

Reflect on progress & challenges,  
Renew our efforts,  
Recommitt to the cause of the child!

Strengthening synergies and  
partnerships for greater impact.

ACERWC and ACPF joined child rights focal  
experts of RECs to discuss their roles in the  
implementation of the Charter.



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

# Tribune

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## CHILDREN HIGHLIGHTS THEIR KEY PRIORITIES IN BUDGETING DURING #DAC2025 COMMEMORATION

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The continental commemoration of the DAC 2025 took place in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 16 June under the theme ***“Planning and Budgeting for Children’s Rights: Progress since 2010”***. Prior to the commemoration, over 150 children participated in a two-day training workshop from 14-15 June focused on the African Children’s Charter and the DAC 2025 theme. The children shared their lived experiences and perspectives on planning and budgeting for their rights.

On 16 June, over 700 children from Malawi, Nigeria, and Egypt gathered alongside government officials, AU

organs, UN agencies, CSO’s, and private sector representatives for a Continental Symposium to discuss various aspects of planning and budgeting for children’s rights.

The main day of the commemoration began with a solidarity walk with children, followed by an opening ceremony featuring remarks by child representatives and key national and regional stakeholders. The event was graced by the presence of high-ranking officials, including the Right Honourable Dr. Michael Biziwick Usi, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi, who officiated the ceremony. Cultural performances, traditional dance, music,

and poetry by children enriched the celebration, reflecting Africa’s cultural diversity. A video exhibition showcased children’s reflections on the DAC 2025 theme from Malawi, Lesotho, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Burundi, the DRC, Mali, Liberia, and Guinea-Bissau. These presentations were complemented by an intergenerational dialogue and a child-led panel discussion.

Throughout the three-days, children’s voices resonated powerfully on the theme of planning and budgeting for their rights. They addressed critical areas such as protection, security, nutrition, climate change, education, health, development, technology, and participation in all stages of planning and budgeting.

Their calls included:  
***“Respect children’s opinions, take them seriously, and provide constructive feedback on how their inputs are considered.”***

***“Leaders and partners must work with us, not ahead of us, not behind us, but together.”***

***“There is nothing for us without us, let us build a better Africa where every child’s voice matters, not only today but every day.”***

The commemoration culminated in the reading of the [Outcome Statement](#), capturing the reflections, challenges, and recommendations from children to Member States and stakeholders ■



## African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

### Reflect – Renew – Recommit



**Hon. Wilson Almeida Adão**  
ACERWC Chairperson

#### Dear Children and Stakeholders ...

The year 2025 marks the **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ACRWC**, adopted in 1990 and entered into force in 1999. As the only region-specific children's rights instrument, the Charter reflects Africa's contexts and aspirations, providing a comprehensive framework to safeguard and advance the rights and welfare of children across the continent.

Over the past thirty-five years, notable progress has been made in promoting and protecting children's rights. Fifty-one Member States have ratified the ACRWC, incorporating its provisions into national constitutions, legislation, policies, and programmes. Guided by the ACRWC, Member States have taken measures to strengthen child protection systems, expand access to quality education, improve health services, and prohibit harmful practices. These developments underscore the ACRWC's enduring relevance and its transformative potential in shaping national and regional agendas for children.

However, the anniversary also highlights the urgency of addressing persistent and emerging challenges. Millions of children in Africa continue to experience poverty, child labour, violence, harmful practices, displacement, and exclusion from essential services. New and complex threats including the impacts of climate change, digital risks, and adverse business practices demand innovative, coordinated,

and sustained responses from all actors.

This milestone provides an important opportunity to **reflect** on progress made, **renew** our commitment to the Charter's vision, and **recommit** to accelerating its full implementation. As the treaty body mandated to monitor the ACRWC, the ACERWC will continue working in close collaboration with Member States; National Human Rights Institutions; Regional Economic Communities; international organisations; civil society organisations, and children to advance the ACRWC's objectives and hold duty bearers accountable.

Looking ahead, the ACERWC will launch a brief commemorative publication bringing together reflections and analysis on critical child rights themes, ranging from civil rights and participation, to social protection, harmful traditional practices, peace and security, and emerging issues. These contributions will not only assess progress but also propose solutions to current and future challenges. A key highlight of the commemoration of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Charter will be the **Child Rights Symposium**, to be held during the 46<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ACERWC. This high-level event will convene Member States, AU organs, UN agencies, NHRIs, international organisations, civil society organisations, and children to engage on these various themes and chart the way forward for effective implementation of the Charter. Let us come together on this occasion to reaffirm our commitment and take collective action for the full realisation of every child's rights in Africa.

***As we reflect on 35 years of the ACRWC, the ACERWC reaffirms its collective resolve to ensure that every child in Africa enjoys all their rights, without discrimination, and grows up in an environment that enables them to realise their full potential.***

**THE ACERWC, ACHPR, AND AFCHPR RENEWED THEIR FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT—STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY AMONG AU HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANS.**



The ACERWC, the ACHPR, and the AfCHPR have renewed their framework agreement, thereby strengthening collaboration and complementarity among the African human rights bodies.

On the sidelines of the 7<sup>th</sup> African Union Coordination Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) renewed its framework agreement of collaboration with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The previous agreement, which has now expired, was signed in 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia.

The purpose of this framework agreement is to enhance cooperation and complementarity among African human rights bodies, to deepen the exchange of good practices, ideas, and expertise in the implementation of their respective mandates.

Within the framework of this agreement, the Secretariat sent four (4) legal experts for an exchange visit (two to each body) to the Court and the Commission to learn about their working methods in handling Communications and complaints procedures, and to undertake specific tasks requiring joint efforts, including, but not limited to, research and promotional missions.

By reinforcing collaboration among the three Organs, the renewed Framework Agreement ensures that the protection and promotion of human in general and children's rights in particular on the continent are pursued in a more coordinated, efficient manner. Sharing of experience among the three major human rights bodies will also enhance a holistic human rights system grounded in shared values, mutual reinforcement, and collective accountability.

This renewed agreement will govern, for the next three (3) years, the exchange of staff among the three institutions.



**A**s Africa continues its journey towards the full realization of the rights and welfare of the child, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) is stepping into 2026 with renewed energy, sharper focus, and an unwavering commitment to uphold the rights and welfare of every child in Africa. Guided by its strategic priorities, the Committee seeks to deepen partnerships with Member States, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), UN Agencies, AU organs, and children themselves to drive measurable progress and lasting impact.

At the heart of ACERWC's mandate lies the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the African Children's Charter) — the continent's foundational child rights instrument. **To date, 51 of the 55 African Union Member States have ratified the Charter**, with Morocco, Tunisia, South Sudan, and Somalia remaining. Encouragingly, Somalia has already ratified the Charter at the national level and is now completing the process of depositing its instrument of ratification with the African Union.

In 2026, the Committee will intensify its advocacy to achieve universal ratification, ensuring that no child in Africa is left outside the Charter's protection. This effort also extends to encouraging States that have placed reservations to review and withdraw them, as such limitations hinder the full realization of the Charter's spirit and objectives.

To achieve this, the Committee will continue strengthening engagement with Member States to accelerate reporting, enhance follow-up on recommendations, and address implementation bottlenecks. Synergy with NHRIs and CSOs will remain crucial for monitoring compliance and supporting governments in domesticating the Charter. Meanwhile, UN agencies and mechanisms such as UNICEF, and OHCHR will continue to be important partners to integrate child rights into national and regional development frameworks.

**Agenda 2040 — Africa's blueprint for achieving "An Africa Fit for Children"** — remains the Committee's guiding vision. The ACERWC is currently conducting an evaluation study assessing the second phase of Agenda 2040's implementation, with the goal of identifying progress made,

gaps, and lessons learned from Member States and partners.

In 2026, the Committee will continue strengthening the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of Agenda 2040, ensuring systematic tracking and shared learning. The ultimate goal remains clear — to mainstream child rights across all sectors, including education, health, climate action, social protection, and justice.

The ACERWC will also continue its work on cross-cutting thematic areas that directly affect children's lives, including children's rights and business, children's rights and climate change, the rights of children with disabilities, and the implementation of decisions. These thematic priorities are addressed through specialized working groups, which serve as key mechanisms for advancing technical expertise, collaboration, and action-oriented research.

