

Resolution on the Establishment of the Targeted State
Party Reporting Procedure of the African Committee of
Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

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The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee) during its 45th Ordinary Session held from 07-11 April 2025 in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho:

Considering its mandate to ensure the protection and promotion of children's rights in Africa, and more specifically, to receive and consider State Party reports on the status of the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (African Children's Charter)

Recalling that the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child stipulates an obligation on States Parties to submit report on the implementation of its provisions periodically pursuant to Article 43 of the Charter

Considering the Guidelines on the Form Content and Consideration of Initial and Periodic Reports, which lays down the procedure for the submission and consideration of State Party reports

Noting that since its adoption in 1990, 51 Member States have ratified the Charter, out of which 42 States Parties submitted at least one report on the implementation of the Charter in their respective countries

Further noting that only 23 States Parties have submitted periodic reports with only less than five meeting the periodicity of their reporting obligation

Being mindful of the challenges that States Parties face in meeting the required timeline for reporting due to lack of planning for reporting, lack of financial and technical resources for compiling the report, and lack of strong National Reporting and Follow-up Mechanisms

Recognizing that some countries that have not submitted their reports to the Committee are submitting reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is an opportunity States can further leverage to adapt and submit the same report to the Committee by integrating reports on the peculiar aspects of the African Children's Charter

Considering that States have expressed their challenges in terms of meeting the deadline of their reporting timelines due to the anticipated rigorous process which requires the submission of reports, receiving a list of issues from the Committee, and the submission of responses to the list of issues by States

Underlining the role of the State Party reporting procedure to foster the implementation of the rights of children contained in the African Children's Charter, to document best practices in implementation, and provide relevant recommendations on the measures to be undertaken to enhance implementation

Concerned by the increased trend of the lack of submission of reports by States Parties, which significantly affects the effective delivery of its mandate and the monitoring of the Charter

Being mindful that the Committee should play a proactive role to remind and encourage States Parties to fulfil their reporting obligation, including by advocacy and providing efficient procedures that aim to encourage States

Recognizing the need to establish alternative processes to the reporting procedure geared towards ensuring timely reporting and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Charter;

Hereby decides to establish a targeted state party reporting procedure which will be implemented on a case-by-case basis upon the decision of the Committee, without affecting the obligation of States on reporting under the Charter.

General Rules for the Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure

1. The Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure is a complementary procedure that operates in parallel with the State Party reporting procedure outlined in the Guidelines on the Form Content and Consideration of Initial and Periodic Reports.
2. The Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure does not relieve States Parties of their obligation to submit their initial report two years after ratification and three years thereafter pursuant to Article 43 of the Charter. It aims to facilitate the implementation of the reporting obligation of States in an effective manner.
3. The Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure is applied only to States Parties that have submitted their initial report.
4. The Committee identifies and selects States Parties that may participate in the Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure during one of its Sessions or, upon the decision of the Bureau, during the Intersession period.
5. The Committee may consider the number of reports submitted, the number of follow-up visits undertaken, the period lapsed since the submission of the previous report, and the nature of other advocacy engagements conducted in deciding which countries participate in the targeted procedure.
6. The Targeted State Party Reporting procedure is operational on the basis of a mutual agreement between the Committee and the States Parties identified.
7. The Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure does not preclude the engagement of children, CSOs, NHRIs and other stakeholders in the process of reporting and consideration of the report.

Procedure

1. The Committee identifies States Parties eligible to participate in the Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure during its Sessions. During the intersession period, the Committee may identify States Parties for the procedure through its Bureau in consultation with the designated Country Rapporteur.
2. The Committee should inform the intention to implement the Targeted Reporting Procedure to the identified States Parties and give the State Party 30 days to confirm acceptance.
3. The Committee shall invite CSOs, NHRIs, and children to submit comprehensive reports on the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the previous report, and implementation of the Charter in general.
4. The CSOs, NHRIs and children will have three months from the date of receipt of the secretariat's request, to submit their complementary reports on the State Party's implementation of the Charter and Committee's previous concluding observations and recommendations.
5. The Committee shall develop a list of issues prior to reporting to the respective States Parties which are a set of questions on issues arising from the previous report of the State Party, previous concluding observations and recommendations, follow-up visits if any, and preliminary overview of the situation of children's rights in the State with a focus on emerging and prevalent child rights issues.
6. The State Party shall submit a report addressing the list of issues on measures undertaken, progress achieved, and challenges faced which is the State Party report.
7. The State Party report shall be in line with the State Party Reporting Guidelines in terms of format and content and shall be compiled in a consultative manner including consulting children and child-led initiatives. The report should indicate these modalities for the consultation and inclusion of children.
8. The replies of the State Party should be submitted within a 6-month period after receiving the list of issues prior to reporting.
9. The Committee may hold a consultation with the CSO Coalitions, NHRIs, and children, either in one of its Pre-Sessions or, upon the decision of the Bureau, during the intersession period.
10. The consideration of the State Party Report shall be conducted during one of the Sessions of the Committee with the high-level Delegation of the State Party and the Committee Members.
11. The State Party may submit any additional information to complement its report until the consideration of the report by the Committee.
12. The Committee shall issue its concluding observation and recommendations to the State Party after the consideration of the report.

Entry to force

1. The Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure enters into force upon its adoption by the Committee during the 46th Ordinary Session on 6th December 2025.
2. The Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure shall remain in effect until suspended or terminated by the Committee through a similar decision-making process.

Amendment

1. The Committee may, at any given time, decide to amend the terms and processes of the Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure through a similar decision-making process as the adoption of the document.
2. The Committee will formally notify all States Parties of any changes in the implementation of this Resolution.

Adopted on 6 December 2025 during the 46th Ordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho
