



Comité Africain d'Experts sur les Droits et le Bien-être de l'Enfant
Comité Africano dos Direitos e Bem-Estar da Crianças
لجنة الخبراء الإفريقية المعنية بحقوق الطفل ورفاهه



**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FOLLOW-UP MISSION ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD ON THE INITIAL REPORT OF THE**

Republic of Sierra Leone

8-11 August 2023

Background

1. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child requires State Parties to submit reports on the measures undertaken to realize the rights contained therein. Article 43 of the Charter stipulates that State Parties are supposed to submit their initial report two years after ratification and their periodic reports every three years thereafter. In line with this obligation, in 2017 the Republic of Sierra Leone submitted its initial report on the status of the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the African Children's Charter/the Charter). The ACERWC considered the Republic of Sierra Leone's initial report during its 30th Ordinary Session, which was held from 6 to 16 December 2017.
2. Rule 74 of the Rules of Procedures of the Committee states that the Committee should undertake follow-up on the implementation of its concluding observations and recommendations. More specifically, Section VIII (b) of the Procedure for the Consideration of State Party Reports stipulates that the Committee undertakes field visit to follow-up on its recommendations on State Party reports. Undertaking a mission to monitor the implementation of its recommendations is also in line with article 45(1) of the Charter, which gives the Committee the mandate to undertake investigative missions on matters and issues falling within the scope of the Charter. In accordance with these rules and its mandate, the Committee intends to undertake a follow-up mission in the Republic of Sierra Leone to assess the status of implementation of concluding observations and recommendations.

Rationale

3. The main rationale behind the whole process of the State Party reporting mechanism is giving States an opportunity to evaluate their laws, policies and actions, and to determine if their laws are in line with the Charter and receiving guidelines and recommendations from the Committee on the kinds of measures the State ought to take to reinforce their efforts in implementing the African Children's Charter. The follow-up mission assists the State Parties to assess their efforts in realizing the recommendations of the Committee issued following the consideration of the State Party report. Furthermore, the mission helps the Committee to understand the progress made, the challenges faced and the opportunities that exist in the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations.
4. Moreover, the discussion during the follow-up mission will inform the contents of the upcoming periodic report of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Hence, it serves as a reminder that the periodic report is due and that the periodic report should include

information about the implementation of the previous recommendations of the Committee.

5. The mission will also create an opportunity to increase the visibility of the Committee among government organs and CSOs in Sierra Leone and to popularize the State Party reporting mechanism including the Committee's concluding observations and recommendations among various actors. Such awareness further enables CSOs and other stakeholders to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee in the future.
6. Most importantly, the follow-up visit ensures that the State Party reporting mechanism is not a one-time incident; rather that it is a continuous process in which the implementation of the provisions of the Charter is thoroughly assessed without creating a vacuum where issues of children are forgotten.

Objectives of the mission

7. The mission has the following key objectives:
 - To identify achievements in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee which can be shared as best practices with other State Parties and stakeholders through various activities of the Committee;
 - To identify challenges that the Government is facing in the implementation of the recommendations in order to suggest mechanisms to address the challenges as well as solicit assistance from other stakeholders;
 - To inform the Committee about the kinds of interventions it may undertake to assist the State Party in the implementation of its recommendations as well as the Charter;
 - To create an opportunity of stronger partnership with CSOs and stakeholders working with and for children;
 - To inform potential partners and stakeholders about the gaps that exist in the implementation of the Charter;
 - To look for opportunities of resource mobilization for the protection and promotion of children's rights in the Republic of Sierra Leone; and,
 - To suggest actions that may be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee and the provisions of the Charter.

Methodology

The Committee intends to achieve the abovementioned objectives through two main activities:

1. **Undertake constructive dialogue with Government organs and other stakeholders-** The Committee intends to hold multilateral conversations with various Ministries of the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone to hold discussions about the measures undertaken to implement the recommendations of the Committee and challenges faced. Such dialogue enables the Committee to assess specific issues of child rights and get detailed information on the matter. The Committee intends to undertake constructive dialogue with the Ministries in charge of children’s rights and Ministries and other government organs, which have works and activities in relation to children’s rights. The Committee will also have discussions with UN Agencies such as UNICEF, children’s representatives, and CSOs including Save the Children, Plan International, and other local and international Organisations working on children’s rights and welfare.
2. **Organize a workshop-** As part of its follow-up mission, the Committee also intends to organize a one-day workshop to bring together various Ministries, government agencies, Children, CSOs, UN agencies and other stakeholders together to discuss about the progress and challenges in the implementation of the recommendations of the Charter.

Time frame

The ACERWC intends to undertake the Mission from 8-11 August 2023.

Draft Program of Work

Date	Time	Activity	Presenter/Organizer
8 August	09:00-10:00	Courtesy call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	10:30-11:30	Courtesy call on the Minister of Gender and Children’s Affairs.	Children’s Affairs Directorate
	11:30-12:30	Meeting with the Children’s Affairs Directorate.	
	12: 35 01: 35	Ministry of Social Welfare	Social Welfare
	13: 40 15: 25	Meeting with UNICEF	ACERWC
	15:30-17:30	Meeting with the Child Rights Coalition.	

9 August	09:00-12:00	Meeting with the various Ministries with relevant mandate on children's rights, such as the Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Basic, Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Law Officers' Department, Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Justice Sector Coordination Office, Sierra Leone Correctional Services, Sierra Leone Police, Family Support Unit.	Children's Affairs Directorate / Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	14:00-15:30	Meeting with the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Sierra Leone.	Children's Affairs Directorate / Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10 August	09:00-11:00	Meeting with the Children's Forum Network.	Children's Affairs Department / Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	11:30-13:00	Visit to Children's Court//correctional facilities for children in contact with the law.	Children's Affairs Department / Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	14:00-16:00	Visit to children's homes.	Children's Affairs Department / Ministry of Foreign Affairs
11 August	Workshop on the status of the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations of the ACERWC and preparation of the first periodic report		
	09:00-09:30	Registration	ACERWC
	09:30-10:50	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remarks by Children's Representative - Remarks by the representative of Child Right Coalition - Remarks by the Country Representative -UNICEF - Remarks by the Head of Delegation of the ACERWC - Remarks from the Ministry of Social Welfare 	ACERWC

		- Remarks by the Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs	
	10:50-11:40	Presentation and discussion about the Charter and the Committee.	ACERWC
	11:40-11:55	Tea Break	
	11:55-12:45	Presentation and discussion the content and structure of Reporting to the ACERWC.	ACERWC
	12:45-13:35	Presentation by Children's Affairs Directorate on the status of implementation of the concluding observations.	Children's Affairs Directorate
	13:35-14:25	Lunch	
	14:25-15:15	Presentation by Child Rights Coalition on the status of implementation of the concluding observations.	Child Rights Coalition
	15:15-15:30	Concluding Remarks by the ACERWC and Representatives of Children Services Department.	ACERWC and Children's Affairs Directorate