

AFRICAN UNION

African Committee of Experts on the Rights  
and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)



UNION AFRICAINE

Comité Africain d'Experts sur les Droits et le  
Bien-être de l'Enfant (CAEDBE)

الاتحاد الأفريقي

"An Africa Fit for Children"

UNIÃO AFRICANA

P. O. Box 3243 Roosevelt Street (Old Airport Area), W21K19, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Telephone: (+ 251 1) 551 3522 [Internet : http://acerwc.org](http://acerwc.org) Fax: (+ 251 1) 553 5716

## RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), meeting at its 35<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, held virtually from 31 August to 08 September 2020,

**Considering** its mandate on the promotion of the rights and welfare of the child in Africa pursuant to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

**Recalling** Article 38(1) of the African Children's Charter that authorises the ACERWC to establish its own Rules of Procedures, which the ACERWC developed and revised in 2013 and 2015 respectively;

**Considering** Rule 58 of the Revised Rules of Procedure, which allows the ACERWC to establish special mechanisms and assign specific tasks or mandates to either an individual member or group of members concerning the preparation of its sessions or the execution of special programs, studies and projects;

**Mindful** of the fact that the preamble of the Revised Rules of Procedure provides that "Special mechanisms" shall be understood to mean either special rapporteur, working group, study group, sub-committee or other subsidiary body established by the Committee with a specific mandate;

**Deeply Concerned** by the overarching negative impact of climate change on the global eco-system with the rise of sea level, reduction in fresh water availability, increase in global warming, desertification and loss of bio-diversity and further concerned by its disproportionate impact on least developed and developing countries;

**Considering** the reports of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warning of the current impact of climate change and its worsening trend; and Noting the various initiatives of the African Union in combating climate change in Africa such as the African Great Green Wall Initiative; the on-going development of the African Climate

Change Strategy, the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) and the Monitoring for environment and Security in Africa Program;

**Concerned by** the disproportionate impact of climate change on Africa due to relatively limited capacity to respond to climate change and high reliance on land and water resources for survival; and **mindful that** various African countries already face a problem of water scarcity with millions of children living in areas of high or extremely high-water scarcity;

**Further deeply concerned** by the special vulnerability of children to the risks of climate change due to their growing bodies and developing minds; and **cognizant of** the fact that according to WHO children under 5 years of age bear the highest burden of disease as a result of climate change and that under nutrition, malaria and certain types of cancer that affect children the most are exacerbated by climate change and are expected to increase considerably due to global warming;

**Noting that** Children, as the most vulnerable group to climate change and as future inheritors of the global eco-system, should meaningfully participate in any decision or action taken in relation to climate change;

**Cognizant** of the impact of climate change on various rights recognized in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; including the best interest of the child, the right to survival and development, the right to health and welfare and its consequential impact on the right to education, protection from harmful practices, non-discrimination and protection from violence and abuse and protection of children on the move;

**In line with** the Standard of Operating Procedures for the establishment of Working Groups as Special Mechanisms within the ACERWC, adopted by the Committee during its 35th Ordinary Session on 08 September 2020;

**Decides** to establish a working group on children's rights and climate change in Africa.

### **Section I- Roles and responsibilities**

The Working Group shall have the following roles and responsibilities:

- i. Examine the impact of climate change on the rights and welfare of the child in Africa;
- ii. Set standards and develop effective strategies to combat and reverse the impact of climate change on the rights and welfare of the child;
- iii. Undertake a continental study on climate change and children's rights in Africa;

- iv. Develop a strategy for the prevention, mitigation and combating of the impacts of climate change on the rights and welfare of children in Africa;
- v. Undertake various activities aimed at raising awareness and galvanizing action on the issue of climate change and children's rights among African Union organs, Regional Economic Communities, National Human Rights Institutions, Civil Society Organizations, child and youth led organizations and other relevant stakeholders;
- vi. Seek, receive, examine and act upon information on children's rights and climate change from Member States, National human Rights Institutions, relevant intergovernmental organisations, international and regional mechanisms, United Nations Agencies, civil society organisations, children and other stake holders;
- vii. Take the lead in the development of the ACERWC's documents concerning children's rights and climate change;
- viii. Report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on the activities undertaken under the mandate; and
- ix. Follow up on the implementation of the working group's recommendations.

## **Section II- Composition**

The working groups shall be composed of the following Members of the Committee and additional four external experts.

- i. Hon Sidikou Aissatou Alassane- Chaiperson
- ii. Hon Hon Joseph Ndayisenga;
- iii. Hon Robert Nanima ;
- iv. Hon Theophane Nikyema;
- v. KANDALA LUPWANA JEAN JACQUES
- vi. OLUWASEYI EBENEZER
- vii. Position to be filled:
- viii. Position to be filled.

## **Section III- Term of office**

The term of office of the above-mentioned Members shall run for two years, which shall start counting from the date that the Committee finalises and adopts the selection of External Experts forming the Working Group.

**Done on 08 September 2020, during the 35th Ordinary Session of the ACERWC  
held from 31 August-08 September 2020**