



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

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

Comité Africano dos Direitos e
Bem-Estar da Crianças

اللجنة الأفريقية المعنية بحقوق الطفل ورفاهه

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**REPORT OF THE ACERWC ON THE FOLLOW-UP MISSION CONDUCTED TO
MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

01-03 December 2021

December 2021

- 1. Purpose of the Mission:** The purpose of the Mission was to monitor the level of implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations issued by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee) to the Government of Namibia. This followed the consideration of the latter's initial report on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC/the Charter) in 2015. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the Government of the Republic of Namibia for welcoming its Delegation to conduct the follow-up mission.
- 2. Objectives of the ACERWC in this Mission:** The Mission aimed at undertaking a constructive dialogue with representatives of various sectors from the Government of Namibia to learn about the progress achieved, challenges faced, and opportunities present in the implementation of its concluding observations and recommendations. The Committee also intended to bring stakeholders together to boost collaboration between the Government, UN agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and other stakeholders. Moreover, the Committee sought to enhance and accelerate the implementation of its recommendations and to ensure that the reporting cycle is maintained.
- 3. Output of the Mission:** The Mission provided an opportunity for the Government of Namibia to appreciate its progress in implementing the recommendations and thereby learn best practices that can be used by the Committee in its further engagement with other State Parties. Moreover, the Mission created an opportunity for the Government to identify and address its challenges in implementing the recommendations of the Committee. Additionally, the Mission created an opportunity to sensitize various organs of the Government as well as other stakeholders about the Charter, the Committee and Agenda 2040. Finally, the Mission also enhanced the continued commitment from the Government of Namibia to implement the recommendations and the provisions of the Charter as well as to submit its periodic report in a foreseeable future.
- 4. Delegation:** The Delegation of the ACERWC was composed of Hon. Robert Nanima, head of Delegation and Member of the ACERWC, Mr Ayalew Getachew Assefa, Senior Child Protection Officer; Mr Solomon Onsase, Senior Finance Officer, Ms Adiam Zemenfes Tsighe, Technical Expert, Mr Kameni Ngankam, Communication Officer, and Ms Opal Sibanda, Legal Researcher at the Secretariat of the Committee.
- 5. Methodology:** The Mission engaged in constructive discussions and bilateral meetings with representatives of the Government, UN Agencies, Office of the Ombudsman, CSOs, and children's representatives; as well as a consultative

workshop in the presence of all stakeholders including representatives of the Government, UN Agencies, Office of the Ombudsman, CSOs, and children's representatives.

6. Mission activities

6.1. Consultation with Various Ministries and other stakeholders

On 01 and 02 December 2021, the Committee had meetings with representatives of various Ministries and partners organizations, including:

- i. Deputy Minister of Gender, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and technical staff within the Ministry,
- ii. Namibian Police,
- iii. Ministry of Education,
- iv. Ministry of Health and Social Services,
- v. Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration,
- vi. Namibian Correctional Services,
- vii. UNICEF Namibia,
- viii. Namibian Child Rights Network,
- ix. Office of the Ombudsman, and
- x. Representatives of the Children's Parliament, Children's Federation and Namibian Children's Home

6.2. Workshop on the situation of children's rights in Namibia

One of the activities of the Mission was a consultative workshop on the implementation of its concluding observations and recommendations and the situation of children's rights in Namibia organized by the Committee. The Workshop brought together representatives from a wide range of Government Ministries, and other stakeholders including CSOs to assess the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations and identify gaps that can be improved through coordinated efforts. During the opening of the workshop, keynote speeches were delivered by the UNICEF Representative, Head of the Delegation of the ACERWC, and Child Representative. The Workshop was officially opened by the Minister of Gender, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare. The Workshop included presentations from the Secretariat about the Charter and the mandate of the Committee as well as the main aspects of the recommendations of the Committee to the Republic of Namibia on its initial report. Moreover, presentations were made by both the Government of Namibia and the CSOs about the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

7. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE MISSION

Based on the above-mentioned activities carried out during the Mission, the Delegation of the ACERWC identifies the following main findings on the status of the

implementation of its recommendations in particular, and the implementation of the Charter in general:

