security. The fuller information-management and case-management environment is being progressed alongside this procurement.

NIHRC has established public channels through which individuals can contact the Commission concerning complaints, including a dedicated hotline and email registry managed through the interim Complaints Desk at headquarters. These arrangements provide an initial point of access while the formal complaints-intake and case-management system is being operationalised. Formal complaints intake had not commenced by 31 August 2026.

Sensitive Commission records are currently protected through a locked physical registry at headquarters, supported by encrypted cloud backups. These arrangements provide immediate safeguards for sensitive information while procurement and configuration of the fuller information-management system proceed.

Together, these arrangements provide NIHRC with an operational physical and digital base for current mandate delivery while allowing the Commission to scale towards more integrated complaints, records and case-management systems. Further development of secure ICT, information management and case-management capacity remains a priority under OP16(b) and OP28.

3.2.4 Mobility, security and field-operational capacity

NIHRC is already undertaking field deployment for monitoring, preliminary inquiries, detention-related work and engagement with affected communities and public authorities. These functions require secure movement beyond the Commission's fixed premises, including operational movement between the central Mogadishu headquarters and the secure AAIA location, as well as movements through checkpoints and higher-risk areas of Mogadishu.

The Commission currently operates without dedicated armoured or soft-skin vehicles. Field movements are therefore supported through rented logistical transport and security escorts, including for missions requiring movement through Mogadishu checkpoints and higher-risk districts. These arrangements have enabled current mandate activity to proceed, while placing mobility and security costs within the Commission's recurrent operational requirements.

Dedicated mobility and field-support capacity will be required as the frequency and geographic reach of NIHRC's work increases. This includes the capacity to support monitoring missions, investigations, detention visits, confidential complainant engagement and deployment beyond Mogadishu with greater predictability and operational security. The requirement is therefore one of scale and national reach, building on field activity already underway, and forms part of the Commission's next-stage resourcing priorities under OP16(b) and OP28.

3.2.5 Complementary programme financing and resource mobilisation

In addition to its State budget, NIHRC has a defined financing envelope within the Joint Programme on Human Rights Phase III (JPHR-3), a 36-month programme supporting Somalia's nationally led human rights system. Two outputs are specifically directed to NIHRC, providing a combined three-year programme envelope of $780,000, comprising $510,000 for NIHRC operationalisation and independence and $270,000 for advocacy and rapid-response briefs. The Year 1 allocation totals $300,000. A detailed breakdown of the programme envelope is provided in Annex 4.

At the reporting cut-off, no JPHR-3 funds allocated to NIHRC had been disbursed to the Commission. NIHRC nevertheless continued its establishment and mandate-related work through available State resources, in-kind expertise and technical cooperation.

NIHRC has also contributed to the development of a proposed 30-month UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) programme with an overall envelope of $3.5 million. The proposal identifies UNDP and OHCHR as the proposed recipient organisations and would support areas including Secretariat and office capacity, digital and administrative systems, complaints and investigations, human rights monitoring and regional accessibility. At the reporting cut-off, the proposal remained under consideration. The $3.5 million is therefore prospective programme financing and does not constitute funding received or held by NIHRC.

These programme frameworks are intended to complement the Commission's State-financed recurrent base. Timely and predictable access to agreed programme resources is important to the sequencing of permanent staffing, systems, field capacity and mandate delivery, particularly where activities require multi-year implementation. NIHRC's Capacity Baseline and associated costing work will provide the Commission-led basis for aligning State financing, JPHR-3, prospective PBF support and other partner contributions with priorities determined by NIHRC under OP16(b), OP21 and OP28.

3.2.6 Next-stage resource requirements

Earlier establishment planning identified approximately $1.844 million in additional support for NIHRC's initial establishment phase. That estimate predated the Commission's current organisational structure, operational experience and Capacity Baseline Assessment and should not be treated as the cost of operating NIHRC at full national scale. The Capacity Baseline, detailed staffing analysis, technical specifications and costing work will provide the Commission-led basis for determining its longer-term recurrent, capital and programme requirements.

For high-level planning purposes, current estimates indicate that transition to a fully staffed and nationally deployable Commission could require approximately $2.0–2.5 million in one-off setup and capital investment and $4.5–5.0 million in recurrent annual requirements, giving an indicative Year 1 requirement of approximately $6.5–7.5 million. These figures are preliminary planning estimates only.

They are not an approved budget, committed financing or funding currently available to NIHRC and will be validated through the Capacity Baseline Assessment and subsequent costing process.

The Commission's principal next-stage requirements are now clear. NIHRC is progressing recruitment of its permanent professional workforce across the seven Secretariat functions, with Year 1 planning envisaging an initial workforce of approximately 51 personnel, including 10 apprenticeship placements. Subject to resource mobilisation, the Commission also intends to secure targeted, time-bound specialist expertise in areas including NHRI development, complaints and investigations, disability inclusion, women's and children's rights, minorities, refugees and internally displaced persons, communications and public engagement, and ICT and cybersecurity, with structured knowledge transfer to permanent personnel.

Operational priorities include completing secure ICT infrastructure and information-management systems; establishing an integrated complaints and case-management system; strengthening finance, procurement, human resources and administrative controls; and sustaining the Commission's existing premises and core operating arrangements. These systems are necessary to support secure records, reliable case data, protected information, management reporting and consistent Commission operations as staffing and workload increase.

NIHRC also requires increased mobility, field-security and duty-of-care capacity to support the expansion of monitoring, investigations, detention oversight and engagement beyond Mogadishu. This includes appropriate vehicles and field equipment, secure communications, movement planning and risk-management arrangements. In parallel, the Commission intends to develop a phased Federal Member State access model combining regular field missions, mobile complaints access, local referral arrangements and stronger engagement with State authorities, civil society and rights-holder networks.

Further priorities include strengthening monitoring and investigation methodologies; systematic detention oversight; specialist legal and technical capability; complainant and witness protection and referral arrangements; improved human rights data, research and reporting; and systematic tracking of legislation, policy recommendations and follow-up by public authorities. The Commission will also complete and operationalise outstanding policies, manuals and procedures and continue advanced professional development where this supports effective mandate delivery.

Sustainable financing will be required to maintain these capabilities over time. The State budget provides NIHRC's current recurrent operating base, while complementary programme resources remain at different stages of development. The Capacity Baseline and associated costing process will be used to translate validated staffing, systems, field operations, national accessibility and asset requirements into a sequenced multi-year financing plan. This directly supports the adequate resourcing, independence and effectiveness envisaged under OP16(b), OP21 and OP28 of Resolution 60/28. A detailed statement of current capacity and next-stage requirements is provided in Annex 5

4. Exercise of NIHRC's mandate during the reporting period

This section assesses NIHRC's exercise of its constitutional and statutory mandate between 4 February and 31 August 2026, a period of less than seven months of active operation. Sections 2 and 3 addressed the Commission's establishment, governance, independence, staffing, resources and operating capacity. Section 4 focuses on what NIHRC has done through its human rights mandate and on its specific role in Somalia's nationally led human rights transition.

Resolution 60/28 allocates responsibilities across the Federal Government, FMS, NMRF, NIHRC, OHCHR and other actors. NIHRC reports here on matters falling within its own mandate. Where the Resolution addresses wider national human rights issues, including civilian protection, detention, justice, equality, displacement, media freedom, humanitarian protection and legislative reform, NIHRC's role is to monitor, investigate, advise, report and make recommendations within its legal mandate. Responsibility for executive, legislative or operational implementation remains with the competent authorities.

The section is divided into two parts. **Part I** examines NIHRC's role in the nationally led human rights transition, including national benchmarks and indicators, monitoring and evidence arrangements, national coordination and engagement with OHCHR under the Resolution. **Part II** records the Commission's substantive exercise of its mandate during the reporting period, including monitoring and preliminary inquiries, detention and civilian-protection work, protection of vulnerable and marginalised groups, policy and legislative engagement, public advocacy and engagement with regional and international human rights mechanisms.

The principal provisions of Resolution 60/28 relevant to NIHRC's mandate in this section are OP21, OP24, OP25(e), OP26 and OP28. Together, they situate the Commission within Somalia's nationally led human rights transition, provide for its role in nationally owned benchmarks and indicators and consultation with OHCHR, and recognise its independent mandate to monitor, investigate and report on human rights violations, contribute to redress and engage with the Human Rights Council and other international mechanisms. NIHRC's establishment, independence and resource position under OP16(b) and the strengthening elements of OP28 have already been assessed in Sections 2 and 3. A detailed provision-by-provision assessment is provided in Annex 1.

4.1 National human rights transition, benchmarks, monitoring and reporting framework – Part I

This Part I examines NIHRC's specific role in Somalia's nationally led human rights transition under OP21, OP24, OP25(e) and OP26 of Resolution 60/28. These provisions place NIHRC alongside the NMRF within the national transition and action-plan processes, provide for the development of nationally owned human rights benchmarks and indicators, and require consultation with NIHRC in OHCHR's assessment, monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Somalia.

During the reporting period, NIHRC began translating these responsibilities into practical arrangements through its post-UNTMIS transition position, Resolution 60/28 implementation framework, initial benchmark and indicator framework, monitoring and evidence methodology, and preparations for national coordination and consultation. These are Commission-led contributions to processes that require engagement with the NMRF, Federal Government, FMS, OHCHR and other

relevant actors according to their respective mandates. The work undertaken to 31 August 2026 therefore establishes NIHRC's initial technical and operational basis for contributing independently to the next phase of national implementation, monitoring and reporting.

4.1.1 NIHRC position on the post-UNTMIS human rights transition

In July 2026, NIHRC prepared a substantive Position Paper on the post-UNTMIS Human Rights Transition for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC). The paper constituted the Commission's independent policy contribution to implementation of the Federal Government's Human Rights Transition Framework. NIHRC welcomed the national framework and set out how the transition should develop to preserve national ownership, independent human rights oversight and continuity of protection as UNTMIS withdraws.

The Position Paper established three central positions. First, progress in the transition should be assessed by the strength and sustainability of the national bodies assuming responsibility. Second, NIHRC should exercise its statutory role as a central independent national actor, alongside the distinct responsibilities of Government, Parliament, the judiciary, civil society, OHCHR and other partners. Third, independent functions including human rights monitoring, complaints handling, investigations, detention oversight, public reporting and engagement with international human rights mechanisms should progressively be exercised through NIHRC in accordance with its legal mandate and operational readiness.

The Commission translated this position into six strategic priorities for the transition:

1. strengthen Somalia's national human rights system and clarify the respective roles of national actors;
2. complete NIHRC's establishment and operating capacity;
3. progressively expand NIHRC's exercise of independent human rights functions;
4. strengthen public accessibility, engagement and confidence;
5. develop structured strategic partnerships; and
6. secure sustainable long-term capacity and financing.

The paper also placed prevention at the centre of the transition, identifying complaints, monitoring, detention visits, investigations, community engagement and timely reporting as mechanisms through which emerging human rights risks can be identified and addressed. Its principal outcome was therefore a Commission-defined policy position on the direction of the post-UNTMIS transition, which subsequently informed NIHRC's Resolution 60/28 implementation framework, benchmark and indicator work, monitoring methodology and national-engagement planning described in the following subsections.