For example, the Working Group on Children with Disabilities collaborates closely with partners to ensure that children with disabilities are not left behind; the Committee's engagement on children's rights and business explores corporate accountability, ensuring that private sector practices align with the Charter and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; and the Committee's focus on children and climate change reflects the growing urgency to integrate child-sensitive approaches in national climate adaptation and resilience strategies — an area where partnership with Member States, UN agencies, and children and young people-led movements will be critical.

Building on years of progress, in 2026 the ACERWC will continue to increase its visibility, knowledge base, and influence as the continent's reference point for child rights. Through the publication of thematic reports, general comments, and policy briefs, the Committee will strengthen evidence-based advocacy and inform child-centered policymaking. As part of this effort, the Committee is also operationalizing the African Union Child Safeguarding Policy, ensuring that all AU institutions and partners implement child safeguarding measures in their operations.

Furthermore, the Committee will broaden its engagement with States and partners through new collaborative initiatives and projects aimed at expanding its reach and impact. Among the flagship initiatives



**Dr. Ayalew Getachew Assefa**  
Executive Secretary Ag.

**ACERWC Secretariat**

under consideration is the Mayors' Forum on Child-Friendly Cities, which will promote child-centered urban governance and ensure that children's voices are reflected in local development policies.

At the continental level, collaboration with other AU organs — including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Pan-African Parliament, and the AU Commission — will continue to ensure the mainstreaming of child rights across AU decisions and processes.

Simultaneously, partnerships with civil society, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, and development partners will be vital for mobilizing expertise and resources to reach the most marginalized children. As the ACERWC advances its 2026 agenda, it emphasizes shared accountability — where governments, institutions, communities, and children all play a role in building an Africa that truly safeguards its youngest citizens.

Looking ahead, the Committee is developing its new Strategic Plan (2026–2028), which will provide a roadmap for advancing the implementation of the Charter and guiding the Committee's engagement with stakeholders across Africa.

As I conclude, on behalf of the Secretariat of the ACERWC, I call on all stakeholders to actively engage with the ACERWC and its mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteurs, Country Rapporteurs, and Working Groups, to ensure that collective expertise drives tangible change.

Let's work towards a stronger and more connected ecosystem for children's rights in Africa. As the ACERWC moves forward, it calls upon Member States, AU organs, CSOs, NHRIs, UN agencies, and children to continue walking this shared path — for only through unity can Africa achieve greater impact for every child ■

## SPOTLIGHTING THE WORKING GROUPS



### ADVANCING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Working Group on Children with Disabilities of the ACERWC, jointly with the Special Rapporteur on Education, convened a webinar on the Education of Children with Disabilities on 03 September 2025 with over 120 participants from wide range of actors. Hon. Aboubekrine El Jera, Chairperson of the Working Group, who underscored the urgent need to move beyond generic policies and address the specific barriers, such as inaccessible infrastructure, stigma, and lack of support, facing an estimated 90 million children with disabilities in accessing their right to education. Hon. Poloko Nuggett Ntshwarang, Special Rapporteur on Education, who highlighted the alarming reality that an estimated 90% of children with disabilities in Africa are out of school. She highlighted the newly adopted ACERWC General Comment No. 9 on Article 11, which clarifies State duties to provide free inclusive education with reasonable accommodations.

A powerful testimony was then delivered by Child Representative Alpha Sesay, who vividly described the daily barriers he and his peers face, including unfriendly school infrastructure, transportation challenges, bullying, and a lack of appropriate learning materials. The webinar also featured insights from Mr. Andrew Kavala, Expert Member of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities of the Banjul Commission who detailed the foundational international and regional legal frameworks. Professor Ensa Johnson, a renowned academician on inclusive education showcased successful inclusive education models such as Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction, drawing on examples from Rwanda, South Africa, Ghana, Mozambique among others. A presentation by Dr. Shimelis Tsegaye, Member of the ACERWC Working Group, addressed the critical role of assistive and adaptive technologies, advocating for government-led investment in local production to make devices affordable, repairable, and tailored to individual learners.

The Webinar gave participants the opportunity to formulate key recommendations on reconciling specialized schools with the principle of non-discrimination, ensuring quality education for children with autism, and strategies for making assistive technology accessible. The webinar concluded with a unified call to action for all stakeholders to shift the narrative on disability, and the amplifying the importance of the supporting and empowering parents of children with disabilities. In closing, Dr. Ayalew Getachew Assefa, the Ag. Executive Secretary reaffirmed the commitment of the ACERWC to engage children and parents in advancing the right to education of children with disabilities.

## CHILDREN'S VOICES AT THE SECOND AFRICAN CLIMATE SUMMIT 2025



The **second Africa Climate Summit**, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10 September 2025, provided a critical platform for advancing Africa's climate agenda. As part of the Summit, the ACERWC convened a side event titled "Accelerating Child-Responsive Climate Solutions and Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development." The side event was moderated by Hon. Aver Gaver, Chairperson of the ACERWC Working Group on Children's Rights and Climate Change. The event opened with a message of solidarity from Dr. Richard Muyungi, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators,

who underscored the importance of safeguarding the interests of African children in global climate talks. A Child Climate Champion then delivered a compelling call to action, endorsing the ACERWC's **1.1TooHigh campaign** and emphasizing the urgent need for child-centred climate adaptation. This was followed by an intervention from Amnesty International, which highlighted the growing challenge of climate-induced displacement and called for stronger protection mechanisms for children forced to move due to climate impacts. The launch of a child-friendly version of the ACERWC's continental study on children's rights and climate change, developed in collaboration with Save the Children International, marked another milestone in making climate knowledge accessible to young people.

The side event culminated in a high-level intergenerational dialogue with policymakers, children, and CSOs. Speakers included a representative from Zambia's Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, a child panelist who shared first-hand reflections on the realities of children amid climate change, and representatives of child-focused agencies who outlined key priorities for child-centred climate financing. The dialogue underscored the urgency of child-responsive climate solutions and reinforced Africa's commitment to building a greener and more resilient future.



## LAUNCH OF THE ACERWC STUDY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

At its 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, the ACERWC, recognizing the need to address gaps in implementation and improve compliance by State Parties, decided to develop a **Study on the Implementation of Decisions**. The Study was developed through the ACERWC Working Group on Implementation of Decisions, to serve as a baseline for the Committee to identify the various actions and steps required to ensure enhanced implementation of its decisions and recommendations. The Study aims to assess the challenges faced by State Parties; document good practices; identify the role of various stakeholders; evaluate the effectiveness of existing monitoring tools; and provide recommendations for more effective implementation of the Committee's decisions.

The Study was **officially launched during the Committee's 45<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session**. A panel discussion, chaired by Hon. Robert Nanima, Chairperson of the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions, provided the platform to disseminate the key findings of the Study. The panel also aimed to raise awareness of the importance of timely and effective implementation of the Committee's decisions and recommendations, examine existing challenges, gaps, and opportunities, share good practices and successful strategies, and propose actionable approaches to enhance implementation among others. The panel featured structured presentations and interactive discussions,



bringing together a wide range of key stakeholders, including representatives from academia (Centre for Human Rights), civil society organizations engaged in litigation (Centre for Reproductive Rights), AU human rights organs (the African Commission and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights), and a child representative, who shared a valuable perspective on the ground.

Beyond the official launch and dissemination of the findings, the panel provided a platform for diverse perspectives and led to the identification of key areas for improving the level of implementation of the Committee's and other human rights organs' decisions. ■

## STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT FORUM ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND BUSINESS



The ACERWC, in collaboration with the **African Child Policy Forum, Save the Children and the Dullah Omar Institute**, convened a Stakeholders' Engagement Forum on Children's Rights and Business on 06–07 November 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Forum aimed to reflect on how business activities across Africa affect children's rights and to strengthen cooperation among stakeholders to promote child-sensitive business practices.

