



ACERWC

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

ACERWC Secretariat

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**PROGRAM 46TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ACERWC, THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ACRWC AND PARALLEL EVENTS**

Working Group Meetings 24 and 25 November

24 November 2025

Time	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-12:00	- Meetings of the Working Group on Children's Rights and Business	Closed Session
14:00-17:00	- Meetings of the Working Group on Children's Rights and Climate Change	

25 November 2025

Time	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-12:00	- Meetings of the Working Group on Children with Disabilities	Closed Session
14:00-17:00	- Meetings of the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions	

25 November 2025: Bilateral engagements with State Parties

Time	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-12:00	- Advocacy Forum on State Party Reporting in the State of Libya- conversation with the Country Rapporteur	Closed Session
14:00-17:00		

	- Advocacy Forum on State Party Reporting in the Republic of Mauritius- conversation with the Country Rapporteur	
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25 November 2025: Girl Parliamentarians Training

Time	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-17:00	Girl Parliamentarians Training on the ACRWC	Closed Session

46th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC) 26 November – 06 December 2025

26 November

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
08:30-10:30	i. Procedural Matters ✓ Adoption of the Agenda and the Program of Work. ii. Organization of work ✓ Assignments of Committee Members for consideration of applications for Observer and Affiliate Status ✓ Assignment of Second Rapporteur	Closed Session
11:00-13:00	Official Opening of the 46th Session of the ACERWC AU and the Kingdom of Lesotho Anthem i. Kamohelo Sesinyi, Children’s Representatives from the Kingdom of Lesotho ii. Ms Felistus M Motimedi, Representative of the CSO Forum iii. Mr. Gilbert Sebihogo: Executive Director of NANHRIs (Virtual) iv. Mr Marcel Clement Akpovo, Regional Director and Representative of OHCHR to the AU (Virtual) v. Dr Laila Gad, UNICEF Representative to the AU vi. Hon. Louis Cheick Sissoko, The presiding officer, African Union Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) (Video)	Open Session

	vii. Hon Idrissa Sow, Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Video) Children's performance viii. Hon. Lady Justice Chafika Bensaoulaa, Vice President African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights on behalf of the President of the Court (Video) ix. Hon Chief Fortune Charumbira President of the Pan African Parliament x. H.E Amb. Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre CEO of APRM xi. H.E. Dr Maryam Ismaila Keshinro, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women Affairs on behalf of the H.E. the Minister of Women Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria xii. Mr. Paulo Kalesi, General Director of the National Children's Institute on behalf of H.E Minister of Social Action, Family and Promotion of Women of the Republic of Angola Children's performance xiii. Hon Aver Gaver, Vice Chairperson of the ACERWC, on behalf of the Chairperson of the ACERWC xiv. Hon. Nthomeng Majara, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho	
13:00-13:30	Family Photo	
13:30-15:00	Lunch	
15:00-17:00	• Remarks by Member States (3 minutes each) • Remarks by NHRIs with Affiliate Status (3 minutes each)	

17:00-18:30- Side Event organized by Centre for Human Rights (CHR), Centre for Child Law (CCL), Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) on the Ratification of the African Union Protocol on the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness

27 November

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-11:00	- Statements by UN Agencies and International Partner Organizations (3 minutes each)	Open Session