4.1.2 Resolution 60/28 implementation framework

During the reporting period, NIHRC developed an internal implementation framework to translate Resolution 60/28 into a practical basis for Commission planning, monitoring and follow-up. The Commission reviewed the full operative content of the Resolution and consolidated the relevant provisions into 42 workstreams covering, among other areas, the national human rights transition, benchmarks and indicators, OHCHR and HRC engagement, Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and

treaty follow-up, complaints and investigations, detention oversight, civilian protection, equality and vulnerable groups, legislative and policy review, and independent reporting.

The framework is an internal NIHRC management instrument and is distinct from the nationally owned benchmarks and indicators contemplated under OP25(e), which are to be co-developed by NIHRC and the NMRF.

A principal output of this exercise was a clear allocation of responsibility. Each provision is classified according to whether it establishes a direct NIHRC role; concerns action by Government or another actor that falls within NIHRC's oversight mandate; assigns responsibility to OHCHR or another UN actor requiring NIHRC consultation or engagement; or records a development or concern relevant to the Commission's monitoring baseline. This enables NIHRC to exercise its own mandate without assuming implementation responsibilities assigned by the Resolution to other institutions.

The framework also links each workstream to the relevant Resolution provision, the corresponding NIHRC function, required action or follow-up, supporting evidence and implementation status. NIHRC's technical review strengthened this control by requiring status to follow documented evidence: completed actions must be supported by an identifiable decision, report, record or other output; work in progress must identify the stage reached and next action; and proposed measures remain identified as such until authorised or implemented.

The resulting framework now provides the Commission with a single implementation and monitoring reference for Resolution 60/28, allowing it to allocate action, identify evidence gaps, track progress and follow-up actions, and connect individual provisions of the Resolution to the substantive mandate work reported in Part II. It also provides the working basis for the benchmark, evidence and national coordination processes addressed in the following subsections.

4.1.3 National human rights benchmarks and indicators

OP25(e) provides for the development by NIHRC and the NMRF of nationally owned human rights benchmarks and indicators under the Human Rights Transition Plan. During the reporting period, NIHRC developed a first technical iteration of the Somalia National Human Rights Benchmarks and Indicator Framework 2026–2030 as its substantive starting contribution to that process. It is an NIHRC working draft, not a final national framework, and will require co-development with the NMRF and wider national consultation before benchmarks, baselines, targets or monitoring arrangements are adopted.

The initial framework contains eight thematic monitoring clusters:

1. civilian protection and International Humanitarian Law compliance;
2. sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices;
3. detention and custodial oversight;
4. child protection, armed conflict and juvenile justice;
5. protection of human rights defenders;
6. freedom of expression and media freedom;
7. digital rights and inclusion; and
8. civic space and public participation.

NIHRC subjected the first iteration to internal technical review before presenting it for national co-development. The review strengthened the draft by requiring verification of proposed baselines and numerical targets; confirmation of data-source feasibility and reliability; correction of legal and indicator references; accurate allocation of responsibilities; and clear separation between national human rights outcomes, NIHRC's operational performance and the separate Capacity Baseline Assessment.

NIHRC is incorporating those findings into a revised draft for formal engagement with the NMRF. The subsequent co-development process should involve relevant Federal institutions, FMS, civil society, OHCHR and other actors whose responsibilities, evidence or technical expertise are relevant to national monitoring. That process will validate the thematic scope, establish credible baselines, confirm data sources and responsible actors, and agree the monitoring and review arrangements required for continuing national assessment.

The revised framework will also broaden and refine the thematic coverage to ensure that wider Resolution priorities relevant to national monitoring are adequately reflected, including persons with disabilities, minority and marginalised communities, displacement, refugees and humanitarian protection.

4.1.4 Monitoring methodology, data sources and verification

Operationalisation of the national benchmark framework requires a consistent methodology for collecting, assessing, verifying and retaining evidence against each indicator. NIHRC's developing methodology therefore treats source provenance, geographic coverage, methodological reliability, currency, consistency and capacity for independent verification as core requirements. Proposed baselines and targets will be validated against their underlying sources before adoption through the NIHRC–NMRF co-development process.

National assessment will draw on multiple categories of evidence, including records held by Federal institutions, justice and security bodies, detention authorities and social-sector institutions; information generated by FMS authorities; future NIHRC complaints and case data, together with NIHRC monitoring, inquiry and detention-oversight evidence; and material from civil society, affected communities and relevant international organisations. Where information is held by another institution, the methodology will provide for structured information requests, source documentation, agreed reporting formats and procedures for corroboration and verification. Evidence generated outside Banadir will form an integral part of the national evidence base so that assessment reflects conditions across FMS and other relevant locations.

The methodology will also establish common requirements for geographic and demographic disaggregation. Where relevant, necessary and safely obtainable, complaints, monitoring and other human-rights information will be capable of analysis by location, sex, age, disability, displacement status and minority or marginalised-group status, alongside the category of alleged violation. Once formal complaints intake commences, complaints and inquiry data will contribute to identification of geographic and thematic patterns across areas including detention, SGBV, forced eviction, freedom of expression and civilian harm. Sensitive personal information, including information concerning minority or clan affiliation, will be collected and processed only where relevant to the Commission's mandate and subject to appropriate confidentiality and data-protection safeguards.

NIHRC is developing a linked evidence system to support this methodology, including a source register, systematic information requests, source-verification procedures, evidence retention, analysis, complaints and case-recording structures, monitoring records, and recommendation and benchmark tracking. During the establishment period, the availability, format and comparability of national human-rights data varied across institutions, geographic areas and thematic issues.

The next stage will therefore standardise data definitions, complaints-intake and case-data fields, demographic and geographic disaggregation, FMS inputs and baseline evidence through the national co-development process. Where evidence cannot yet be verified to the required standard, it will be recorded accordingly and will not be used as the basis for a definitive national finding. This methodology will provide the evidentiary base for periodic national assessment and for NIHRC's independent findings, recommendations and public reporting.

4.1.5 National coordination, FMS accessibility and action-plan process

OP24 places NIHRC and the NMRF within the nationally owned action-plan process for Somalia's human rights transition. NIHRC's implementation framework, benchmark work and developing evidence methodology provide the Commission's technical starting contribution to that process. The next stage will require coordination with the NMRF to agree the relationship between the national action plan, benchmarks and indicators, evidence requirements, implementation follow-up and national reporting, while maintaining the distinct responsibilities of each actor. Government institutions and FMS authorities remain responsible for implementation within their respective mandates; NIHRC contributes independent monitoring, analysis, recommendations and reporting.

National accessibility forms an integral part of this process. NIHRC's permanent premises are currently located in Mogadishu. During the reporting period, the Commission established the dedicated complaints helpline 1122 and cabasho@nihrc.org.so as public access channels. Formal complaints intake through the Commission's developing complaints and case-management system had not commenced by the reporting cut-off. The Commission is developing a phased national access model combining digital and telephone access with regional complaints intake, monitoring and outreach missions, mobile complaints arrangements, local referral or focal-point mechanisms, and direct engagement with FMS authorities, civil society and rights-holder networks. Accessibility measures will also take account of language, disability and other barriers affecting individuals and communities who may have difficulty reaching the Commission through conventional channels.

As an immediate next step, the Chairperson is planning missions to South West State, Galmudug and Hirshabelle. These missions are intended to establish direct engagement with FMS leadership and relevant public authorities, civil society and rights-holders; identify priority human rights and access issues; assess available local evidence and referral arrangements; and establish the relationships required for continuing monitoring and Commission access beyond Mogadishu. They will also provide a practical basis for determining the form of longer-term FMS engagement appropriate to each context.

In parallel, NIHRC will consult FMS authorities on arrangements that can support continuing access, including regional focal points or bilateral cooperation arrangements, without transferring the Commission's statutory decision-making or oversight functions. Such arrangements can support information exchange, referrals, access for monitoring, engagement with local communities and

follow-up on Commission recommendations, while complaints, investigations, findings and public reporting remain under NIHRC authority.

The Commission has also agreed to develop a senior peer-exchange process involving FMS representatives, Federal institutions, civil society and rights-holder perspectives, with national reach and accessibility identified as specific areas for practical exchange and follow-up.

FMS participation is equally important to the national action-plan and benchmark processes. Federal and FMS institutions hold administrative, justice, security, detention, social-sector and other evidence needed for national assessment, while local civil society and affected communities provide independent evidence on how human rights conditions differ across locations. The NIHRC–NMRF process will therefore need to incorporate FMS implementation responsibilities, data sources and consultation into the national framework from the outset. This approach connects national coordination under OP24 with practical access for rights-holders and gives NIHRC a progressively broader evidence base for independent monitoring and reporting across Somalia.

4.1.6 Engagement with OHCHR and HRC reporting

NIHRC has maintained engagement with OHCHR throughout the reporting period. The capacity-building and Commission-development elements of that engagement are addressed in Section 3. For the purposes of OP26 and OP27, NIHRC has separately developed its role as an independent national source of evidence, findings and analysis within the HRC monitoring and reporting process.

This submission constitutes a formal NIHRC contribution to that process. It has been prepared in the Commission's own capacity to inform the consultation and assessment contemplated under OP26 and the HRC63 reporting cycle. NIHRC retains responsibility for the evidence, analysis and conclusions presented in this report.

The Commission's Resolution 60/28 implementation framework also provides for continuing preparation of NIHRC evidence and institutional submissions for the HRC63 and HRC66 cycles. Under OP27, the formal reports to the Human Rights Council remain the responsibility of OHCHR.

NIHRC's contribution to the OP26 consultation process does not affect the Commission's independent reporting mandate or its ability to engage directly with the HRC and other human rights mechanisms under OP28 and Law No. 16.

4.2 Actual exercise of NIHRC's substantive mandate – Part II

OP28 recognises NIHRC's national role in monitoring, investigating and reporting on human rights violations, contributing to redress and engaging with the HRC and other human rights mechanisms in accordance with the Paris Principles. These functions correspond with the Commission's wider domestic mandate under Law No. 16, including human rights promotion and protection, complaints and investigations, detention inspection, reporting, legislative and policy advice, cooperation with human rights bodies and protection of persons and groups experiencing heightened vulnerability.

The present Part II assesses the actual exercise of those functions between 4 February and 31 August 2026. It records activities for which there is evidence of substantive Commission action during the reporting period, including monitoring, preliminary inquiry, detention oversight, public protection and accountability interventions, engagement with responsible State institutions, thematic human rights

work and regional and international engagement. It distinguishes these activities from mandate-delivery systems that remained under development at the reporting cut-off, including formal complaints intake, the wider complaints and investigations framework, secure case management, systematic national monitoring arrangements and expanded field capacity.

NIHRC also established direct engagement with senior national leadership during the reporting period, including engagement with the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. This strengthened the Commission's ability to raise human rights priorities at the highest level while retaining its independent constitutional and statutory mandate.

A summary of evidenced substantive mandate activity during the reporting period is provided in Annex 6.