The Forum brought together 67 representatives from Member States,

the African Union Commission, children, National Human Rights Institutions, Regional Economic Communities, UN agencies, chambers of commerce, private sector actors, civil society and academia. Discussions covered the findings of the **ACERWC Continental Study on Children's Rights and Business**; children's perspectives on the impact of business practices on their rights and welfare; the protection of children in the urban informal sector; experience sharing by private sector actors and Member States; the role of National Human Rights Institutions; the

importance of embedding human rights due diligence in line with the UN Guiding Principles; the role of businesses in realizing children's rights and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals; the AU Principles and Guidelines on Business and Human Rights; and the role of Regional Economic Communities in advancing children's rights in the context of business.

It was emphasized that safeguarding children's rights in the context of business requires deliberate commitment, strong regulatory frameworks and effective accountability mechanisms. The need to move beyond awareness raising to concrete action, including systematic child rights due diligence, coordination across sectors and the genuine inclusion of children's voices in decision-making processes was also underscored. The Forum concluded with a shared call to ensure that economic development and private sector growth on the continent do not come at the expense of children's rights and wellbeing, but instead actively contribute to creating safe, supportive and empowering environments for every child. ■

## THE ROLE OF RECs IN ENHANCING THE WORK OF THE ACERWC

The ACERWC in collaboration with the African Child Policy Forum convened a Child Rights Symposium with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26-27 June 2025, under the African Children's Charter Project. The Symposium provided a platform to reflect on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and **strengthen regional collaboration** to enhance its implementation. Six RECs participated, namely the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Key highlights include an update on the status of reporting and States' engagement with the ACERWC, which underlined the low reporting trend on



the implementation of the Charter. There were also presentations by RECs on planning and budgeting for children; child trafficking and sexual tourism; responding to girls' vulnerabilities through policy and programming; humanitarian responses for children in conflict situations; and protection of children on the move. Good practices were shared, including IGAD's inclusive policy development; ECOWAS' frameworks to address child trafficking; ECCAS' data-driven approaches to birth registration; EAC's legal harmonisation across Partner States; COMESA's integration of child-sensitive indicators into early warning systems; and CEN-SAD's regional humanitarian responses for children in conflict, including education continuity through radio classrooms. The discussions further emphasised

embedding child participation within REC structures and promoting tools such as the MAEJT Operational Protocol for Children's Participation. There was also a call to institutionalise **ACERWC-REC collaboration** through regular forums and structured focal point networks.

The symposium amplified how RECs can be instrumental in influencing States towards universal ratification, timely reporting, and enhanced implementation of the Charter, driving cross-border coordination for child rights issues, and integrating child rights into RECs planning and accountability frameworks. Speakers also called for stronger collaboration of the ACERWC and RECs with national stakeholders, including civil society, line ministries, and NHRIs.

## SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN AFRICA THROUGH GENERAL COMMENT No 9 OF THE ACERWC ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

General Comment No. 9 on the Right to Education is an authoritative interpretation of Article 11 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child which the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) adopted pursuant to its mandate to interpret the Charter in accordance with Article 42 of the same. The General Comment addresses unique and peculiar challenges hindering children in Africa to attain their right to education such as sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR), child marriages, teenage pregnancy, and the plight of children with disabilities, among others.

The **General Comment** explains the meaning and modality of the implementation of each of the elements within **Article 11** including the purpose of education; clarifies the nature and scope of State Party Obligation in implementing Article 11; illustrates the nexus between the right to education and the general principles of the Charter; and outlines the role of various stakeholders. The General Comment elaborates that Article 11 obliges States, among others, to: (a) undertake

continuous or regular legal and policy reviews to ensure harmonization and establishment of adequately resourced institutions tasked with coordinating the implementation of the right to education (b) allocate adequate financial resources to education and increase the education budget at all levels of the education system (c) ensure free education for all children through domestic resource mobilization (d) provide regular training and capacity-building for teachers and officers (e) establish and renovate child and disability-friendly public education facilities and other educational amenities by equipping them with the necessary hygiene, sanitation, playground and sports facilities. The General Comment further provides that the right to education is a justiciable right, meaning that there should be effective judicial remedies for violations of the right to education.