7.1. On General Measures of Implementation

- i. Reporting on the implementation of the African Children Charter (Submission of Periodic Report)-** The Delegation was informed that the State Party has prepared its first periodic report to the Committee which has already been approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee. The Government of Namibia indicated that the first periodic report will be sent to the Committee early 2022.
- ii. Legislative Measures:** The Delegation noted that the Child Care and Protection Act was adopted by the Government of Namibia as per the recommendation of the Committee. The Delegation was further informed that the Child Care and Protection Act has domesticated the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in its text and has the Charter as an annex. The Delegation further noted that some officials have been trained on the Child Care and Protection Act. However, the Child Care and Protection Act has not been translated to local languages and it is not widely disseminated. The Delegation noted that the Child Justice Bill has not been adopted yet as the Government wishes to adopt a Child Justice Policy and establish the institutions indicated in the bill before the bill gets adopted. The Government of Namibia informed that the Child Justice Policy has been already drafted and is awaiting approval. Moreover, the Delegation was informed that the State Party has ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and it is annexed to the Child Care and Protection Act. Furthermore, the Government of Namibia has adopted a new National Agenda for Children for 2018-2022. While the Delegation noted with appreciation the legislative measures, it noted that there is lack of sufficient budget allocation, lack of social workers (only one social worker for every 13000 children), psychologists and other human resource to implement the legislation including the new Child Care and Protection Act.
- iii. Domestication and dissemination of the Charter-** The Delegation noted that as the Charter is annexed to the Child Care and Protection Act, it is widely disseminated and domesticated. The Delegation appreciates the fact that such integration of the Charter also allows the provisions of the Charter to be justiciable in a court of law. The Delegation however noted that unlike the Convention on the Rights of the Child that has been summarized, there is no summarized version of the Charter. The Delegation also noted that the Charter is not translated into local languages.
- iv. Institutional measures and coordination:** The Delegation noted that the Ministry that was in charge of child and gender issues has been merged with other ministries

which were tasked with poverty eradication and social welfare. Under the new merged ministry, there are three Deputy Ministers, and seven Directorates where by one Directorate is designated for children's issues. Moreover, the Delegation noted that the Child Care and Protection Act establishes the National Advisory Council for Children which is the decision-making body for the coordination of children's issues chaired by the Executive Director of the Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare. The Council has already been inaugurated and held a meeting once. The Delegation also observed with appreciation that the recommendation of the Committee to extend the mandate of the Permanent Task Force on Orphaned and Vulnerable to cover all issues of children has been implemented. The Delegation noted that currently there is a Permanent Task Force for children which is a committee of technical people from various Ministries and other stakeholders including CSOs which meets quarterly. Children's rights issues are also integrated within the Ombudsman of Namibia through the child's advocate.

The Delegation further noted that the Department of Social Services is placed in the Ministry of Health which limits the scope of the provision of social services. While there are some better coordination mechanisms in the new Act, the Delegation noted that there is still a need to have a better coordination among the various Ministries.

- v. **Child Friendly Budgeting:** The Government of Namibia reassured that the merger of the various Ministries has not affected the budget allocation of the children's issues and informed the Delegation that the budget allocated for children's issues within the Ministry is managed by the Director in charge of children. The Delegation learned that the issue of delays in accessing the child grant that was raised in the concluding observations and recommendations is being dealt with by the State Party through the adoption of a policy, an integrated information system for data, and digital system for the application of the child grant based on the data. Moreover, the Delegation received information that there is a plan to integrate an automatic adjustment to the child grant and the child disability grant in the upcoming years to increase the grant in line with inflation.

The Delegation was informed that the application process for the grant application has been fast-tracked in line with the recommendation of the Committee by recruiting over 41 volunteers who process grant applications by the support of CSOs.

- vi. **Collaboration with CSOs:** The Delegation observed that the Government of Namibia has a good working relationship with CSOs and that CSOs are part of the coordinating mechanisms. Moreover, the Namibian Child Rights Network works with

the Government and has presence at district level in the form of regional child care forums.

vii. Data: The Delegation noted that lack of data is one of the main challenges on the implementation of laws and policies. There are various information systems and data portals on similar issues based on the needs of donors and this has created fragmented data. In addition, some Ministries may not share data unless CSOs and stakeholders have a data sharing agreement with the Ministries and the data CSOs gather and use is not reflected in the national data. The Delegation was informed that there is an initiation to harmonize the information systems and that a Statistics Strategic Plan on Child Protection is developed to ensure that there is evidence based decision making.

viii. Strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Institute: The Delegation noted that the Office of the Ombudsman of Namibia has a children's advocate who is authorized to investigate any child rights violations, monitor the implementation of laws including international treaties, take cases to the court on behalf of children, and raise awareness about the Child Care and Protection Act.