4.2.1 Detention oversight, preliminary inquiries and civilian-protection accountability

Detention oversight, civilian-harm monitoring and accountability in the security sector represent closely connected components of NIHRC's protection mandate. Under Law No. 16, the Commission is empowered to inspect prisons, remand centres and other places suspected of unlawfully holding persons; receive and investigate complaints concerning alleged human rights violations; investigate violations affecting persons and groups facing heightened vulnerability; obtain relevant information and interview persons with knowledge of matters before it; and report and make recommendations within its mandate.

The context in which these functions are being exercised is particularly significant. Somalia remains affected by armed conflict involving Al-Shabaab, continuing counter-terrorism operations, inter-clan violence and insecurity in several regions. The security transition that followed the replacement of African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) by African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) has continued during 2026, with AUSSOM supporting Somali security forces and a gradual, conditions-based transfer of security responsibilities. The January 2026 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights while countering terrorism also identified continuing concerns relating to the use of force, civilian casualties, accountability, detention and fair-trial protections in the counter-terrorism context. It reported that conditions in prisons and detention facilities remained below international standards and recorded approximately 1,700 prisoners in Mogadishu Central Prison against an estimated capacity of 500–700.

Conflict-related protection risks also intersect with displacement and humanitarian vulnerability. During one IOM monitoring period from 23 to 26 May 2026, 3,390 new arrivals were recorded across assessed locations in five districts, with drought accounting for 54% of new displacement, conflict for 31% and evictions for 13%. These dynamics are relevant to NIHRC because persons displaced by conflict, insecurity or climate shocks may experience heightened exposure to arbitrary arrest, forced eviction, exploitation, violence, barriers to justice and reduced access to formal protection mechanisms. They also make national monitoring more difficult, particularly where incidents occur outside Mogadishu or in areas affected by active hostilities or limited State access.

4.2.1.1 Detention oversight and individual protection

Against this background, the Commission began exercising its detention-monitoring mandate through direct intervention. On 29 April 2026, NIHRC visited Mogadishu Central Prison to assess conditions

at the facility and examine the detention of Sacdiya Moallin Ali. The Commission received a briefing from officials of the Custodial Corps and Central Prison, interviewed Sacdiya separately and met privately with her lawyer. NIHRC subsequently raised concerns regarding the absence of formal charges and a scheduled hearing and the implications for fair-trial rights. Where allegations were made concerning her treatment and conditions of detention, the Commission expressly recorded that it could not independently verify those allegations on the evidence then available and called for an independent investigation. It also indicated that it would continue monitoring her situation and conditions affecting prisoners more generally. This intervention is significant for the Commission's emerging practice in two respects. First, it demonstrates the direct use of NIHRC's statutory authority in relation to an individual deprived of liberty. Second, it illustrates the evidentiary discipline required of an independent NHRI: the Commission raised identifiable due-process concerns while distinguishing those matters from allegations it had not independently established. That distinction will remain important as NIHRC's complaints and investigations functions become fully operational.

On 10 May, NIHRC subsequently participated in consideration of a performance audit concerning services provided to prisoners at Mogadishu Central Prison. The discussion addressed prisoner welfare and the need for stronger monitoring of detention conditions. The Commission then broadened its engagement with institutions responsible for arrest, detention, prosecution and custodial management. On 23 May, it engaged the Somali Police Commissioner on human rights protection, accountability, complaints handling and monitoring of prisons and other places of detention, with technical representatives identified for follow-up. On 25 May, NIHRC met the Chief Justice and Attorney General on due process, fair-trial guarantees, accountability and detention conditions. On 14 July, the Commission convened the Somali Custodial Corps, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for a high-level consultation specifically addressing detention monitoring, prisoners' rights and compliance with applicable human rights standards.

These engagements established the relationships required to develop regular independent detention oversight across prisons, police custody and other places in which persons may be deprived of liberty, including detention connected with security and counter-terrorism operations. NIHRC is also pursuing practical access arrangements with the Ministry of Internal Security, the Somali Police Force and the Office of the Attorney General, including arrangements for effective and, where appropriate, unannounced access to places of deprivation of liberty. The developing monitoring framework will address private interviews, examination of custody records, documentation of findings, urgent referrals, institutional responses and follow-up.

These arrangements give practical effect to Article 5(3) of Law No. 16, which authorises visits to prisons, remand centres and locations suspected of unlawful detention; the information-gathering and interview powers in Article 6; and Article 23, which requires government agencies and other actors to assist and facilitate the Commission and prohibits obstruction of its work. The Commission will also draw on relevant international preventive detention-monitoring standards as comparative guidance. Somalia is a party to Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), but has not acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

4.2.1.2 Preliminary inquiries and civilian-harm monitoring

NIHRC also began responding to alleged civilian harm outside custodial settings. On 26 May, following reports of civilian deaths and injuries in Digta Margoos, Lower Juba, the Commission initiated a preliminary inquiry to establish the circumstances of the incident and engaged local authorities, affected communities and other relevant actors. On 27 June, NIHRC monitored reported violence in Ari-Caddeeye in Sool and Jalalaqsi in Hiraan and undertook a preliminary assessment of available information. The Commission called for civilian protection, investigation and accountability, humanitarian assistance to affected families and measures supporting de-escalation and reconciliation.

These interventions are important because they demonstrate the beginnings of a mandate that must operate nationally and across different forms of civilian harm. The incidents arose in different geographic and conflict settings and required the Commission to obtain information beyond its Mogadishu headquarters. They also expose a central operational requirement for the next phase: NIHRC needs a repeatable methodology through which reports of civilian harm can be received, assessed, prioritised, corroborated and followed through from initial notification to findings, recommendations and institutional response. That methodology will need to cover alleged harm arising from ground operations, airstrikes, inter-clan violence, excessive or unlawful use of force, arbitrary arrest and detention, and other conduct engaging international human rights or humanitarian law. Where an incident involves another State institution, security force, FMS authority, international or regional actor, NIHRC's role remains independent. Its function is to establish and assess evidence within its own mandate, identify applicable human rights concerns, follow the response of responsible institutions and make findings and recommendations where the evidence permits. NIHRC does not substitute itself for criminal investigators or the courts. It independently assesses matters falling within its human rights mandate and does not rely solely on the account of a public authority or other actor whose conduct is under examination.

4.2.1.3 Civilian protection and security-sector accountability

During the reporting period, NIHRC also began connecting individual incident monitoring with the wider national civilian-protection framework. Following adoption of the National Policy on Protection of Civilians during military operations and armed conflict, the Commission engaged the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) on 26 April on human rights monitoring, security-sector accountability and mechanisms to prevent, document and respond to civilian harm. The Commission expressly identified monitoring, complaints and accountability as part of its role in ensuring that the Policy produces practical protection for civilians.

Commissioners subsequently undertook technical work with the Office of the Special Envoy for Stabilisation and Civilian Protection (OSE-SCP) on NIHRC's independent role within implementation of the Policy. This work addressed monitoring, complaints, independent verification, detention and justice oversight, protection of vulnerable groups, referral pathways, reporting and corrective recommendations. It identified a policy-to-practice workstream through which these functions can progressively be translated into NIHRC monitoring, complaints, referral, reporting and recommendation-tracking tools. The Chairperson's subsequent engagement with the Special Envoy on 17 May reinforced the Commission's role in monitoring, accountability and protection of civilian rights.

The significance of this work extends beyond training or policy engagement. It provides a route for NIHRC to determine how independent civilian-harm evidence can interact with operational civilian-harm mitigation systems without compromising the Commission's oversight function.

As implementation of the National Policy progresses, NIHRC will develop arrangements capable of receiving incident information promptly; recording alleged civilian casualties and other forms of harm; identifying the operation, location and actors concerned; obtaining information from communities and responsible authorities; independently verifying evidence where possible; and tracking investigations, corrective action, recommendations and available remedies. NIHRC will retain independent control over its methodology, findings and conclusions throughout that process.

This is also relevant to joint and internationally supported security operations.

The Commission's monitoring framework will be designed to examine alleged civilian harm consistently irrespective of whether an operation involves Somali forces alone or Somali forces acting with regional or international partners.

Recent UN analysis has emphasised the need for stronger regulatory, monitoring and accountability arrangements around military and counter-terrorism activity and has identified continuing gaps in investigation, accountability and remedies for civilian harm. NIHRC is positioned to provide a permanent national independent oversight function within this environment.

As this methodology is formalised, NIHRC will establish a defined evidence interface with relevant UN/OHCHR civilian-casualty monitoring data and other credible sources, while retaining responsibility for its own verification, findings and conclusions.

Engagement with the ICRC on 5 May complemented this work through discussion of civilian protection, detention monitoring and respect for international humanitarian law and human rights standards. In August, NIHRC further developed the security-sector accountability component through engagement with European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia). That discussion addressed the distinction between internal police accountability and independent external oversight, the emerging police complaints and referral mechanism, human rights due diligence in security-sector support and the potential interface between police complaints systems and NIHRC's statutory mandate. This is an important area for further work: serious allegations involving police conduct should not become confined to internal disciplinary systems where they engage the Commission's independent human rights jurisdiction.

4.2.1.4 Assessment at the reporting cut-off

By 31 August 2026, NIHRC had established an evidenced protection practice across detention oversight, civilian-harm monitoring and security-sector accountability. This included direct prison monitoring and individual protection, preliminary inquiry or monitoring across three conflict-affected locations, and structured engagement with custodial, policing, justice and civilian-protection actors. Together, these activities demonstrate the Commission's practical exercise of its statutory monitoring, inquiry, reporting and recommendation functions during its first seven months of operation.

The next phase will formalise and scale these activities into a continuous national oversight cycle covering complaints and incident identification, detention and field monitoring, independent

verification and investigation within NIHRC's mandate, findings and recommendations, referral where appropriate, follow-up on institutional responses, and public or thematic reporting. National accessibility, secure case management, field mobility and reliable access arrangements will be integrated into that cycle as the systems described in Sections 3 and 4.1 are completed and expanded.

4.2.2 Equality, vulnerable groups, displacement and socio-economic protection

Equality and protection of people exposed to heightened risk form an express part of NIHRC's statutory mandate. Law No. 16 authorises the Commission to investigate violations affecting vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, alongside its wider functions concerning complaints, monitoring, reporting, legal compliance and promotion of human rights. During the reporting period, NIHRC began applying these functions across women's and children's rights, disability and non-discrimination, minority and marginalised communities, displacement and humanitarian protection, migration, and economic and labour rights.

4.2.2.1 Women's and children's rights

Women's rights featured in the Commission's direct protection work. On 22 June 2026, NIHRC publicly intervened following the assault and humiliation of a Somali woman in Mogadishu and the subsequent circulation of footage of the incident on social media. The Commission identified violations affecting dignity, privacy and fundamental rights; called on security and justice institutions to undertake a prompt, effective and impartial investigation and bring those responsible before the law; and called on the public to stop circulating material that compounded the harm suffered by the victim. NIHRC expressly situated the incident within the wider protection of Somali women and girls from violence, humiliation and abuse.

The intervention established a practical protection position extending beyond the individual incident. It connected violence against women, access to justice, victim dignity and protection from secondary harm in the digital environment, areas that will form part of the Commission's continuing monitoring and complaints work. Wider questions concerning SGBV, harmful practices, women's participation and relevant legislative reform are addressed through the Commission's developing monitoring framework and the legislative and policy work considered in section 4.2.4. Resolution 60/28 itself places particular emphasis on women's participation, protection from sexual and gender-based violence and representative consultation in national reform processes.

Alongside this protection work, the Chairperson maintained regular engagement with the Chairperson of the Somalia chapter of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN). This provides NIHRC with a direct channel to women's leadership and advocacy perspectives relevant to protection, participation, access to justice and the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Resolution 60/28 itself recognises the Somalia chapter of AWLN within the national framework supporting implementation of the Somali Women's Charter and Security Council resolution 1325.

Child protection formed part of the Commission's work from its first weeks of operation. On 11 February, the Chairperson addressed the launch of the Child Rights Alliance bringing together World Vision International, Save the Children International, SOS Somalia and Plan International and affirmed NIHRC's mandate to protect the rights of Somali children. On 28 April, NIHRC engaged UNICEF specifically on strengthening national child-protection systems and accountability.

This work progressed into engagement with the justice framework for children. On 15 August 2026, the Chairperson participated in the national launch of Somalia's Juvenile Justice Law and emphasised that the legal protections established for children must be implemented in practice. Resolution 60/28 records the underlying reform as raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 and orienting juvenile justice towards restorative justice, rehabilitation and social reintegration. NIHRC's continuing child-rights work will therefore connect protection systems, juvenile justice, children affected by armed conflict, access to remedies and monitoring of implementation of national child-rights commitments. The separate status and review of the Children's Rights Bill is addressed in section 4.2.4.

4.2.2.2 Disability, non-discrimination and marginalised communities

NIHRC also moved from general disability-rights commitments to direct examination of implementation. On 27 July, the Commission engaged the Mogadishu Port Authority on implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. NIHRC examined employment measures taken by the Port Authority and met directly with four employees with disabilities, including persons with visual and hearing impairments and both women and men, at their workplace. The engagement therefore provided the Commission with an identifiable example against which to examine how statutory disability protections are being implemented by a public body.

The Commission's disability work extends to accessibility, non-discrimination, participation and independent monitoring. Somalia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2019. NIHRC has begun examining the national arrangements relevant to Article 33 of the Convention, while correctly treating the identity and status of any formally designated independent monitoring mechanism as requiring confirmation. Any future role for NIHRC under that framework would require appropriate authority, accessibility, specialist expertise, resources and structured participation by persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

NIHRC is applying the same equality framework to minority and marginalised clans and communities. In the Somali context, vulnerability may be intensified where individuals and communities experience reduced access to political representation, security, customary protection or effective routes to justice. These disadvantages can intersect with displacement, poverty, gender, disability and geography.

NIHRC's monitoring and complaints methodology will therefore record minority or marginalised-group status where relevant, necessary and safely obtainable. This will enable the Commission to examine patterns in discrimination, violence, forced eviction, access to justice, public participation and access to services, and to assess whether particular communities experience systematic barriers to protection or remedy on the basis of verified evidence.

Particular attention is required where disadvantages overlap. A displaced woman from a marginalised community, a child with a disability, or a person living in an IDP settlement may face several barriers to reporting a violation and obtaining protection at the same time. The Commission's approach therefore treats equality and non-discrimination as cross-cutting monitoring requirements, including through the demographic and geographic disaggregation arrangements described in section 4.1.4. Resolution 60/28 itself identifies women, persons with disabilities and members of minority clans as groups whose effective participation must be secured in national legal and constitutional processes.

Access to justice also requires attention to the relationship between statutory law, Islamic Sharia and xeer or other customary dispute-resolution arrangements. During the reporting period, NIHRC engaged justice institutions, including the Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary, on the human-rights implications of traditional dispute resolution and the need to ensure consistency with constitutional and applicable human-rights protections. Particular attention has been given to safeguards affecting women, children, persons with disabilities and marginalised communities. NIHRC will continue this advisory and monitoring work as part of its wider access-to-justice mandate, recognising the important role of customary and religious mechanisms in Somali society while examining whether people entering those systems can obtain protection, referral and remedy consistent with their rights.

4.2.2.3 Displacement, humanitarian protection and migration

Displacement and humanitarian conditions are significant human-rights concerns because they affect security, housing, food, water, health, education, livelihoods, family life, equality and access to justice simultaneously. NIHRC's own humanitarian analysis during the reporting period identified conflict, climate shocks, displacement, livelihood loss and constrained access to essential services as interconnected drivers of vulnerability. A June 2026 NIHRC humanitarian assessment recorded an estimated 4.8 million people requiring humanitarian assistance in 2026, with internally displaced and drought-affected communities among those facing particularly serious pressures. The same analysis recorded projections that approximately 6.0 million people would face IPC Phase 3 or worse acute food insecurity between April and June 2026, including around 1.9 million in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

The Commission translated this analysis into engagement with responsible actors. On 9 June, the Deputy Chairperson and Commission Secretary engaged GIZ on migration, displacement, returnees and the protection of vulnerable groups. Humanitarian protection also formed part of NIHRC's engagement with the ICRC, alongside civilian protection and detention-related work.

A more substantive operational interface was established on 15 August with the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA). NIHRC and SoDMA addressed integration of human rights into disaster planning, preparedness and humanitarian response, with specific attention to IDPs, women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and other communities facing heightened risks. The discussion covered human-rights monitoring during disasters, information-sharing, public awareness, protection of displaced populations and procedures intended to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches affected people fairly, effectively, transparently and accountably. The two bodies agreed on the importance of sustained cooperation between SoDMA's disaster-response responsibilities and NIHRC's independent human-rights mandate.

NIHRC's engagement with the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA) also established a direct relationship with the authority responsible for the area containing the country's largest concentration of displaced communities. The April engagement secured BRA's commitment to continued cooperation with the Commission. This relationship provides a basis for NIHRC's continuing work on forced eviction and urban displacement, including appropriate notice and consultation, protection against arbitrary displacement, access to remedies and heightened safeguards during humanitarian or climate emergencies. NIHRC's developing displacement work will also examine safeguards governing evictions during periods of acute humanitarian or climate stress and risks arising where access to

assistance, documentation, services or remedies is mediated by settlement gatekeepers or other intermediaries. The Commission's monitoring will also need to examine whether access to assistance, settlement management and referral mechanisms operate without discrimination or improper interference affecting displaced households.

Migration-related protection extended beyond Somalia. During the 28–30 July conference in Benghazi, NIHRC raised the consequences of irregular migration for Somali young people and their families and engaged Libyan human-rights and prison-monitoring bodies concerning Somalis experiencing hardship in Libya. Those bodies committed to continued cooperation concerning the protection of Somali nationals. The Commission's developing migration work therefore encompasses risks occurring during migration, detention and treatment abroad, return and reintegration, and the ability of affected Somalis and their families to access protection and remedies.

4.2.2.4 Economic and labour rights and responsible business conduct

NIHRC also began exercising its mandate in relation to economic and labour rights. On 25 July 2026, the Commission engaged the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the human-rights implications of business, investment and industrial development. The discussion addressed consistency of commercial policies and employment practices with human-rights principles, protection of workers' rights, equality and responsible business conduct. The Ministry recognised NIHRC's monitoring and advisory role and expressed readiness to cooperate with the Commission on rights arising in commercial and industrial activity.

This provides a basis for continuing NIHRC oversight of the relationship between economic activity and human rights, including non-discrimination in employment, protection from exploitation, safe and fair working conditions, disability inclusion, equality for women, responsible private-sector conduct and the human-rights implications of public economic policy. Resolution 60/28 also records the revised Somali Labour Code as containing protections concerning hazardous child labour, maternity, equal pay and non-discrimination against persons with disabilities, providing an additional legal reference point for future monitoring.

The activities undertaken by 31 August show a substantive protection agenda extending beyond individual thematic engagements. NIHRC had begun linking individual protection, equality, child and disability rights, displacement and humanitarian response, migration, access to justice and socio-economic rights to the institutions responsible for implementation and to the Commission's emerging national monitoring system. The next phase will deepen these workstreams through future complaints and case evidence, FMS and community engagement, disaggregated monitoring, implementation review and thematic recommendations, giving the Commission a progressively stronger evidence base for identifying patterns of exclusion and assessing whether rights are being realised in practice across Somalia.

4.2.3 Freedom of expression, media and digital rights

Freedom of expression, media freedom and rights in the digital environment emerged as a distinct area of NIHRC activity during the reporting period. Resolution 60/28 identifies attacks, harassment, arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention affecting journalists and media workers as human-rights concerns and calls for protection of freedom of expression and opinion and accountability for related

violations. It also identifies the compatibility of the Media Law and relevant Penal Code provisions with international human-rights standards as an area requiring review.

On 27 April 2026, NIHRC received the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) annual State of the Media report, which documented reported press-freedom violations and challenges affecting journalists across Somalia. The Chairperson affirmed freedom of expression as a fundamental right and committed the Commission to reviewing the report's findings within its mandate. This gave NIHRC a substantive external evidence source for its developing monitoring of the safety and treatment of journalists and media workers.

The Commission followed this with a public protection position on World Press Freedom Day, 3 May 2026. NIHRC affirmed the importance of a free and independent media to accountability, public trust and democratic governance; stated that journalists must be able to work without intimidation, harassment or violence; and called for their protection and respect for press freedom. These interventions establish a basis for continuing Commission monitoring of reported attacks, threats, harassment, arrest and detention of journalists, restrictions on media activity and the response of responsible authorities. Complaints and incident evidence arising in this field will be incorporated into the evidence and verification arrangements described in section 4.1.4.

NIHRC also developed a distinct position on digital rights. On 22 April, at a Heritage Institute forum on social-media risks, governance and digital safety, the Chairperson addressed misinformation, digital abuse and other online harms alongside freedom of expression, privacy and human dignity. NIHRC emphasised responsibilities across Government, private-sector platforms, civil society and users, and called for stronger digital governance, greater platform accountability and improved public awareness, with particular attention to risks affecting young people.

This domestic engagement was reinforced internationally. At the GANHRI Annual Conference on 1 April 2026, devoted to the role of NHRIs in protecting and promoting human rights in the digital space, the Chairperson contributed Somalia's perspective to the global discussion. The intervention recognised the capacity of digital platforms to expand civic participation and access to information while also identifying misinformation, incitement and other technology-facilitated harms as human-rights risks. NIHRC also identified the need for NHRIs to develop the technical, legal and monitoring capacity required to address rapidly evolving digital-rights issues.

The Commission's protection work during the reporting period also demonstrated the intersection between offline violations and digital harm. Its June intervention concerning the assault of a Somali woman addressed the additional violation of dignity and privacy caused by circulation of footage of the abuse on social media and called for the material not to be further redistributed. This illustrates the wider scope of the Commission's digital-rights work: freedom of expression must be protected alongside privacy, dignity, protection from technology-facilitated abuse and effective accountability for rights violations occurring or being amplified online.

By the reporting cut-off, NIHRC had therefore established a substantive media-freedom and digital-rights workstream combining independent evidence from media actors, public advocacy, engagement on journalist safety, digital-governance issues and participation in international NHRI discussion. The next stage will integrate these activities into the Commission's national monitoring system through

systematic recording and verification of incidents affecting journalists and media workers; analysis of complaints and patterns of restriction; monitoring of digital harms and platform-related rights issues; and evidence-based recommendations to responsible authorities. Legislative and policy questions concerning the Media Law, access to information and relevant Penal Code provisions are addressed separately in section 4.2.4.