The General Comment brings an added value by clarifying that Early Childhood Development (ECD) forms an integral part of the right to education in Africa. It emphasizes free inclusive and compulsory education, outlawing corporal punishment

in all settings, and emphasizes the right to education of children in vulnerable situations, children in conflict with the law, and children on the move, among others. It also sets parameters for assessing the progressive realisation of free secondary education under Article 11(3)(b) with a clear focus on gradually eliminating financial barriers through demonstrated gradual reduction of school fees and associated costs. It sets forth principles for education of pregnant and married girls by underlining measures from prevention through education to ensuring continuation of education. The General Comment underlines the need to adopt an education curriculum that promotes integration of African values and that is relevant to the Continent.

States Parties are urged to make use of the General Comment to inform their implementation of Article 11 of the Charter and to incorporate its criteria when drafting reports for the ACERWC. Furthermore, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and all stakeholders are invited to utilize, promote, and disseminate the General Comment to ensure its principles become a reality in securing education for all children in Africa.



## THE COMMITTEE ADOPTS A GENERAL COMMENT ON CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE

The Continental Study on Children Without Parental Care in Africa spotlight the risks and vulnerabilities children without parental care and highlighted the gaps and challenges of adequate protection of their rights. General Comment No. 10 in the context of Article 25 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and Care System Reform was adopted to offer guidance on how to proactively protect and adequately respond to exposure of children without parental care to abuse, sexual exploitation, substance abuse, mental health challenges, malnutrition, limited access to education and healthcare, child labour, and exploitation, living and working in hazardous environments. In particular, when it is necessary to place children in alternative care, how the care setting should meet the child's needs and the importance of fostering a connection

between the child and their family, community and background.

The right to family life is critical in harmonious development to all children, regardless of disability, social and economic background, and or sex. This document emphasises the importance of strengthening families by prioritising the prevention of children's separation from their parents and families, and where separation is unavoidable, that family-based care should be considered before institutional care, aligning with the child's best interests.

It recommends Care System Reform in a multi-sectoral approach to address underlying push and pull factors of family separation through a proactive system with evidence and data-driven policies,

standards and interventions. It stresses the importance of child participation in decision-making and emphasises increased investment by Governments for sustainability. As a good practice, it encourages family tracing and reintegration where institutional care is not necessary, recognising that family integration is a core value in African societies and vital for a child's development.

The Committee advocates the adoption of personalised aftercare strategies to support children post family reintegration, ensuring their overall well-being. This document serves not only as a guiding document but also as a significant achievement in addressing the interconnected child rights issues associated with CWPC. ■

## PARTNERING FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: UPDATES FROM ACERWC AND GERMANY



The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) leads the way in forging brighter futures for Africa's children. With landmark initiatives ranging from strategic litigation and policy dialogues to fact-finding missions and innovative learning exchanges, the Committee continues setting the standard for impactful, African-led progress.

Collaboration between ACERWC and Germany, implemented through the GIZ Promotion of Human Rights and Empowerment of Women in Africa (AWARE) project, has brought fresh momentum to key joint projects. The support is tailored to the Committee's priorities, making sure external resources empower ACERWC and reinforce African leadership.

Among recent highlights of joint initiatives, ACERWC convened the Continental Symposium on Litigating Children's Rights. This gathering energized the use of the Committee's Communications Procedure under Article 44 and amplified

advocacy for vulnerable children, especially girls. A Litigants Group was created to help mobilize CSOs, NGOs, and legal practitioners, catalyzing expertise and commitment across the continent. Fact-finding missions, such as the work in Nigeria examining witchcraft accusations against children, shine light on urgent challenges and inform national advocacy. The partnership also places legal specialists in ACERWC's Working Group on Implementation of Decisions, ensuring diligent follow-up and promoting justice for all, particularly girls. Further joint efforts center on research, guideline development, and new learning networks to share good practice and fortify monitoring across Africa.

