

African Union



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



Keeping our Commitment to the African Child



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the Rights & Welfare of the Child

Status of implementation of
the Charter & **Agenda 2040**:

**in the East
Africa Region**

24 November, 2020



Keeping our Commitment
to the African Child!

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**Workshop on Status of Children's Rights in
East Africa Region Outcome Statement**

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

24 November 2020, Addis Ababa

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The African Committee of Experts on the Rights meeting at its 36th Ordinary Session and the Workshop on the Status of Children’s Rights in Eastern Africa Region in commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on 24 November 2020;

Recalling its mandate to protect and promote children’s rights in Africa as well as monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

In line with the Decision of the Executive Council (EX.CL/DEC.1084(XXXVI)), where the Council ‘Welcomes the initiative of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) to lead on the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the adoption of the African Children’s Charter in the year 2020; and Urges Member States of the African Union to take concrete steps to commemorate the Anniversary in 2020 and intensify their efforts to ensure the full implementation of the African Children’s Charter;

Recognising the efforts that Members States have taken in implementing the African Children’s Charter **and** Africa’s Agenda for Children (Agenda 2040); **further recognising** that the year 2020 sets a milestone in providing an opportunity to assess the implementation of the Charter as well as Agenda 2040;

Considering the findings of the ACERWC’s studies on the status of implementation of Agenda 2040 and harmonisation of laws, and noting the presentations from:

- i. The Republic of Kenya,**
- ii. The Republic of Madagascar,**
- iii. The Republic of Mauritius,**
- iv. The Republic of the Seychelles,**
- v. The Republic of the Sudan,**
- vi. The East African Community (EAC), and**
- vii. The East African Child Rights Network (EACRN);**

Commends the measures undertaken by States in Eastern Africa, particularly for:

- The submission of two periodic reports by the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda;
- Reducing the gender disparity in school enrolment at primary level;
- Increasing access to basic services including health and education;
- Significantly reducing child mortality; and
- Initiating law reforms to align laws with the Charter.

At the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Charter, the Committee calls Eastern African States to:

- Continue the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Charter in the year 2021 along with the theme and activities of the Day of the African Child for the Year 2021-‘**30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children**’.
- The Federal Republic of Somalia and the Republic of South Sudan to ratify the Charter;
- The Republic of the Sudan to withdraw its reservations on articles 10, 11(6), and 21(2) of the Charter;
- The Republic of Djibouti and the Republic of Mauritius to submit their initial report to the Committee;
- The Union of Comoros, the State of Eritrea, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of Uganda to expedite the submission of their first periodic report to the Committee;

- The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to adopt a comprehensive child rights law that is in line with the provisions of the Charter;
- Fast-track the process of the adoption of child laws which are under review and to ensure that the revisions are in line with the standards set by the Charter in areas of definition of the child, age of criminal responsibility, minimum age of marriage, among other issues;
- Increase the budget allocated for the rights and wellbeing of children including in sectors of education, health, justice, and other sectors that involve children;
- Further increase the gender parity in school enrolment and school completion rate and take legislative and administrative measures to ensure that girls who fall pregnant while in school continue their education with no restriction at all;
- Increase access to sexual reproductive education and services to adolescents;
- Ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence against children by prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings, removing death penalty against children in its entirety, addressing cross border female genital mutilation, and duly investigating and convicting perpetrators of sexual abuse and economic exploitation against children;
- Protect children in emergency situations such as conflict including the radicalization of children and involving them in acts of terrorism; and migration by strengthening efforts on prevention as well as provision of support; and
- Undertake measures to mitigate the negative impact of Covid-19 on the overall wellbeing of children including their mental, physical, social, and psychological wellbeing.

Done at the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child virtually held on 23 November – 04 December 2020.