7.2. On the Definition of the child and other age-related requirements

The Child Care and Protection Act harmonizes the definition of the age and repeals other laws that are contradictory. The Act also harmonizes the minimum age of marriage in Namibia.

7.3. General Principles

i. **Non-discrimination:** The Child Care and Protection Act repeals the Child Status Act's discriminatory provisions about the custody of children and ensures equal role of both parents in raising a child. Moreover, it also addresses the discriminatory provisions that existed with regards to the inheritance of children born out of wedlock. The State Party informed the Delegation that discrimination on customary marriages and inheritance is still a challenge and in order to address these issues the State Party has drafted two laws namely the Matrimonial Property Regime Bill and the Intestate Succession Bill which repeal the offensive and overtly racist Native Administration Proclamation Act, 1928 (Act No.15 of 1928) and provide for a uniform matrimonial property regime for all civil marriages. In addition, the Delegation noted that issues relating to marginalised communities are addressed through the Marginalised Program under the Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare. The Delegation further noted that the payment of grants is discriminatory as it was informed that grants are not provided to parents of non- Namibian children. However, it was noted that when it comes to other basic services such as education, non-Namibian children have equal access to those services.

- ii. **Right to life, survival, and development:** The Delegation noted that infant, child, and maternal mortality remain to be high in the State Party and this is caused due to lack of quality of care. The Delegation was informed that mortality for under 1 children was at 39.9% whilst that of under 5 children was at 42.4 %, an improvement from the previous 45% although still too high. The Delegation noted with appreciation that the State Party has launched safety net programs where it provides cash transfer to economically disadvantaged children which has become instruments especially during Covid-19. The Delegation noted that based on the poverty analysis that was conducted with the support of UNICEF, 50% of Namibian children live in multidimensional poverty as opposed to 41% of the general population and the reason for the increased poverty of children is due to nutrition, food security. Furthermore, the Delegation noted that despite the fact that Namibia is an upper-middle income country, it has high rate of malnutrition and stunting whereby 30% of under five children are stunted and in some communities such as the Sun community the rate goes higher up to 70%.
- iii. **Best interest of the child:** The Child Care and Protection Act is the first law in the State Party that provides for the best interests of the child to be a key consideration on matters concerning children and the Child Justice Bill is also driven by the principle of the best interests of the child.
- iv. **Participation of the child:** The Delegation noted that Namibia has a Children's Parliament composed of children representatives from the various regions of the Country. The outcome of the meetings of the child parliament and its motions are read before the Parliament of the State Party in the presence of the concerned Ministers. While the Children's Parliament is strong in the State Party, there is a lack of a budget for the Children's parliament to undertake its activities and hence seats biennial and is not decentralized. Recently, the participation of children in the International Day of the Child was very significant as the celebration was led by the Heads of States of Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana and where children from all the four countries raised their voices and concerns with their leaders. The Delegation however noted that children who are out of school and in the informal settlements are not included in various child participation platforms.

7.4. Civil Rights and Freedoms

- i. **Birth registration:** The Delegation was informed that the State Party has launched e-birth registration whereby 46 hospitals and 67 facilities make use of the e-birth registration system. There is a roll out plan in place to ensure that the e-birth registration is rolled out to more facilities. The Delegation noted that there is an increased rate of birth registration, however, the issue of registration of children of undocumented parents, children on the move and the cultural aspects of naming a child which delay birth registration pose challenge on birth

registration. The Government also undertakes mobile outreach programs for birth registration of marginalized and remote communities. Moreover, the Delegation noted that birth registration is provided for free and no fine is attached to late birth registration. The Delegation was also informed that the Cabinet gave a Directive that the Ministry of Home Affairs develops a Bill on statelessness in the country.

- ii. **Protection from abuse:** While noting with appreciation the banning of corporal punishment in schools and residential care facilities, the Delegation observed the lack of a legal prohibition of corporal punishment in the home setting. The Government of Namibia conducted a study on violence against children where it found out that corporal punishment in the home setting is prevalent. Therefore, the Government appreciated the need to ban corporal punishment in the home setting, review the parenting manual, conduct training of parents to promote positive parenting practices and the use of alternative disciplinary measures.

The Delegation was further informed of the presence of Gender Based Violence Protection Units (GBV Units) in all the regions in the State Party. Furthermore, the Delegation was informed that the government in collaboration with UNICEF developed training manuals on Domestic Violence and GBV. Notably, the manuals encompass issues of child protection. Further, pocket books to deal with GBV and child protection were developed. The government informed the Delegation that police officers and other officials have been trained to deal with cases of GBV, including child protection.

