

## RESOLUTION NO 16/2022 OF THE ACERWC WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

**The Working Group on Implementation of Decisions of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Committee) during its second meeting held virtually on 16 March 2022;**

**BEARING IN MIND** that one of the core mandates of the Committee is to provide recommendations and decisions to Member States which require implementation at domestic level;

**COGNISANT** that the effective implementation of the Committee's recommendations and decisions by State Parties ensures greater protection and promotion of children's rights and wellbeing in Africa;

**GUIDED** by the Resolution establishing the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations, adopted during the Committee's 35<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, held virtually from 31 August to 08 September 2020;

**CONSIDERING** the increasing number of various decisions, recommendations and resolutions that the Committee issues in line with its mandate to receive and consider State Party Reports, receive and consider communications/complaints on violations of children's rights, undertake investigative, fact-finding and follow up missions, and issue letters of urgent appeals;

**NOTING** the follow-up mechanisms that exist within the Committee's existing procedures such as follow-up country visits, reporting on implementation of decisions by States, conducting implementation hearings, among others;

**DEEPLY CONCERNED** by the lack of compliance and the slow implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Committee by State Parties as observed through the follow-up mechanisms;

**CONCERNED** that States fail to provide periodic reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee issued following the consideration of preceding reports;

**NOTING WITH CONCERN** that the Committee received no response from States to which it issued urgent letter of appeals or provisional measures;

**RECOGNIZING** the lack of full implementation of the decisions of the Committee as observed during follow-up missions, reports and implementation hearings;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the challenges that contribute to the non-compliance and slow implementation of decisions by State Parties, including inadequate national legislative frameworks harmonised with the Charter; lack of coordination, lack of political commitment, and insufficient budgetary allocation;

**APPLAUDING** the positive progress made by some State Parties at the national level to develop and coordinate domestic mechanisms for the implementation of and compliance with the decisions and recommendations issued by the Committee;

**NOTING** the existing mechanisms established by the Committee to ensure the implementation of its decisions and recommendations play a crucial role in assisting States identify the progress they have achieved as well as the remaining challenges;

## **HEREBY AGREE AND CALL UPON**

### **STATE PARTIES TO:**

- i. Translate, disseminate, and raise awareness on all the decisions and recommendations of the Committee;
- ii. Fast-track the implementation of decisions and recommendations issued by the Committee and abide by the deadlines set for the relevant follow-up procedures;
- iii. Establish a comprehensive national reporting and monitoring mechanism for the implementation and compliance with the Committee's decisions and recommendations as well as reporting on the status of implementation of decision to the committee;
- iv. Develop a roadmap on the implementation of the decisions of the Committee in consultation with relevant Ministries, government organs, NHRIs, children, UN Agencies, CSOs, and other stakeholders;
- v. Ensure that the decisions and recommendations of the Committee are taken into consideration in determining priority areas, allocating budget, developing laws and policies, making decisions, and any other administrative and judicial measures adopted;
- vi. Strengthen coordination between the various government ministries and organs involved in the protection and promotion of children's rights to ensure effective evaluation of the implementation of decisions at both national and local levels;
- vii. Facilitate sufficient budgetary allocation and administrative resources to develop and strengthen national legislation for the implementation and monitoring of decisions;
- viii. Promote greater involvement of stakeholders working on children's right in all the stages of the reporting and monitoring process;

- ix. Further ensure a more meaningful participation of children's groups, especially those created by children themselves, in all processes involving the development and strengthening of implementation of decisions of the Committee;
- x. Provide the necessary support to the works and activities of the Committee in particular during follow-up missions to State Parties;

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOS) AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTES (NHRIS) TO:**

- i. Undertake regular review and inquiries related to the status of implementation and compliance of State Parties of the Committee's decisions and recommendations;
- ii. Promote harmonisation of national legislation with the Charter and the decisions of the Committee to promote effective implementation of decisions and recommendations;
- iii. Conduct awareness raising and sensitisation campaigns to highlight the importance of timely implementation of decisions and recommendations issued by the Committee in their respective State Parties;
- iv. Support the efforts of States in the process of implementation of decisions by availing their expertise;
- v. Provide reports to the Committee on the status of the implementation of its decisions in their respective countries

**Done on 01 April 2022 during the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ACERWC held virtually from 21 March 2022-01 April 2022.**