	- Statements on the recommendations of the CSO Forum: Mr Kgomoiso R. Montsho, CSO Forum Representative (8 minutes) - Briefings by Organizations with Observer Status (3 Minutes Each) - Remarks by Development Partners (3 Minutes Each)	
11:00-11:20	Tea Break	
11:20-12:20	Analytical Tripartite Study on Challenges of Litigating Women and Girls' Rights Dr. Satang Nabaneh, Consultant	
12:20-13:00	Briefings about the Activities of the Working Groups of the ACERWC	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00	Launch of the General Comment on Article 25 on Children without Parental Care Moderator- Hon Anne Musiwa, Special Rapporteur on Children without Parental Care - Key Note Address: Added values of the General Comment and Monitoring Tool: Hon Anne Musiwa, Special Rapporteur on Children without Parental Care - Children Without Parental Care: Factors and Drivers of Vulnerabilities and Risks Including Orphanage Trafficking as a Challenge in Institutional Care: Lourenza Steytler Foghill, Senior Programmes Lead, Hope and Homes Children (10 min) - Family Reintegration and other Strategies as an Alternative to Conventional Care Systems: <i>Parenting as a Preventative Measure</i>: Grace Mwangi, Country Director, Lumos Foundation Kenya (10min); and Namirembe Christine, Care Experienced Person (8min) - Child Care Institutions and Systems Reform: Implementation of Recommendations from Study, General Comment and Monitoring tool: Eyob Berhanu Negash, Regional Program Development Advisor Lead: Global Expert Group on Child Care Reforms, SOS Village International (10 min) - Reflection and Experiencing from Member States Representative from i. The Democratic Republic of Congo ii. The Arab Republic of Egypt	

	iii. Republic of Kenya iv. The Federal Republic of Nigeria v. The Republic of South Africa • Official Launch	
16:00-17:00	Election of the New Bureau of the ACERWC	Closed Session

17:00-18:30- Side Event organised by World Vision International, FAWE and the CSO Forum on Protocol on the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness

28 AND 29 NOVEMBER – SYMPOSIUM ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACRWC

28 November

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-09:45	Opening Ceremony i. EllyJoy Wanjiru Githambo, Child Representative from South Africa ii. Hon Chairperson of the ACERWC iii. H.E. Amb. Amma A. Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development African Union Commission (Virtual) iv. H.E. Amb. Ntsiuoa SEKETE, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU v. H.E. Miguel Bembe, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia & Permanent Representative to the AU, Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives Committee of the AU vi. Hon. Pitso Lesaoana, Minister of Gender, Youth, and Social Development, Kingdom of Lesotho Children's Performance	Open Session
09:45-10:00	Amb. Amr Aljowailay Director of CIDO, Keynote address on Advancing the AU theme of the year through a child-rights lens	

10:00-11:00	Child led session-Children's Voices-Reflections on children's rights: trends, progress and challenges Moderator- Rethabile Mothibeli, Child Representative from Lesotho vi. Kabuyo Sania, Uganda vii. Vanessa Achieng, Kenya viii. Wisdom Ugbede Akanya, Nigeria ix. Nthathi Makama, Lesotho x. Rethabile Mothibeli, Lesotho	
11:00-11:30	The Charter @35 Documentary	
11:30-11:45	Tea Break	
11:45-13:15	Panel I: Harmful Practices & Violence against Children Moderator- Hon Aver Gavar, Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Children • Hon. Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing-ACEWRC Special Rapporteur on Child marriage and other harmful practices • Mr Ali Andrew Madugu Director, Child Development Department, Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs, Nigeria • Susan Hang'andu (Survivor), Zambia • Loveness Mudzuru (Survivor), Zimbabwe • Sally Ncube, Equality Now • Cleophas Maragia Angwenyi, Director, Plan International AUO	
13:15-14:15	Lunch	
14:15-15:45	Panel II: Planning and Budgeting for Children Moderator by Ms Nankali Maksud, Senior Advisor-Child Protection, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa - Evidence Snapshot- Margaret Irving <i>Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF ESARO</i> - Setting the Scene: Hon Wilson Adão, Special Rapporteur on Investment and Budgeting for Children	Open Session

	- Importance of children's direct participation in budgeting and resource allocation- Princess Senate Mohato Seeiso , Kingdom of Lesotho (TBC) - Highlight the operational realities that make planning difficult- Geoffrey Samson Chimwala Deputy Director of Planning & Research, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Malawi - Draw out what has made for most effective MoF engagement- Mrs Viviane Kanga Kossa, Director of Social Action Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, Cote d'Ivoire - Bring comparative evidence of chronic underinvestment and highlight the watchdog role of civil society: Dr Joan Nyanyuki, Executive Director, African Child Policy Forum - Show how existing AU mechanisms successfully integrate norms into peer review and influence national policy: <i>African Peer Review Mechanism (TBC)</i> - Highlight how children judge whether commitments translate into real change- Nthathi Makama, Child advocate, Lesotho Member State Reflections & Commitments, Synthesis and Way Forward: Plenary interventions	
15:45-16:30	Children's performance	