7.5. Family environment and alternative care

The Delegation was informed that there is only one government owned shelter and 20 residential care facilities which are subsidies by the government for children without parental care. There are also many privately run residential care facilities and places of safety are not in all regions The State Party indicated that it is moving towards safety houses in a family whereby it is recruiting parents for such homes after a psychological clearance, police clearance, and financial status assessment of families. Even though abandoning a baby is prohibited by law, there are cases of baby abandoning and such babies are also placed in safety homes. The Delegation was informed that there are child headed families and these children who are usually not separated are provided with grants and other support by the Government and CSOs so they can access basic services.

7.6. Health and welfare

The Delegation noted with appreciation that children with Namibian nationality are provided with free health services while children of other nationality pay for such services. The Delegation observed that 50% of households do not have sanitation and the issue of WASH in informal settlements is a challenge. Moreover, the Delegation learned that since 2017, there was Hepatitis E outbreak. The Delegation was informed that some hospitals' conditions are bad for example Katutura Hospital. Further, there are no children's hospitals and usually, sections for children are found in bigger hospitals. The Delegation was further informed that there are mobile clinics to cater for the far and nomadic areas such as Omaheke and Kunene regions. Further, the government informed the Delegation that external health workers are recruited at grassroots level and are trained on areas of health including child protection issues. The Delegation was informed that whilst the government undertakes a Demographic and Health Survey every 5 years, there are challenges of funds hence the last survey was conducted in 2013.

The Delegation received information that children's sexual and reproductive health needs are not met as condoms and contraception are out of stock in the Government facilities and such services are currently being provided by donors.

The Delegation was further informed that there are concerns on the mental health of children as there have been some cases of children committing suicide due to various issues such as bullying and abuse.

7.7. Education and leisure

Since the Committee sent its concluding observations and recommendations, the Delegation noted that the State Party has embarked on providing free primary and secondary education. The Delegation noted that based on its recommendations, the compulsory school development fund has been abolished both in primary and secondary education. However, there are costs which are not covered by the State including uniforms, stationery, and sanitary materials. Further, during its bilateral meetings, the Delegation was informed that there have been instances where children have to pay a certain fee in order to be re-admitted back to school in 2022. The Delegation noted that there is a challenge with regards to the Early Childhood Development (ECD) as there is low enrollment of 36% in ECD Centers, inaccessibility of the ECD centers in all areas, and the ECD centers are not part of the school system, they are mostly run by the private sector and lack the necessary quality as the educators are not well trained. In addition, the Government does not fund all ECD centers due to its financial constraints. The Government informed that the State Party has launched a campaign to promote ECD among parents and it is putting efforts to integrate ECD in the formal education system by moving the ECD program from the Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to the Ministry of Education.

Currently the issue if ECDs are dealt by Ministry Education, Health, and Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and there is a National Coordinating Mechanism for ECDs.

The Delegation noted that teenage pregnancy is one of the main causes for dropout of schools and particularly when the schools reopened after Covid-19, over 30,000 girls did not come back to school due to pregnancy, whilst 3 625 reported back to school pregnant In addition, the Delegation observed that dropout of secondary education is partly caused by lack of social support systems for school children. The Government also informed the Delegation that a survey conducted in 2015 revealed that children living in remote and marginalized communities are more likely to drop out of school and also that teenage pregnancy is more prevalent in those communities. In this regard, the Government of Namibia indicated that it is planning to expand the school feeding program to cover all secondary schools. Currently the school feeding program is fully funded by the Government and is mainly provided in primary schools. Moreover, the Delegation noted that the Government is planning to launch home grown school feeding program to provide their local food to the children and to ensure the sustainability of the program.

In relation to the education of children with disabilities, the Delegation noted that there are three special schools. The Delegation however noted that not all schools in the country have facilities for children with disabilities. The government informed the Delegation that a standard plan is being finalized to ensure that school structures are disability friendly.

7.8. Special measures of protection

- i. **Refugee/asylum-seeking children:** The Delegation was informed that there is no specific Act dealing with refugee children but there is an Act that deals with refugees generally. The Delegation was further informed that refugee and asylum-seeking children are hosted in a refugee camp wherein they have access to basic services such as education and health. Social workers also provide services to children in refugee camps. However, the Delegation noted that there is a camp only in the capital and refugee children in other areas are usually exploited to work in the farms.
- ii. **Access to justice and Children in conflict with the law:** The Delegation noted that the age of criminal responsibility remains to be 7 years as the new Child Justice Bill has not entered into force. However, the Government of Namibia indicated that the Child Justice Bill raises the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an acceptable standard and provides for restorative justice. However, the adoption of the Child Justice Bill is delayed as the institutions and social workers that are supposed to implement the Bill are not available. The Delegation, for instance, found out that according to the Child Justice Bill,

children in conflict with the law have to be assessed by social workers to determine if they can be diverted from the criminal justice system, yet there are no social workers who can do this if the Bill is passed.

