

AFRICAN UNION

African Committee of Experts on the
Rights and Welfare of the Child

الاتحاد الأفريقي



"An Africa Fit for Children"

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

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PRESS RELEASE

INVESTIGATION MISSION OF THE ACERWC ON THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN WITH ALBINISM IN TANZANIA



ACERWC Delegation Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dar Es Salaam, 11 August, 2015. - The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) would like to inform the media and the general public, that **an investigation mission on the situation of children with albinism hosted in Temporary Holding Shelters (THS) in the Lake Zone of Tanzania** is being undertaken in Tanzania from 11-15 August, 2015.

The Committee was seized in accordance to Article 45 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, on November 2013 by a Non-Governmental Organization, Under The Same Sun (UTSS), drawing Committee's attention on the alarming conditions of children with albinism subjected to violations of their rights in Tanzania. The Committee considered the application at its 24th Ordinary Session held on 01-06 December, 2014, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Given that the request falls within its

mandate and was also in line with the aims of investigation missions as stated in Article 2 of ACERWC's Investigation Guidelines, the Committee decided to undertake an investigation mission in the State Party pursuant Article 45 of the African Children's Charter.

The objectives of the mission are to: investigate the situation of children with albinism in THS centers in the Lake Zone and assess the violations and challenges they face; identify the causes leading to the curtailing of the rights of children with albinism and solicit various stakeholders including the Government of Tanzania, United Nations, African Union, UN Agencies and International and Local Non-Governmental Organizations for better protection of children with albinism in Tanzania.

High level meetings with government officials from the relevant ministries (Foreign Affairs, Community Development, Gender and Children, Health and Social Affairs, Law and Constitutional affairs) and consultation with UN Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (UNICEF, UTSS, Tanzania Albinism Society) and other working on children rights issues will be held during the mission. A field visit to Buhangija in Shinyanga Region will also be conducted .

The Committee's Delegation comprises Prof. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, 1st Vice-President of the ACERWC, Prof. Julia Sloth-Nielsen, and Justice Alfas Chitakunye, members of the ACERWC, Ayalew Getachew and Catherine Wanjiru Maina from the Secretariat of the Committee.

A Report on the finding and proposed recommendations will be submitted to the AU Executive Council and relevant AU Policy Organs.

For further information, please contact

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