

Rwanda will need coordinated action across government institutions to implement 249 human rights recommendations accepted earlier this year, officials said during a two-day meeting in Kigali on Sept. 16-17.

William Ndengeyinka, an official at the Ministry of Justice, said authorities have already identified the actions required for each recommendation, the institutions responsible and indicators for measuring progress.

“The first thing we did was develop an overall picture of the activities needed to implement each recommendation, the institutions responsible, the indicators that will be used to assess compliance, and the timeframe,” Ndengeyinka said.

Implementation is expected to run from June 2026 through 2030, when Rwanda will report on progress. A total of 323 activities have been planned across the country.

Ndengeyinka said the recommendations do not necessarily mean that the rights they concern are not being respected, but may call for stronger measures, additional resources or improvements to existing practices.

“Human rights is a broad issue. It is not something you can do and say it is finished and that all rights are fully realised,” he said.

Sen. John Bonds Bideri said Parliament would monitor implementation, with a progress report expected in 2028 helping lawmakers assess progress and advise where further action is needed.

“We will continue to closely monitor the implementation of these recommendations because we already know which ones were accepted and the time required to implement them,” Bideri said.

Providence Umurungi, president of the National Commission for Human Rights, said implementation cannot be left to one institution.

She said government institutions, Parliament and the private sector all have responsibilities, including considering the recommendations when laws are made, budgets are approved and policies are implemented.

The meeting, organised by the National Commission for Human Rights, brought together stakeholders to discuss the role of different institutions in implementing the recommendations.

Rwanda's fourth Universal Periodic Review produced 286 recommendations, of which the government accepted 249.