

ACERWC Secretariat

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 18/2021 ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CHILD MARRIAGE AND OTHER HARMFUL PRACTICES**

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), meeting at its 37th Ordinary Session, held virtually from 15 to 26 March 2021.

**Considering** its mandate on the promotion of the rights and welfare of the child in Africa pursuant to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

**Recalling** Article 38(1) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Charter) that authorizes the ACERWC to establish its own Rules of Procedures, which the ACERWC developed and revised in 2013, 2015 and 2020 respectively;

**Considering** Rule 58 of the Revised Rules of Procedure, which allows the ACERWC to establish special mechanisms and assign specific tasks or mandates to either an individual member or group of members concerning the preparation of its sessions or the execution of special programs, studies and projects;

**Mindful** of the fact that the preamble of the Revised Rules of Procedure provides that “Special mechanisms” shall be understood to mean either special rapporteur, working group, study group, sub-committee or other subsidiary body established by the Committee with a specific mandate;

**Considering** the ACERWC’s decision on the establishment of country and thematic based rapporteurs, adopted at its 28th ordinary Session, held on 21 October – 1 November 2016 in Banjul, The Gambia;

**Noting** with concern the wide and growing prevalence of child marriage and various harmful practices in Africa;

**Recognizing** the seriousness of the negative impact of child marriage and other harmful practices in the enjoyment of the rights recognized in the Charter;

**Underscoring** the importance of standard setting on and promoting the implementation of prohibitions of child marriage and harmful practices in the Charter, and evaluating and monitoring of various initiatives taken to eliminate them;

**Decides** to appoint **Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing** as Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage and Other Harmful Practices. The mandate calls on the Special Rapporteur to:

- i. Analyze the root causes of child marriage and other harmful practices;
- ii. Seek, receive, examine and act upon information on the situation of Child marriage and other harmful practices;
- iii. Mobilize action and political support to end Child marriage and Other harmful practices in Africa;
- iv. Generate renewed concern on the harmful effects of Child marriage and Other harmful practices to promote behavioral and social change, and to achieve effective progress;
- v. Cooperate and engage in dialogue with Member States, National human Rights Institutions, relevant intergovernmental organizations, international and regional mechanisms, UN Agencies and CSOs to end Child marriage and Other harmful practices;
- vi. Develop strategies to end Child marriage and other harmful practices;
- vii. Formulate recommendations and proposals on appropriate measures and activities to end child marriage and other harmful practices;
- viii. Conduct activities, which could raise awareness on the impact of Child marriage and other harmful practices;
- ix. Issue statements on Child marriage and Other harmful practices where appropriate and if decided by the Committee;
- x. Take the lead on developments of the Committee's documents, including General Comments and resolutions, related to Child marriage and other harmful practices;
- xi. Serve as a focal point on area of Child marriage and other harmful practices.
- xii. Report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child annually on the activities undertaken under the mandate.

Done virtually on 26 March 2021.