4.2.4 Legislative, policy and treaty review

Review of legislation, public policy and treaty implementation forms part of NIHRC's statutory advisory mandate. Article 5 of Law No. 16 requires the Commission to assess whether Government systems and legislation comply with constitutional and applicable international human-rights principles, and authorises it to prepare reports and constitutional recommendations for Parliament and relevant regional and international bodies. It also empowers NIHRC to encourage public and private institutions to respect and implement fundamental human-rights principles.

During the reporting period, NIHRC began exercising this advisory function through direct engagement on legislation and public policy and through the development of a more systematic review process. The Commission's July post-UNTMIS Position Paper provided a substantive policy submission on Somalia's human rights transition, while other work addressed juvenile justice, disability rights, civilian protection, media freedom and Penal Code issues, workers' rights and responsible business conduct. The Commission also engaged the President during the reporting period, providing a direct channel through which national human rights priorities and the Commission's independent mandate could be raised at the highest executive level.

In August, NIHRC agreed that legislative, policy and treaty review should operate as a standing Commission function supported by a legislative and treaty advocacy register. The register will record the status of each instrument or issue, applicable constitutional and international standards, NIHRC analysis and recommendations, the responsible authority, engagement undertaken, responses received, follow-up and supporting evidence. This will allow the Commission to distinguish enacted law from draft or proposed measures and maintain a traceable record of its advisory work.

Priority areas identified during the reporting period include implementation of the Juvenile Justice Law; the Children's Rights Bill; sexual-offences and Penal Code reform; media legislation and access to information; protection against female genital mutilation; the counter-terrorism framework; anti-trafficking protections; disability legislation and CRPD implementation; and treaty-accession issues including CEDAW and OPCAT. NIHRC will verify the authoritative text and legal status of each instrument before issuing formal conclusions or recommendations.

NIHRC has also developed its engagement with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) around the Commission's statutory advisory role. The Commission and Ministry discussed arrangements through which relevant draft legislation and policy can be referred to NIHRC for human rights review before Cabinet consideration, enabling the Commission to provide independent legal and policy advice at an earlier stage of the legislative process.

Treaty review forms part of the same function. Somalia is a party to the CAT but has not acceded to OPCAT. NIHRC already possesses a domestic statutory mandate to inspect prisons and other places of detention. Any Commission advocacy concerning OPCAT will therefore address the potential

additional value and implications of accession without presenting NIHRC as an OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism unless Somalia accedes and a competent national process subsequently determines the relevant designation. A detailed statement of the legislative, policy and treaty issues identified at the reporting cut-off, including their verified status and planned NIHRC follow-up, is provided in Annex 7.

4.2.5 Regional, international and peer-NHRI engagement

Regional and international engagement during the reporting period formed part of NIHRC's substantive mandate to engage with human rights mechanisms, contribute Somalia's perspective to regional and global discussion and establish working relationships with peer NHRIs and NHRI networks. The capacity-development benefits arising from these relationships are addressed separately in Section 3.1.3.

At regional level, NIHRC participated in the IGAD Member States NHRIs Network Annual General Assembly on 26–27 March 2026. The Commission contributed an update on Somalia's human-rights situation and entered a regional platform for cooperation, information exchange, collective problem-solving and engagement on cross-border human-rights concerns. Bilateral engagement with the Ethiopian and Kenyan commissions during this period also established direct channels for subsequent cooperation.

NIHRC also established a direct relationship with NANHRI. Engagement with the Executive Director clarified the membership process, required documentation and applicable obligations and established a defined route towards deeper participation in the African NHRI system. The Commission also agreed to maintain continuing engagement with NANHRI on areas of mutual interest and peer cooperation.

At global level, NIHRC's first participation in the GANHRI Annual Meeting in Geneva from 30 March to 1 April 2026 established direct relationships with GANHRI, OHCHR, NANHRI and peer NHRIs and positioned the Commission within the principal global forum for national human rights bodies. NIHRC also contributed substantively to the Annual Conference on human rights in the digital space, presenting Somalia's experience as a newly operational Commission working in a fragile and evolving environment. The substance of that intervention is addressed in Section 4.2.3. NIHRC's participation therefore combined engagement with the international NHRI system with direct contribution to substantive human-rights discussion.

Peer engagement was translated into practical cooperation with African counterparts. The June peer-learning programme with KNCHR provided detailed comparative practice across complaints and investigations, legal redress, monitoring, research, governance, public accessibility, information systems, finance and other Commission functions. The detailed capacity-development outcomes are addressed in Section 3.1.3. The bilateral relationship with EHRC also moved towards structured cooperation, with both commissions agreeing to develop practical knowledge-sharing and continuing engagement on human-rights monitoring and protection.

The Commission broadened this comparative base through direct exchanges with Qatar's National Human Rights Committee (QNHRC), the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (NIHR) and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). These engagements went beyond bilateral

dialogue and included the sharing of practical tools, reference materials and comparative approaches relevant to NIHRC's developing systems and mandate delivery.

IHREC in particular provided an extensive body of practical resources drawn from its own experience, supporting NIHRC's work across areas including governance, complaints and investigations, monitoring, reporting, public accessibility, engagement with public authorities and protection of NHRI independence. Engagement with QNHRC and NIHR similarly provided comparative practice relevant to reporting, detention oversight, governance, professional development and other operational areas. NIHRC is drawing on these materials as practical reference points while adapting relevant approaches to Somalia's constitutional, legal, security and social context.

5. Conclusion

The period covered by this report represents less than seven months of active operation by Somalia's NIHRC. During that period, the Commission progressed from formal establishment into the practical exercise of its constitutional and statutory mandate. It established core governance, administrative and financial arrangements; developed systems for monitoring, evidence and reporting; advanced permanent recruitment and operational capacity; and began exercising substantive functions across detention oversight, civilian protection, equality and protection of vulnerable groups, displacement and humanitarian protection, freedom of expression, legislative and policy review and regional and international engagement.

NIHRC also established a distinct and independent role within Somalia's nationally led human rights transition under Resolution 60/28. The Commission developed its position on the post-UNTMIS transition, translated the Resolution into an internal implementation framework, prepared its initial technical contribution to nationally owned human rights benchmarks and indicators and established the basis for continuing engagement with the NMRF, Federal authorities, FMS, OHCHR and other relevant actors. Throughout this work, NIHRC has maintained the distinction between its independent monitoring, investigation, advisory and reporting functions and the implementation responsibilities assigned to Government and other actors.

The reporting period provides clear evidence that this mandate is already being exercised in practice. NIHRC undertook direct detention monitoring and individual protection work; initiated preliminary inquiries and monitoring concerning reported civilian harm; engaged policing, justice and custodial authorities on accountability and detention safeguards; intervened on the protection of women and journalists; examined implementation of disability protections; engaged on displacement, humanitarian protection, migration and economic rights; and established substantive relationships with regional and international human rights mechanisms and peer NHRIs. These activities provide an initial body of evidence of independent mandate delivery during the Commission's establishment phase.

The next stage will consolidate and scale this work. Priorities include completion of permanent recruitment; operationalisation of the complaints and case-management framework; strengthened secure ICT and information management; expanded monitoring, investigation and detention-oversight capacity; increased accessibility across Federal Member States; further development of the national benchmark and evidence framework; and sustainable financing for national mandate delivery. NIHRC will continue to strengthen public access, produce credible independent evidence and provide findings and recommendations to responsible authorities and relevant human rights mechanisms.

By 31 August 2026, NIHRC had therefore progressed beyond legal establishment and was actively exercising substantive elements of its mandate while building the systems and capacity required for sustained national operation. The Commission will continue to exercise that mandate independently and to contribute to Somalia's human rights transition and the implementation and assessment of Resolution 60/28 in accordance with Law No. 16 and the Constitution.

ANNEX 1. Resolution 60/28: NIHRC mandate, implementation status and report mapping

Table 1. Resolution 60/28 provisions relevant to NIHRC establishment and operationalisation

Resolution provision	Relevance to this section	Status	Position at reporting cut-off
OP1(m)	Records the forthcoming establishment of NIHRC and notes its inclusive composition in accordance with Law No. 16.	**Completed**	Nine Commissioners appointed; statutory composition requirements met; internal leadership elected; Commission commenced active operations.
OP16(b)	Calls for the newly established NIHRC to be strengthened in accordance with Law No. 16 and the Paris Principles, including through adequate resources enabling it to perform its mandate.	**In progress**	Initial leadership, Secretariat capacity, organisational arrangements and operating systems established; further institutional development, permanent staffing and resourcing continue.
OP28	Recognises NIHRC's mandate and provides for cooperation aimed at strengthening its independence and effectiveness in accordance with the Paris Principles.	**In progress**	NIHRC has established its initial operating structure and public-access arrangements and is progressively developing the governance, staffing and operational systems required for effective mandate delivery. Independence and operational capacity are assessed in Section 3.

Table 2. Resolution 60/28 provisions relevant to NIHRC independence, governance and capacity

Resolution provision	Relevance to this section	Status	Position at reporting cut-off
OP16(b)	Calls for NIHRC to be strengthened in accordance with Law No. 16 and the Paris Principles, including through adequate	**In progress**	Core governance and administrative arrangements are operational and the Secretariat structure has been defined. Permanent Director-level recruitment is underway, while work continues on financial and

	resources enabling it to perform its mandate.		administrative controls, secure digital systems, field capacity and sustainable resourcing.
OP21	Recognises NIHRC's role in the nationally led transition and the identification of national priorities for capacity-building and technical assistance.	**In progress**	NIHRC has identified and advanced capacity priorities through engagement with HRPG, OHCHR/NIRMS and other technical partners. The Commission's wider role in the national transition is assessed separately in Section 4.1.
OP25	Provides for OHCHR technical assistance and capacity-building, including support relevant to national human rights institutions and nationally owned benchmarks and indicators.	**Ongoing**	HRPG provided sustained technical support during the reporting period, including a structured human rights and NHRI resource package, Commissioner induction and specialised capacity development on monitoring and documentation, complaints and investigations, detention oversight, reporting, legislative analysis, civil-society engagement, minority inclusion, economic and social rights, and human rights and gender-responsive budgeting. HRPG also participated with OHCHR/NIRMS in the May operationalisation programme.
OP28	Recognises NIHRC's mandate and calls for close cooperation with the Commission to strengthen its independence and effectiveness.	**In progress**	NIHRC has established and exercised core elements of its governance and mandate while developing the staffing, financial, complaints, records, ICT and operational systems required for sustained national delivery.