29 November

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-10:30	Panel III: The Role of Parliamentarians in upholding the rights of children Moderator- H.E. Amb Willy Nyamitwe, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Burundi to the AU, Ag Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy, and Governance of the PRC • Dr Ndidi Abanna, Ag Head of Committees, Documentation, Research and Library, PAP • Hon Mamokete Ntshekhe, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Lesotho • Child Parliamentarians	Open Session

	● Prof Nkatha Murungi- Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria ● Samuel Norgah- Director, African Union Liaison Office, World Vision International	
10:30-11:00	Tea break	
11:00-12:30	Panel IV: Children with intellectual disabilities: lessons and policy directions Moderator- Prof Nkatha Murungi, External Expert, Working Group on Children with Disabilities of the ACERWC ● Hon. Aboubekrine El Jera, Chairperson of the WG on Children with disabilities- Keynote Address ● Dr. Admark Moyo, External Expert- Laws and practices on the realization of the rights of children with disabilities in Africa ● Experience Sharing by Member States on actions for the realisation of the rights of children with intellectual disabilities from Algeria and South Africa ● Ms Fatma Wangare, Representative of Inclusion Africa- Challenges faced by Children with Disabilities in Africa and Call to Action ● Documentary and Video Testimony	
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30-15:00	Panel V: Child friendly cities- The role of municipalities and children's voices Moderator- H.E Amb. George M. Orina, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the AU (TBC) Children's Realities and Perspectives: The Impact and Importance of Child-Friendly Environments - Tumisho Komane, Child Representative - Omphemetse Ramoipone Child Representative Development of Child Friendly Architecture and Urban Spaces - Mme Konosoang Liphoto, Maseru City Council - Opportunities and Challenges to Child Friendly Cities- representative of UNICEF	
15:00-16:00	Intergenerational dialogue on Shaping the future: Recommitting to child Rights in a changing Africa	

	Moderator- Sicelo Shalton Maphosa, Child Representative from South Africa & Boitumelo Matlosa, Child Representative from Lesotho • Hon Sabrina Gahar, ACERWC • Represnetative of UNICEF • Mwila Malama, Senior Child Rights Advocacy Campaigns Advisor, Save the Children • Mr Kgomotso R. Montsho, CSO Forum Representative • Mr. Paulo Kalesi, General Director of the National Children's Institute, the Republic of Angola	Open Session
16:00-16:15	Launching the Commemorative Publication of the Charter @35 by the Chairperson of the ACERWC	
16:15-16:30	Closing - ACERWC Chairperson	

FORUM ON THE STATE PARTY REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHARTER

01 December

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-09:30	Opening Remarks - Yehualashet Mekonnen- Director African Child Observatory, ACPF - Chirs Muthuri, Deputy Regional Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) - Chairperson of the ACERWC	Open Session
09:30-10:00	- Presentation on the Relevance of the State Party reporting procedure: What it means for States, Children, and other actors- Mr Zwelethini Eugene Xaba, ACERWC Secretariat	
10:00-11:00	Experience sharing from UNCRC on State Party reporting at the CRC Moderator- Chairperson of the ACERWC - Ms Allegra Franchetti, Secretary of UNCRC Experience sharing from ACHPR on State Party reporting - Mr Mohamed Djalel Benabdoun, Senior Legal Expert, and Focal Point for State Reporting, ACHPR	