The Delegation was informed that there is a child witness program in place by the office of the Prosecutor General wherein training is provided for judges and other personnel in the justice system across the country to make courts more victim friendly and ensure protection of child victims and witnesses in collaboration with UNICEF. The Delegation was further informed that other support persons such as retired teachers and nurses are trained as well. However, the Delegation noted that children friendly courts are not there in the whole country and victim friendly courts only exist in the capital. The Delegation was informed that whilst some victim friendly courts have been established for example in Okakarara, they are not operational. In some cases, prosecutors come up with other ways for ensuring that court processes are child friendly.

The State Party highlighted that children in conflict with the law are mostly sentenced to non-custodial sentences and in cases where custodial sentence is passed, they are detained separately. The Delegation noted that there is only one detention facility for children as the number of children in detention is very small. For instance, during the mission, the Delegation found out that there are only 4 children in conflict with the law who are under detention. The Delegation was further informed that education is provided in the detention facilities. The Delegation was further informed that efforts are made to rehabilitate children in conflict with the law and they are linked up with other relevant programs for rehabilitation.

However, the Delegation noted that whilst the Child Care and Protection Act makes provision for places of safety for children awaiting trial, children in conflict with the law awaiting trial are detained in police cells and such detention of children in the police cells is not conducive. The Delegation was informed that the Children's Advocate once took the Minister in charge of correctional services to the High Court on the handling of children in the police cells. Currently there are separate detention facilities for children in the police cells despite the various challenges they face therein.

- iii. **Children of incarcerated mothers/primary caregivers:** Children incarcerated with their mothers are kept in prison only until they are two years old after, which alternative care is sought for them. The Delegation was informed that there is separate detention for mothers and pregnant women where baby cots and nutrition is provided. However, the Delegation noted that budget becomes a

challenge to provide all services for the children and there are times where children are kept in the prison beyond 2 years.

- iv. **Sexual abuse and exploitation:** The Delegation found out that the Government conducted a study on violence against children which led to the development of an action plan and strategy on violence against children. The Study also revealed that sexual abuse is mostly caused by family members. The State Party is also a path finder country. However, the Delegation noted that there are no one stop services for survivors of sexual abuse where they can report and get services at the same time. While there is a referral mechanism for gender based violence in the police unit which is decentralized at regional level, it is not well popularized and utilized. The Study the Government conducted on Violence Against Children revealed that there is a need to build the capacity of magistrates, police and prosecutors on child protection issues so that they deal with issues of violence against children in a better way and also to develop and implement national plan of action on violence against children.

The Delegation was further informed that cases of abuse against children in the State Party are underreported due to a number of reasons such as the stigma associated with abuse and fear of retaliation. The Study Conducted by the government on Violence Against Children indicated that most children do not know where to report cases, especially boys. The government informed the Delegation that a referral flow chart for GBV was developed to guide survivors on the steps to be taken to report cases.

The Delegation observed that there was no government shelter for survivors and now the Government managed to procure shelters in 8 regions which started operating in November 2021.

Moreover, the Delegation was informed that some children are exposed to child sexual abuse material as more children nowadays are more engaged in the digital environment.

- v. **Drug abuse:** The Delegation observed that substance abuse by children is a challenge and a study conducted in 2014 and 2015 revealed that children as young as 9 years are involved in drug and substance abuse. However, there are no rehabilitation services provided by the Government for minors. The other rehabilitation centers available in the State Party are not accessible due to the high costs involved. The Delegation was informed by the Government that a rehabilitation facility for children is being constructed and will be operational in