Table 3. Principal Resolution 60/28 provisions governing NIHRC's role

Resolution provision	Relevance to NIHRC	Where addressed in this report
OP16(b)	Strengthening NIHRC in accordance with Law No. 16 and the Paris Principles, including adequate resources to enable effective exercise of its mandate	Sections 2 and 3

OP21	NIHRC and the NMRF within the nationally led human rights transition; engagement with OHCHR, special procedures and other mechanisms; identification of nationally defined capacity-building and technical-assistance priorities	Section 4, Part I
OP24	NIHRC and the NMRF within the nationally owned action-plan process developed in consultation with partners	Section 4, Part I
OP25(e)	Development by NIHRC and the NMRF of nationally owned human rights benchmarks and indicators as part of the Human Rights Transition Plan	Section 4, Part I
OP26	Consultation with NIHRC in OHCHR's assessment, monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Somalia	Section 4, Part I
OP28	Recognition of NIHRC's mandate to monitor, investigate and report on human rights violations, contribute to redress and engage with the HRC and other mechanisms; strengthening of its independence and effectiveness	Sections 2–4; substantive mandate principally in Section 4, Part II

ANNEX 2. Technical cooperation, capacity development and peer learning

Table 4. UN technical support and peer learning: activities and concrete outcomes

Activity / support	What was undertaken	Outputs and outcomes for NIHRC
Initial HRPG and OHCHR/NIRMS engagement – February 2026	NIHRC engaged the UNTMIS HRPG in Somalia and established a direct specialist working channel with OHCHR's NIRMS on NIHRC's establishment priorities, governance, independence, operating requirements and technical-assistance needs.	**Output 1:** A direct specialist working channel was established between NIHRC and OHCHR NIRMS for NHRI-focused technical support. **Output 2:** NIHRC identified priority areas for support covering governance, operational independence, Commission systems and capacity development. **Output 3:** These priorities were subsequently taken forward through the structured April and May technical programmes, including work on governance, complaints and investigations, internal operating tools and strategic planning.
IGAD Member States NHRIs Network Annual General Assembly – 26–27 March 2026	NIHRC participated for the first time in the annual meeting of human rights institutions from IGAD countries in Bishoftu, Ethiopia. The Commission provided an update on its establishment and Somalia's human rights context and held bilateral discussions with Ethiopian and Kenyan counterparts on regional cooperation.	**Output 1:** NIHRC entered the IGAD regional network of human rights institutions and presented the newly operational Commission directly to regional counterparts. **Output 2:** Bilateral channels for cooperation and peer exchange were strengthened with the Ethiopian and Kenyan human rights commissions. **Output 3:** The engagement advanced discussions on NIHRC's participation in the wider African NHRI network, including the pathway towards NANHRI membership.
GANHRI Annual Meeting – 30 March–1 April 2026	NIHRC participated in the GANHRI General Assembly and Annual Conference and engaged GANHRI leadership, OHCHR, NANHRI, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and other peer NHRIs.	**Output 1:** NIHRC established direct relationships with GANHRI leadership, OHCHR, NANHRI and peer NHRIs, creating channels for subsequent bilateral and technical engagement. **Output 2:** Commissioners gained first-hand understanding of GANHRI governance and accreditation processes and identified areas requiring progressive Commission development. **Output 3:** Peer-cooperation opportunities were identified with established NHRIs, including the EHRC, while digital rights was identified as an emerging area for NIHRC capability development. **Output 4:** NIHRC contributed substantively to the Annual Conference through the Chairperson's intervention on digital rights and the needs of emerging

		NHRIs; this exercise of the Commission's international advocacy function is assessed in Section 4.
First NIHRC induction programme – 19–23 April 2026	Five-day programme covering NIHRC's mandate, IHRL/IHL, monitoring and investigation, civilian protection, detention, children, sexual violence, public budgeting, State and civil-society engagement, communications, Secretariat functions and comparative NHRI practice.	**Output 1:** Commissioners and senior personnel developed a common technical baseline on NIHRC's principal protection and promotion functions. **Output 2:** Practical methodologies were introduced for monitoring and verifying violations, complaints and investigations, detention oversight and cooperation with State and civil-society actors. **Output 3:** Dedicated work on Secretariat functions clarified the operational contribution of complaints handling, legal and thematic analysis, coordination and administrative support to Commission decision-making. **Output 4:** Direct comparative input from NANHRI and African NHRI practice exposed NIHRC to established approaches to NHRI functioning and case/complaints handling.
OHCHR NIRMS/HRPG operationalisation programme – 18–21 May 2026	Detailed work on independence, financial autonomy, governance, complaints and investigations, public inquiries, monitoring, reporting, advocacy, UN engagement, strategic planning and NIHRC's own emerging operating tools.	**Output 1:** NIHRC's emerging Rules of Procedure, Code of Conduct, organisational structure and complaints-management arrangements were subjected to structured technical and comparative review through dedicated sessions and group work. **Output 2:** Commissioners and senior personnel examined and clarified the practical distinction between Commission governance, Secretariat administration and internal coordination. **Output 3:** The Commission's Phase Zero strategy and thematic and operational priorities were reviewed through structured strategic-planning exercises. **Output 4:** The programme provided technical input that NIHRC subsequently carried forward through continued drafting and refinement of its governance and complaints instruments; the later status of those instruments is reported separately.
KNCHR peer-learning programme – 15–18 June 2026	Direct four-day examination of KNCHR systems covering governance and HR, complaints and investigations, legal redress, research, ICT, planning/M&E, finance, procurement, audit/risk, communications, stakeholder engagement, fundraising and NANHRI engagement.	**Output 1:** NIHRC obtained direct comparator models for the design and management of complaints, investigations, legal services, HR, ICT, planning, finance, procurement, audit and communications functions. **Output 2:** The delegation was able to examine how those systems operate together within an established African NHRI, including reporting lines and administrative controls. **Output 3:** NIHRC obtained practical reference points relevant to work subsequently undertaken on its Secretariat structure, complaints/case-management arrangements, ICT requirements, financial

		and procurement controls and resource mobilisation. **Output 4:** The programme strengthened direct peer-to-peer relations with KNCHR and expanded NIHRC's links with NANHRI, OHCHR Kenya and RWI.
OHCHR/RWI coordination – 19 June 2026	NIHRC met OHCHR and RWI in Nairobi to review Commission-defined capacity needs and coordination of technical support.	**Output 1:** NIHRC's priority capacity requirements were communicated jointly to two principal technical partners. **Output 2:** The engagement established a coordination point for OHCHR and RWI support around NIHRC-defined capacity needs and the respective areas of technical assistance. **Output 3:** The engagement provided a transition into the more product-focused NIHRC–RWI work subsequently undertaken and reported in Section 3.
Specialised HRPG capacity programme – 5–9 July 2026	Five-day programme covering monitoring/documentation, freedom of expression, conflict-related sexual violence, human rights reporting, legislative analysis, civil-society engagement, minority inclusion, economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights, public budgets and gender-responsive budgeting.	**Output 1:** NIHRC strengthened its capability to document and verify allegations and to translate evidence into findings, analysis and actionable recommendations. **Output 2:** Capacity was developed to assess domestic legislation against Somalia's human rights obligations, directly supporting NIHRC's statutory legislative and policy-review function. **Output 3:** Commissioners were equipped with analytical frameworks for examining the rights to health, education, work and social protection and for assessing minority inclusion in humanitarian action. **Output 4:** NIHRC developed practical capability in analysing public allocations and expenditure through human rights, equality and gender lenses. **Output 5:** The programme provided a technical basis for the Commission's subsequent monitoring, reporting, legislative-review, humanitarian-protection and economic and social rights work assessed in Section 4.
Prison oversight roundtable – July 2026	NIHRC engaged the Custodial Corps and justice authorities, with UNTMIS justice/corrections and UNODC support, on detention standards and the Commission's prison-monitoring mandate.	**Output 1:** NIHRC moved from classroom-based detention training to direct mandate-focused engagement with the authorities responsible for places of deprivation of liberty. **Output 2:** The Commission's independent detention-monitoring role and applicable standards were placed directly before custodial and justice actors. **Output 3:** A working interface was strengthened with the authorities whose cooperation and access are necessary for effective detention monitoring. **Output 4:** The engagement provided a basis for

		continuing work on access to detention facilities and prisoners' rights, assessed substantively in Section 4.2.1.
Training of Trainers – Human Rights and Public Budgeting, 10–13 August 2026	Two Commissioners undertook specialist ToT development in human rights and public-budget analysis.	**Output 1:** NIHRC strengthened specialist internal capability to analyse Government revenue, allocations and expenditure against human rights obligations. **Output 2:** The ToT format was designed to support internal knowledge transfer beyond the two participating Commissioners. **Output 3:** The specialist capability complements NIHRC's wider legislative, policy and economic and social rights oversight functions, particularly analysis of resource allocation, equality and progressive realisation.

Table 5. RWI cooperation: practical outputs at the reporting cut-off

Workstream	*Position at reporting cut-off*	*Outputs and outcomes for NIHRC*
Cooperation framework and implementation record	The May 2026 MoU established the formal cooperation framework. The August co-creation workshop subsequently produced a Consolidated Record, Decisions and Implementation Framework documenting agreed decisions, implementation directions, outstanding matters and follow-up responsibilities.	**Output 1:** A defined cooperation framework was established in which NIHRC retains decision-making authority and RWI provides technical and comparative support. **Output 2:** The two-day workshop was converted into a structured implementation record containing agreed decisions, drafting directions, outstanding legal and policy questions and follow-up responsibilities. **Output 3:** A detailed action tracker and implementation sequence were created to allow the Commission to monitor delivery beyond the workshop itself.
NIHRC Introductory Guide	An A5 NIHRC Introductory Guide book has been substantially finalised and is undergoing Commission and technical review before Somali translation. National publication is scheduled for October 2026, with print and digital dissemination planned.	**Output 1:** NIHRC has produced a substantive common reference on its legal identity, mandate, independence, governance, operating model and the national, African and international human rights frameworks relevant to its work. **Output 2:** The Guide provides a consistent orientation resource for Commissioners and personnel and reduces reliance on ad hoc explanations of the Commission's mandate and structure. **Output 3:** Its public version will

		provide rights-holders, public authorities, civil society and partners with an accessible explanation of NIHRC and how its functions relate to the wider human rights system.
NIHRC Code of Conduct	A substantive NIHRC-specific draft has been prepared from the RWI NHRI model and is undergoing further drafting, legal review and Commission refinement.	**Output 1:** A Commission-specific ethical framework has been drafted covering independence and impartiality, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, misuse of authority, professional conduct, use of Commission resources and accountability. **Output 2:** The drafting process identified the need to distinguish the legal and disciplinary arrangements applicable to Commissioners, civil servants, advisers and other categories of personnel. **Output 3:** A defined review process was agreed, including detailed Commissioner review and legal verification of unresolved enforcement and disciplinary questions before adoption.
2026 Establishment Report and future annual reporting	NIHRC agreed to publish an Establishment Report on 10 December 2026 and to produce its first full annual report covering calendar year 2027 for publication in early 2028. Work on the 2026 report and its evidence base is already underway.	**Output 1:** A realistic reporting sequence was established, separating the Commission's establishment-year report from the first full national annual human rights report. **Output 2:** NIHRC agreed a year-round reporting system based on monthly or periodic reporting, an evidence register, source verification, documented methodology and recommendation tracking. **Output 3:** Structured data requests and evidence collection are already being used to support preparation of the 2026 Establishment Report. **Output 4:** The system is designed to retain complaints, monitoring, legislative and policy engagement, stakeholder engagement, communications, training, financial and administrative evidence as work occurs, creating a cumulative record for future reporting.
Capacity Baseline Assessment	NIHRC is undertaking a Capacity Baseline Assessment with RWI support, with completion scheduled for early	**Output 1:** The Commission has defined a structured baseline covering governance; Secretariat management and human resources; complaints and investigations; monitoring and detention oversight; research and reporting; public

	October 2026. The scope and principal methodology were agreed during the August workshop.	access; finance and administration; ICT, cybersecurity and information management; records and knowledge management; partnerships and international engagement. **Output 2:** The assessment will distinguish between capacity already in place, partially developed arrangements, planned systems and material constraints. **Output 3:** Its agreed format combines narrative findings with a detailed matrix identifying the current position, supporting evidence, remaining requirement and recommended action. **Output 4:** The completed assessment will produce a prioritised capacity-development plan that NIHRC can use to sequence its own work and align external support with evidenced needs.
Reporting, evidence and organisational memory	This was developed across the reporting and capacity-baseline workstreams and is being incorporated into continuing Commission practice.	**Output 1:** NIHRC agreed that evidence should be captured through the year instead of reconstructed only when an annual report is due. **Output 2:** The emerging system provides for activity records, decision logs, recommendation tracking, complaints and monitoring data, records of legislative and policy engagement, public communications, training and partnership activity, together with relevant financial and administrative evidence. **Output 3:** This creates a traceable Commission record that supports internal management, public reporting and verification of progress over time.