The German government remains firmly committed to supporting ACERWC's transformative agenda. By keeping the Committee's vision and expertise front and center, this partnership is poised to drive innovation, inspire collective action, and realize meaningful change for children's rights from the grassroots up. ■

*"Our partnership with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child spans over a decade. We are proud to support the Committee as the authoritative continental voice on children's rights that is turning the vision of the Children's Charter into real protection for Africa's children."*

**Dr. Tobias Thiel, Director GIZ African Union**

## Children's CORNER

Welcome welcome one and all  
To Lesotho's mountains tall!  
Where love and laughter fill the air  
And children's dreams are handled with care  
From east to west, from north to south  
We gather here hand in hand  
For every child's bright future now  
To build a safe and shining land  
To leaders bold, so strong and true  
We raise our voices-Thank You!  
For laws and care, for love soo wide  
For standing always by a child's side  
You plant the seed, you light the way  
You fight for justice day by day  
So here we stand with joyful cheer  
Grateful that you all are near  
Let's learn, let's grow, let's stand as one  
For every daughter, every son  
With hope, with peace, with dreams in sight  
We work to make the future bright!  
Welcome welcome feel at home  
Lesotho welcomes all who roam the world.

*Authored by Reitumetse Mokoma (17) From Lesotho - Letsema Child Rights Ambassadors*

*Sign Language Interpreter Masetene Phatsoane*

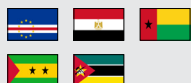


*End of Term:*  
March 2026

**Hon. Wilson Almeida Adão**

Special Rapporteur on Children in vulnerable Situations

Country Rapporteur for:

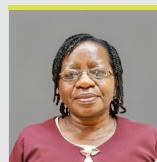
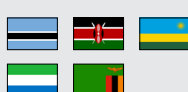


*End of Term:*  
March 2026

**Hon. Aver Gavar**

Special Rapporteur on Violence against Children

Country Rapporteur for:

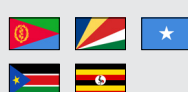


*End of Term:*  
March 2026

**Hon. Anne Musiwa**

Special Rapporteur on Children Without Parental Care

Country Rapporteur for:



*End of Term:*  
Feb. 2029

**Hon. Hermine KemboTakam G.**

Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage & other Harmful practices

Country Rapporteur for:



*End of Term:*  
March 2026

**Hon. Robert Doya Nanima**

Special Rapporteur on Children and Armed Conflicts

Country Rapporteur for:

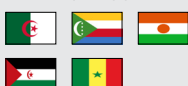


*End of Term:*  
March 2026

**Hon. Aboubekrine El Jera**

Special Rapporteur on Health, Welfare and Development

Country Rapporteur for:

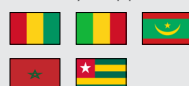


*End of Term:*  
July 2028

**Hon. Ghislain Roch Etsan**

Special Rapporteur on Child Participation

Country Rapporteur for:

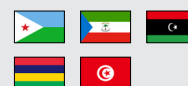


*End of Term:*  
July 2028

**Hon. Sabrina Gahar**

Special Rapporteur on Children on the Move

Country Rapporteur for:



*End of Term: March 2026*

**Hon. Joseph Sunday Sinnah**

Special Rapporteur on Child Justice

Country Rapporteur for:

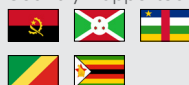


*End of Term: March 2026*

**Hon. Karoonawtee Chooramun**

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Name, Birth Registration and Nationality

Country Rapporteur for:

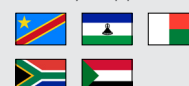


*End of Term: July 2028*

**Hon. Poloko Nuggert Ntshwarang**

Special Rapporteur on Education

Country Rapporteur for:



Rea  
leboha  
Hon.  
Aver!



*End of Term:*  
March 2026



### Honorable AVER GAVAR completes her 2<sup>nd</sup> term

Elected for the first time in 2015, Honourable. Aver Gavar was re-elected during the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in 2020, and has now completed two terms as member of the ACERWC.

Hon. Aver Gavar is a distinguished advocate for children's rights in Africa. She has held key roles at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nigeria and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). As ACERWC's Country Rapporteur for Botswana, Rwanda, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zambia and current Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Children, she has advanced child protection across the continent. At the NHRC, she serves as Director of Human Rights Education and Promotion, and previously led the Directorate of Women, Children and Vulnerable Groups from 2017 to 2019.



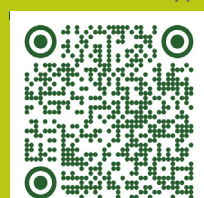
**ACERWC**  
African Committee of Experts on  
the Rights and Welfare of the Child

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Kingdom of Lesotho Tel: +266 5202 0018  
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