11:00-11:15	Tea Break	
11:15-11:30	Moderator- Chairperson of the ACERWC - Child Participation in the State Party reporting processes: from compilation to consideration- Alang Kelly Aristile, Child Representative from Cameroon	
11:30-13:00	Presentation by States Moderator- Chairperson of the ACERWC - Status of State Party report - Update on preparedness- technical, financial institutional - Challenges and opportunities - Timeline on submission	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	Role of Stakeholders and pledges of support on Reporting: Reflections from Moderator- ACPF - UNICEF Representative - Mr Benedict Omillo, CSO Forum Representative - Mwila Malama, Senior Child Rights Advocacy Campaigns Advisor, Save the Children - Mr Foluso Adegalu, Program Officer NANHRIs	
15:00-15:20	ACERWC's Work on NMRFs Moderator- Hon Robert Nanima, Chairperson of the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions/ or Member of the Working Group Presentation of ACERWC's finding on NMRFs and key Finding of the Study on implementation on NMRFs Ms Aouatef Mahjoub, ACERWC Secretariat	
15:30-17:00	Experiences Sharing by NMIRFs on: - Institutional structure and mandate - Their reporting status to the ACERWC - Coordination at national level with line ministries, and government agencies - Consultations and engagement with other actors at national level (CSO's, NHRI's, Children, Parliament, etc.) - Information management and preparation of national reports	

02 December 2025

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-10:00	Moderator- Chairpreson of the ACERWC - Presentation on the new Strategic Plan of the ACERWC (2026-2028)- Mr Shumba Tichawona, Consultant	Open Session
10:00-10:45	Presentation by ACPF	
10:45-11:15	Tea Break	
11:15-13:00	Launch of the General Comment on Article 11 on the Right to Education Moderator- Hon Poloko Nuggert Ntshwarang, Special Rapporteur on Education - Content and Salient features of General Comment No 09 on Article 11 on the Right to Education- Adiam Zemenfes Tsighe, ACERWC Secretariat: - Financing Education to Achieve African Development Goals for Children: Dr Maria Oliveira, Representative of the Republic of Cabo Verde - Ensuring Education Relevant for the 21 st Century: Education as a right and means to achieve other rights - Kingdom of Lesotho - Litigating the Right to Education: How the General Comment plays a role?- Ms Elsy Sainna, Associate Director for Advocacy and External Relations at the Center for Reproductive Rights - Ending corporal punishment and other forms of abuse in Schools and communities: a. Kisu Thokozile Chipala- Child Representative from Zambia and b. Derith Mendengue- Child Representative from Cameroon	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	Moderator- Hon Sabrina Gahar- SR on Children on the Move - Presentation of the Draft Report on Children on the Move- Dr Admark Moyo, Consultant	
15:00-15:45	Presentation by Africhild	
15:45-17:15	2 nd Follow-up to the First Ministerial Conference on VAC- Organized by ACPF	

03 December 2025

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-09:45	Moderator- Chairperson of the ACERWC - Report on the Status of Implementation of the 2nd Implementation Phase of Agenda 2040- Prof Frans Viljoen, Consultant	Open Session
10:00-13:00	TECHNICAL WORKSHOP WITH NHRIS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND GIRLS' RIGHTS	
	Opening Remark: Hon Robert Nanima, Chairperson of the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions Panel Discussion on ACERWC Decisions, Implementation Status, and Jurisprudence Moderator- Chairperson of the ACERWC - Sources of Decisions and Recommendations and overview of the Status of Implementation of Communications Decisions and General Status of Implementation- Ms Opal Sibanda, Legal Researcher - Snapshot of Girls' Rights Cases and Related Jurisprudence of the ACERWC- Sibongile Mokapane, Child Rights Promotion Assistant Role of NHRIs in the Implementation of ACERWC Decisions - Dr Zoumana Diarra, Secretary General, Mali NHRI - Prof James Mouangue Kobila, President of Cameroon NHRI - Mr Fadhili Ferdinand Muganyizi, Tanzania NHRI Reflections on the Coordination of NHRIs with Government Actors in implementation of decisions - Mr Winston Mwafulirwa, Malawi NHRI - Ms Veronicah Wambui Mwangi, Kenya NHRC - Ipeleng J. Makaba, Botswana NHRI - Ms Fatou Thiam, Senegal NHRI - Mr Foluso Adegalu, Program Officer, NANHRI	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	

14:00-16:00	Technical workshop with CSOs on implementation of decisions and girls' rights	
	Moderator- Hon Musiwa, Member of the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions - Setting the Scene: Role of CSOs on Implementation of Decisions- Chirs Muthuri, Deputy Regional Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) Supporting implementation of decisions of the ACERWC: programs and experiences of CSOs - Girma Gadisa, Senior Technical Officer, ACPF - Mwila Malama, Senior Child Rights Advocacy Campaigns Advisor, Save the Children - Cleophas Maragia Angwenyi- Director, Plan International AULO CSOs coalitions on children's rights and implementation of decisions of the ACERWC - Mr brahima Amadou Maiga, Mali CSO Coalition - Mr Ombeni Bethuel Kimaro, Tanzania CSO Coalition - Cameroon CSO Coalition - Mr Benedict Omillo, CSO Forum Reflections from Litigant CSOs on implementation of decisions and multi-stakeholder engagement - Dr Musa Kika, Executive Director of IHRDA - Equality Now- - Ms Aacha Sharon Ojema, ACJPS	
16:00-16:45	Presentation by MAEJT	

04 December 2025

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
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09:00-10:45	Panel Discussion on the status of implementation of the decisions of the ACERWC on Communication No 013/Com/001/2020 against Republic of Mali and Communication No 006/Com/002/2015 against the Republic of Cameroon i. Introduction and setting of panel objectives-ACERWC Secretariat ii. Presentation of Elements of the decision of the Committee on Communication No. 006/Com/002/2015 against the Republic of Cameroon - Hon. Joseph Sunday Sinnah, Country Rapporteur of the ACERWC iii. Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Communication No. 006/Com/002/2015 against the Republic of Cameroon - Representative of the Government of Cameroon iv. Presentation of elements of the decision of the Committee on Communication N°: 0013/Com/001/2020 against Republic of Mali - Hon. Ghislain Roch Estan, Country Rapporteur of the ACERWC for the Republic of Mali v. Reflection and Discussion on the implementation of the Recommendations in the decision - Representatives of the States, ACERWC and plenary participants Wrap-up and way forward	Open Session
10:45-11:15	Tea break	
11:15-12:15	Draft Presentation of the General Comment on Article 28 on Drug Abuse Dr Aderomola Adeola, Consultant	
12:15-13:00	Presentation on the Digitalization of Birth Registration in Africa: Challenges and opportunities for children's rights Ms Samrawit Getaneh Damtwe, ACERWC Secretariat	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-17:00	Complementary Report consideration- on State Party Report of the Republic of Burundi	Closed Session

05 December 2025

TIME		
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	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-13:00	Complementary Report consideration on the State Party Report of the Republic of Kenya	Closed Session
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00	Hearing on Communication No. 019/Com/001/2022 Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa and Mr. Solomon Joojo Cobbinah (on behalf of schoolgirls living in villages along the River Offin in the Ashanti Region of Ghana) against the Republic of Ghana	
16:00-17:00	Presentation on Budget and Projects - GIZ AWARE Project - ACCP - ACERWC activities and budget	

06 December 2025

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-13:00	Consideration of pending communications - Communication No 021, People Serving Girls at Risk and Equality Now (on behalf of Esnat Kenesi) v the Republic of Malawi - Communication no 020 against the State of Eritrea - Communication No. 019 against the Republic of Ghana - Communication No 017 against the Federal Republic of Nigeria - Communication No 023 against the Federal Republic of Nigeria - Communication No 026 against the State of Libya	Closed Session
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-17:00	Adoption of Decisions - Decisions on Partners' Requests - Consideration of Documents • Resolution on the establishment of a Working Group on Communications • Resolution on Targeted State Party Reporting	

	• Resolution on Upholding the Integrity and Independence of Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in their Engagement with Third Parties • Policy brief on access to remedies for victims of corporate induced child rights violations • Guidelines on Inter-Session Reports of Committee Members • Thematic Report on Harmful Practices Affecting Children's Rights in Africa • Selection of the theme of the Day of the African Child 2026 • Report on the ACERWC Mandate and Activities in Advancing Girls' Rights in Africa • Evaluation Report of the ACERWC Strategic Plan 2021-2025 iii. Adoption of the theme of the theme of Day of the African Child (DAC) 2026 iv. Appointment of external experts to working groups v. Decisions on Affiliate and Observer Status	
17:00-17:30	Closing Ceremony	Open Session