2023. However, priority is given to community based rehabilitation for children. The Delegation was informed that awareness raising is being conducted in areas that are hotspots for drug abuse such as Havana but the challenge still persists.
- vi. **Child labour:** The Delegation noted that despite the Labor Act which prohibits child labor, children at a very young age are engaged in child labor as farmers and shepherds by their families especially in the rural areas. Furthermore, there are cases of children who sell items in the streets and by the roads in the country. The Delegation was further informed that some of the children who are used for child labor are undocumented children who come into the country. While the Ministry of Labor undertakes inspection, it only conducts inspection on commercial farms and not household farms where many children are being exploited. The Delegation was informed that the State Party has established an inter-ministerial Committee on child labor which consist of the key Ministries of gender and the Namibian Police and carries out multi-sectoral outreach to identify and address child labour cases.
 - vii. **Child trafficking:** The Delegation observed that cases of child trafficking identified by CSOs has increased. In this regard, the State Party informed that has established National Referral Mechanism on trafficking, conducts capacity building, and developed Immigration Standard Operation Procedure Manual for the training of immigration officials to identify possible victims of trafficking.
 - viii. **Harmful practices:** The Delegation observed that in addition to raising the minimum age of marriage, there is a fine attached to acts of child marriage. However, the Delegation noted that the Customary Marriage bill is not adopted yet to harmonize age of customary marriage.
 - ix. **Children on the street:** The Delegation observed that there is no shelter by the Government to accommodate for such children and other children in need of shelter. There is lack of services for children on the street in terms of education and social services such as birth registration. The Delegation was informed that children living in the streets are more involved in drug and alcohol abuse. The Government also informed the Delegation that some police officers received training to deal with children living in the streets. The Delegation however noted that whilst efforts have been made by the government to take the children off the streets, the children were going back to the street.

7.9. Emerging/Current issues

The Committee notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a number of challenges thereby impeding the realization of children's rights. The right to education has been the most affected as there is a high number of children who reported back to school pregnant whilst some did not totally report back to school due to pregnancy.

Such incidents can be attributed to the lockdown measures imposed by the government as children became susceptible to abuse when they were stuck at home.

8. Actions points

Based on the abovementioned findings, the Committee recommends for the State Party to undertake the following measures to implement the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee as well as the provisions of the Charter:

- Submit its first periodic report to the Committee early 2022 as indicated in the discussions during the mission;
- Translate the Charter and the Child Care and Protection Act to local Languages, produce summary child friendly versions and widely disseminate them;
- Allocates sufficient funds for the implementation of the Child Care and Protection Act;
- Fast track the adoption of the Matrimonial Property Regime Bill and the Interstate Succession Bill to address discrimination in customary marriages and inheritance;
- Ensures that there is sufficient budget allocation for the Children's Parliament to enable the parliament to execute its mandate and ensure effective and meaningful participation of children;
- Ensures that Early Childhood Development (ECD) for children is provided by the Government, and that the Government supports and monitors ECD centers;
- Identifies the main causes for the very high rate of stunting in the State Party and devises informed measures to address the issues of stunting by crafting cross sectorial measures;
- Undertakes measures to improve the conditions of hospitals in the country and ensure that hospital facilities are disability friendly. The State Party is further encouraged to ensure that children's mental health is prioritized especially during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Formulates specific and targeted measures for marginalized communities to address poverty and ensure access to basic services by such communities;
- Undertakes measures to address the existing high levels of dropouts from schools at secondary education by creating school retention strategies such as extension of school feeding in secondary education, providing sanitary pads, removing indirect fees such as costs for school materials, uniforms, and readmission fees;
- Provides sexual education and sexual and reproductive health services to prevent teenage pregnancy;

- Takes effective measures to ensure that primary caregivers are not subjected to custodial sentences and in the event that a custodial sentence is given, children do not spend more than the 2 year stipulated period in prison with their mothers;
- Undertakes effective measures to prevent child labor including in the home setting among others;
- Establishes child friendly courts for children in contact with the law and provides regular training for the police and judges on issues of child protection;
- Undertakes measures to fast-track the adoption of the Child Justice Bill which has been a draft for over 15 years and ensure that the Child Justice Bill raises the minimum age of criminal responsibility to meet internationally set standards which is currently set at the age of 7;
- Establishes diversion program for children in conflict with the law; provide places of safety for them and ensure that these children are not detained in police cells pending trial;
- Establishes one-stop centers for survivors of child abuse and popularize the referral mechanism for GBV to enable survivors to report cases;
- Undertakes effective measures to address the situation of children living in the streets and ensure that those children are taken to places of safety where they can receive basic services;
- Addresses the root causes of drug and substance abuse among children and establish rehabilitation facilities for children who have been affected by drug abuse;
- Undertakes legislative measures to ensure that corporal punishment is explicitly prohibited by law in the home setting and conducts sensitization among caregivers on positive disciplining; and
- Ensures that children continue enjoying their rights during the COVID-19 pandemic and continue implementing the provisions of the Committee's Guiding Note on Children's Rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.