Table 6. RWI follow-on workstreams agreed at the reporting cut-off

Workstream	Agreed direction	Intended outputs and status

Senior Leadership Workshop – 12–16 October 2026	A five-day NIHRC–RWI Senior Leadership Workshop is scheduled for 12–16 October 2026 in Nairobi. The finalised programme combines completion and review of core Commission products with senior-level work on collective governance and leadership, GANHRI accreditation readiness, comparative NHRI practice and the operation of NHRIs in conflict and crisis settings. It also includes dedicated training on Human Rights Council Resolution 60/28, including NIHRC's role in Somalia's nationally led human rights transition, implementation and monitoring responsibilities, evidence requirements, engagement with relevant national and international mechanisms and the Commission's independent reporting functions. The programme also provides for further preparation of the High-Level Dialogue and Peer Exchange and review of the next phase of NIHRC–RWI cooperation.	**Intended Output 1:** Final or substantially advanced versions of the Introductory Guide, Code of Conduct and Capacity Baseline Assessment, together with strengthened annual-reporting arrangements and documented progress on the 2026 Establishment Report. **Intended Output 2:** A more developed GANHRI accreditation-readiness roadmap informed by applicable standards, comparative legislation and NHRI practice, with recommendations identifying matters requiring further action. **Intended Output 3:** Strengthened senior-level practice in collective governance, leadership, independence, impartiality, conflicts of interest, strategic priority-setting and oversight of Commission performance and resources. **Intended Output 4:** A common senior-level understanding of Resolution 60/28 and NIHRC's responsibilities for implementation, monitoring, evidence, independent reporting and engagement with relevant national and international mechanisms. **Intended Output 5:** Strengthened capability for mandate delivery in conflict and crisis settings, together with documented decisions and next steps for the subsequent phase of NIHRC–RWI cooperation.
High-Level Dialogue and Peer Exchange	NIHRC and RWI agreed to develop a senior peer-exchange process involving NIHRC leadership, relevant Federal institutions, FMS representatives, civil society and rights-holder perspectives, peer NHRI expertise and technical partners. The August workshop identified independence, governance, mandate implementation, complaints, reporting, national reach and peer learning as principal	**Intended Output 1:** Documented peer lessons on NHRI independence, governance, complaints, reporting and national accessibility. **Intended Output 2:** Defined cooperation commitments, referral or coordination actions and follow-up responsibilities arising from the dialogue. **Intended Output 3:** Broader engagement beyond Mogadishu through structured participation of FMS.

	areas for exchange. Governance of the event, the Ministry interface, invitation process and participation arrangements remain for NIHRC determination. Further preparation is incorporated into the October Senior Leadership Workshop.	**Intended Output 4:** A clearer national interface between NIHRC, relevant public authorities, civil society and peer NHRIs while preserving NIHRC's independent mandate.
Accreditation-readiness roadmap	NIHRC and RWI agreed to develop a structured roadmap towards future GANHRI accreditation. The second half of 2028 remains the earliest intended application period, subject to the Commission having generated sufficient evidence of effective and independent operation. The roadmap is to be developed through legal, governance and evidence analysis, including comparison of the 2026 Constitution and Law No. 16 with relevant GANHRI standards. Day 2 of the October programme is dedicated to this work and will examine Sub-Committee on Accreditation reporting, comparative legislation and practice, and recommendations towards future A-status accreditation.	**Intended Output 1:** A legal and governance gap analysis covering matters relevant to independence, appointments, tenure, staffing, funding, accountability, reporting, mandate reach and other accreditation requirements. **Intended Output 2:** A prioritised set of recommendations identifying matters NIHRC can address directly and matters requiring action by Parliament, Government or other State bodies. **Intended Output 3:** A legislative and treaty-advocacy matrix to record relevant reform issues, NIHRC recommendations and subsequent follow-up. **Intended Output 4:** A structured evidence file showing how identified gaps are addressed through law, policy and practice over time. **Intended Output 5:** A formal readiness review before any future application is submitted.
Academic and research cooperation	During the August RWI engagement, NIHRC also began developing proposals for cooperation with Somali universities. The emerging areas included a Somalia-contextualised International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law curriculum, faculty Training of Trainers, applied research, legal-clinic models and other forms of academic cooperation. The available record identifies City University, Benadir University and other possible institutions for further engagement.	**Intended Output 1:** A clearer NIHRC position on how university partnerships can support human rights teaching, research and professional development in Somalia. **Intended Output 2:** Potential development of common teaching materials and faculty development linked to Somalia's legal and human rights context. **Intended Output 3:** A longer-term pathway for applied research and academic engagement relevant to NIHRC's mandate.

ANNEX 3. Staffing arrangements and transition to the permanent Secretariat

Table 7. Staffing position at the reporting cut-off

Staffing area	Position at reporting cut-off	Safeguard / next step
Director General	The DG was identified through a vacancy advertised internally within the Federal Government and an interview process conducted by a panel of Commissioners. The DG began serving in February 2026, following appointment by the Chairperson and secondment from the Somali Civil Aviation Authority through the relevant civil-service process. As the holder of the statutory office established under Article 10 of Law No. 16, the DG is responsible for NIHRC's administrative management and reports directly to the Commission.	The establishment-phase process combined a vacancy process, Commissioner-led assessment, Chairperson appointment and formal civil-service secondment. The DG performs the functions of the office under Law No. 16 and remains directly accountable to the Commission. Appointment, secondment and personnel records are retained as part of NIHRC's staffing records. Any future appointment to the office will be governed by Article 10, applicable Commission procedures and relevant civil-service requirements.
Director of Administration and Finance	The Director of Administration and Finance was identified through a vacancy advertised internally within the Federal Government and an interview process conducted by a panel of Commissioners. The Director began serving on 7 February 2026, following appointment by the Chairperson and secondment from the Ministry of Finance.	The arrangement provided NIHRC with immediate senior capacity for financial administration and operational management during the establishment phase. The post forms part of the finalised Secretariat structure and is included within the Commission's permanent staffing and recruitment arrangements. While serving within NIHRC, the Director performs NIHRC functions under Commission authority and applicable Commission rules.
Director of Communications	The Director of Communications was similarly identified through an internally advertised Federal Government vacancy and Commissioner-panel interview process. The	The arrangement enabled NIHRC to establish an early communications function during the establishment phase. The post forms part of the finalised Secretariat structure

	Director began serving on 29 April 2026, following appointment by the Chairperson and secondment from the Ministry of Finance.	and is included within the Commission's permanent staffing and recruitment arrangements. While serving within NIHRC, the Director performs NIHRC functions under Commission authority and applicable Commission rules.
Additional Administration and Finance personnel	Several additional personnel were seconded from the Ministry of Finance to support NIHRC's administration and financial functions during the establishment period. These arrangements were used to provide the operational capacity required for the Commission to function while its permanent workforce was being developed.	Article 11 expressly permits NIHRC to request personnel on secondment from Federal Government bodies. Personnel serving under these arrangements perform their NIHRC functions under Law No. 16, applicable Commission rules and Commission direction. The originating body does not determine NIHRC priorities, decisions or the exercise of functions assigned to the Commission.
Permanent professional Secretariat	NIHRC has finalised the Secretariat structure under the DG, comprising the seven core functions set out in Section 2. Permanent recruitment against that structure is actively underway, including Director-level recruitment and development of the wider professional workforce. Existing secondment arrangements continue to provide operational capacity during the transition to the permanent Secretariat.	Recruitment is being conducted under NIHRC authority through documented, merit-based processes against approved job descriptions and staffing requirements. The framework provides for public advertisement, defined eligibility and competency criteria, documented shortlisting, assessment and structured interviews, conflict-of-interest safeguards, verification of qualifications and employment history, and retention of an auditable recruitment record. Recruitment also takes account of gender, clan representation, minority communities and persons with disabilities while maintaining the competence and professional requirements of each post.

ANNEX 4. Programme financing and resource mobilisation

Table 8. JPHR-3 financing for NIHRC: Year 1 allocation and three-year programme envelope

Programme period	Output 1.5: NIHRC operational and independent	Output 1.6: NIHRC advocacy and rapid-response briefs	Total
Year 1	$190,000	$110,000	$300,000
Year 2	$170,000	$90,000	$260,000
Year 3	$150,000	$70,000	$220,000
Remaining programme envelope for Years 2–3	$320,000	$160,000	$480,000
Three-year JPHR-3 envelope	**$510,000**	**$270,000**	**$780,000**

Note: The figures above represent the JPHR-3 programme allocation for NIHRC. At 31 August 2026, no JPHR-3 funds allocated to NIHRC had been disbursed to the Commission.

ANNEX 5. Next-stage capacity and resource requirements

Table 9. NIHRC next-stage capacity requirements

Capacity area	Current position	Next-stage requirement
1. Permanent professional Secretariat	Seven Secretariat functions are defined under the DG. Permanent recruitment against the approved structure is actively underway, including Director-level recruitment, while seconded personnel continue to provide elements of senior administrative capacity during the transition to the permanent Secretariat.	**1)** Complete permanent Director-level recruitment. **2)** Recruit specialist and professional personnel across the seven functions. **3)** Recruit sufficient administrative and support personnel. **4)** Establish approximately 10 apprenticeship placements. Year 1 envisages an initial Secretariat workforce of approximately **51 personnel**, including 10 apprenticeship placements, with further expansion as national reach and workload grow.
2. Technical advisory support	NIHRC currently benefits from **two advisers providing specialist support at no cost to the Commission**.	**1)** Subject to resource mobilisation, secure up to 7 time-bound technical experts during Year 1. **2)** Prioritise NHRI development; legal, complaints and investigations; disability inclusion; women and children's rights; minorities, refugees and IDPs; communications and public engagement; and ICT/cybersecurity. **3)** Require structured knowledge transfer to permanent NIHRC personnel.
3. Premises and core operations	NIHRC operates a central Mogadishu headquarters and a secure secondary office within the AAIA security area. Both are already operational.	**1)** Sustain both operating locations. **2)** Maintain reliable electricity, internet and communications. **3)** Maintain secure working, meeting and consultation space. **4)** Scale workspace and routine operating support as personnel increase.

4. Secure ICT and information management	Dedicated ICT procurement is underway. Interim secure-storage arrangements are in place for sensitive Commission records.	**1)** Complete secure staff-device provision. **2)** Establish protected networks, role-based access and cybersecurity controls. **3)** Strengthen secure storage, backup, recovery and business continuity. **4)** Establish comprehensive records classification, retention, archiving and access controls.
5. Complaints and case management	A dedicated hotline and email registry have been established as initial public contact channels through the interim Complaints Desk. Formal complaints intake through the developing complaints and case-management system had not commenced by the reporting cut-off.	**1)** Implement an integrated digital Case Management System. **2)** Integrate hotline, email, walk-in and future regional intake. **3)** Establish workflows for admissibility, triage, referral, investigation and closure. **4)** Integrate evidence and confidential document management. **5)** Track decisions, recommendations and follow-up. **6)** Generate reliable case statistics.
6. Finance, procurement, HR and administrative controls	Financial-management arrangements are operational, while a number of manuals, policies and supporting administrative systems are at different stages of development, approval and operationalisation.	**1)** Complete and operationalise finance, procurement and HR controls. **2)** Establish appropriate personnel, payroll and asset-management systems. **3)** Strengthen approval and management-reporting workflows. **4)** Complete the associated manuals and operating procedures.
7. Mobility, field security and duty of care	NIHRC owns no dedicated armoured or soft-skin vehicles and currently relies on rented logistical transport and security escorts. Field work requires movement through checkpoints and higher-risk areas.	**1)** Establish dedicated mobility capacity, including protected vehicles where operationally required. **2)** Provide secure field communications and mission equipment. **3)** Establish movement-planning, risk-assessment and incident-response procedures. **4)** Put in place fleet maintenance, tracking, fuel and insurance arrangements. **5)** Maintain appropriate security and duty-of-care support for field deployments.

8. Monitoring, investigations and detention oversight	NIHRC has begun preliminary inquiries, human-rights monitoring, detention-related visits and engagement with affected communities and responsible authorities.	**1)** Finalise standard monitoring and investigation methodologies. **2)** Strengthen interviewing, evidence-handling and documentation capacity. **3)** Establish systematic detention monitoring. **4)** Provide access to specialist legal, forensic and technical expertise when required. **5)** Establish complainant/witness protection and referral procedures. **6)** Track findings, recommendations and follow-up.
9. National accessibility and FMS engagement	Permanent physical operations remain centred in Mogadishu. Initial public contact channels for complaints have been established, while formal complaints intake through the developing complaints and case-management system had not commenced by the reporting cut-off.	**1)** Establish a phased FMS access model. **2)** Conduct regular monitoring and outreach missions beyond Mogadishu. **3)** Develop mobile complaints intake. **4)** Establish appropriate local referral/focal arrangements. **5)** Strengthen engagement with FMS authorities, civil society and rights-holder networks. **6)** Expand language, disability and vulnerability-sensitive access.
10. Human-rights data, research and reporting	NIHRC is developing its evidence and reporting systems. Comprehensive aggregate and disaggregated case data are not yet available because formal complaints intake and the full case-management system had not commenced by the reporting cut-off.	**1)** Establish standard complaints and monitoring datasets. **2)** Introduce appropriate disaggregation by geography, sex, age, disability, vulnerability and violation type. **3)** Develop trend analysis and indicators. **4)** Establish systematic annual and thematic reporting. **5)** Strengthen research, verification and data-quality controls.
11. Legislative, policy and recommendation follow-up	NIHRC has commenced legislative, policy and public-authority engagement.	**1)** Establish a legislative and policy tracker. **2)** Record formal NIHRC submissions and recommendations. **3)** Track responses from responsible public authorities. **4)** Monitor implementation and outstanding action. **5)** Maintain a consolidated evidence base for reporting to Parliament and relevant international mechanisms.

12. Operating instruments and specialist capability	Rules, policies, manuals and SOPs are at different stages of development. Commissioners and senior personnel have also undertaken induction, peer learning and specialist training.	**1)** Complete and approve outstanding policies, manuals and SOPs. **2)** Translate them into day-to-day operating practice. **3)** Provide advanced training in complaints, investigations, monitoring, detention oversight, legal analysis, data, cybersecurity, safeguarding and financial oversight. **4)** Continue targeted peer-NHRI and specialist cooperation where it supports Commission-defined priorities.
13. Sustainable financing and asset planning	The State budget provides NIHRC's current recurrent operating base. Complementary programme resources are at different stages of development and should not be treated as available Commission funding until disbursed.	**1)** Use the Capacity Baseline to determine the full recurrent and capital requirement. **2)** Cost the permanent workforce, systems, premises, national field operations and FMS access. **3)** Establish maintenance and replacement cycles for ICT, vehicles and other assets. **4)** Translate validated requirements into a sequenced multi-year financing plan.

ANNEX 6. Substantive mandate activity during the reporting period

Table 10. Overview of substantive mandate activity, 4 February–31 August 2026

Area of mandate	Evidenced activity during reporting period
National leadership, civil-society and stakeholder engagement	Engagement with the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia and with civil-society and stakeholder actors including the African Women Leaders Network, NUSOJ, the Child Rights Alliance and the Heritage Institute.
Detention oversight	1 direct prison monitoring visit, alongside subsequent engagement on prison conditions and oversight.
Civilian-harm monitoring	3 locations were subject to preliminary inquiry or monitoring: Digta Margoos, Ari-Caddeeye and Jalalaqsi.
Policing, justice and custodial oversight	Direct engagement with the Police Commissioner, Chief Justice, Attorney General, Somali Custodial Corps and Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.
Civilian protection and security-sector oversight	Engagement with CIVIC, ICRC, OSE-SCP, EUCAP Somalia and relevant Federal authorities.
Thematic human rights work	Activity covering women's rights, media freedom and digital rights, child protection, disability rights, displacement and humanitarian protection, migration, and economic and labour rights.
Regional and international NHRI engagement	Participation in IGAD and GANHRI processes, engagement with NANHRI, and peer exchange with NHRIs from Kenya, Ethiopia, Qatar, the Netherlands and Ireland.
Complaints and inquiries	A dedicated hotline and email registry were established as initial public contact channels. Formal complaints intake through the developing complaints and case-management system had not commenced by 31 August 2026.

ANNEX 7. Legislative, policy and treaty review tracker

Table 11. Initial legislative, policy and treaty review tracker at 31 August 2026

Instrument / issue	Position at reporting cut-off	NIHRC review and follow-up
Juvenile Justice Law	Passed in March 2025; nationally launched on 15 August 2026. Resolution 60/28 records the reform as raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 and emphasising restorative justice, rehabilitation and reintegration.	NIHRC participated in the national launch and emphasised effective implementation of the protections established for children. Monitoring will cover due process, detention, rehabilitation and practical implementation.
Children's Rights Bill	Council of Ministers reapproved the Bill on 18 December 2025. The material reviewed by NIHRC does not establish subsequent final parliamentary enactment.	Verify current parliamentary status; review the text against the Constitution, CRC, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other applicable standards; identify protection gaps and provide recommendations where required.
Draft Rape and Indecency Act / Penal Code reform	Identified as a priority human-rights legislative issue. The exact current text and parliamentary status require verification before a definitive Commission assessment is recorded.	Review provisions affecting protection from sexual and gender-based violence, women and children, criminalisation, due process and access to justice; identify compatibility issues and prepare evidence-based recommendations to the responsible authorities.
Media Law, Penal Code and access to information	Resolution 60/28 identifies concerns regarding the amended Media Law and Penal Code provisions allowing imprisonment for media-related offences and calls for review and consideration of decriminalising journalistic work.	NIHRC has already engaged NUSOJ and publicly advocated for journalist protection. The next step is structured legislative review of media and Penal Code provisions, including freedom of expression, journalist safety and access-to-information protections.
National FGM legislation	FGM remains a priority legislative-protection issue. Resolution 60/28 records Galmudug's legislation	Track federal and FMS legislation; assess protection against all forms of FGM and compatibility with

	outlawing all forms of FGM; the current position of federal legislation requires verification through the tracker.	constitutional and applicable human-rights protections; support evidence-based recommendations on national legal protection and implementation.
Counter-Terrorism Bill / counter-terrorism framework	Identified within NIHRC's Resolution implementation framework as requiring human-rights scrutiny; the precise current legislative status and text will be verified before formal analysis.	Review safeguards concerning arrest, detention, fair trial, use of force, civilian protection, accountability and effective remedies, informed by the monitoring work described in section 4.2.1.
National Policy on Protection of Civilians during military operations and armed conflict	The Policy had been adopted and implementation work was underway during the reporting period. NIHRC had commenced engagement on its independent monitoring and accountability role, including through work with OSE-SCP, CIVIC and relevant security-sector and protection actors.	Monitor implementation of the Policy within NIHRC's statutory mandate, including civilian-harm monitoring, complaints and referrals, independent verification, detention and justice oversight, protection of vulnerable groups, accountability, corrective recommendations and follow-up. Maintain NIHRC's independent control over its evidence, findings and conclusions.
Anti-trafficking framework	Included within the Commission's developing legislative and protection agenda in connection with migration, exploitation and vulnerable groups; current legislative status requires verification.	Establish the applicable legal framework and review victim protection, prevention, investigation, referral, access to justice and protection of migrants and other persons at heightened risk.
Disability legislation and CRPD implementation	National disability legislation is in force, and NIHRC examined implementation through its July engagement with Mogadishu Port. Somalia is also a State party to the CRPD.	Continue implementation monitoring; verify the national arrangements under CRPD Article 33, including the status of any formally designated independent monitoring mechanism, before attributing such a role to NIHRC.
CEDAW and other treaty-accession issues	Somalia is not currently recorded as a State party to CEDAW. Previous Government material has referred to consultations towards ratification, but the current Government position requires confirmation.	Maintain CEDAW as a treaty-advocacy issue; verify the current national process; engage relevant Government institutions, women's organisations, legal and religious experts and civil society; and develop evidence-based recommendations on ratification and implementation.

CAT and possible accession to OPCAT	Somalia is a State party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) but had not acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) by the reporting cut-off. NIHRC already possesses a domestic statutory mandate under Law No. 16 to inspect prisons, remand centres and other places suspected of unlawfully holding persons.	Examine the human-rights and operational implications of possible accession to OPCAT and, where appropriate, provide independent advice and recommendations to Government and Parliament. Any consideration of a future National Preventive Mechanism role must distinguish NIHRC's existing domestic detention-inspection mandate from designation under OPCAT, which would require accession and a subsequent national designation process.

Note: Where the authoritative text or legal status of an instrument had not been verified by the reporting cut-off, the table records that position expressly. NIHRC will complete verification before issuing a definitive legal assessment or recommendation.