



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

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Report of the Child Rights Symposium with Regional Economic Communities, 26-27 June 2025 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



INTRODUCTION

1. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee) and the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) convened the Child Rights Symposium with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) from 26-27 June 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the African Children's Charter Project. Opening remarks were delivered by Hon. Wilson Almeida Adão, Chairperson, ACERWC, and Ms Sarah Guebreyes, Director of Operations and Business Development, ACPF. Ms Guebreyes emphasised the critical role of RECs in advancing the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC/the Charter), Agenda 2040, and related frameworks. She recognised RECs as key actors in creating normative frameworks, promoting accountability, and aligning regional priorities with continental child rights obligations. Sarah highlighted ACPF's longstanding collaboration with RECs, including learning forums, information-sharing, and the recent engagement with the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) in N'Djamena, Chad. She concluded by calling for continued political will to advance children's rights through collaborative and regionally tailored action.
2. Hon. Wilson Almeida Adão underscored the role of RECs as strategic partners in promoting and protecting child rights through Member State engagement and cross-border cooperation. He noted the Symposium's focus on mainstreaming child rights into regional frameworks, supporting the implementation of the Committee's decisions, and addressing challenges such as delays in State Party reporting. Hon. Wilson highlighted that this year marks 35 years since the adoption of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and further reflected on the theme of the 2025 Day of the African Child (DAC), 'Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress since 2010'. In this context, he shared key recommendations from children in the Outcome Statement of the DAC commemoration, including calls for increased investment, stronger accountability, and institutionalised child participation in budgeting processes. He invited participants to engage openly and constructively in the discussions ahead and reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to strengthening collaboration with RECs.
3. The Child Rights Symposium was attended by representatives of six RECs: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), CEN-SAD, East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In addition to the RECs, the Symposium included four Members of the ACERWC, staff of the ACERWC Secretariat and ACPF, and representatives from the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS) of the African Union Commission (AUC), East African Child Rights Network (EACRN), East African Law Society (EASL), Plan International, Save The Children and UNICEF.

OVERVIEW OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD, THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD, AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

4. **Dr Ayalew Getachew Assefa, Ag. Executive Secretary, ACERWC Secretariat**, delivered a presentation on the Charter and the Committee. Dr Ayalew highlighted the added value of the Charter both from the positive side, such as Article 31 on the responsibilities of the child, and the negative issues it addresses, including harmful social and cultural practices (Article 21). He then discussed the Committee's mandate to monitor the implementation of the Charter, which is carried out through several mechanisms. All these are supported by a focal person within the Committee or Secretariat, providing structured entry points for engagement with RECs and other stakeholders. These include:
 - [Special Rapporteurs covering various thematic areas](#)
 - [Working Groups](#) on (i) Children's Rights and Business; (ii) Children's Rights and Climate Change; (iii) Children with Disabilities; and (iv) Implementation of Decisions.
 - [Consideration of State Party reports](#): Out of 51 ratifying countries, the Committee has received 42 initial reports, 23 first periodic reports, a few second periodic reports, and only Rwanda has submitted a third periodic report.
 - [Communications procedure](#), which remains the most under-utilised. Since 2002, the Committee has received only 26 Communications.
 - Developing [General Comments to interpret the provisions of the Charter](#). To date, ten General Comments have been adopted, including two jointly with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul Commission).
 - Follow-up and investigative missions, and the development of [thematic studies](#).
5. Dr Ayalew highlighted the Committee's close collaboration with civil society, including through the CSO Forum. To date, 51 CSOs have observer status, and 22 NHRIs have affiliate status, many of whom are already active within REC frameworks. He emphasised the need to institutionalise this collaboration, particularly with civil society, rather than rely on ad hoc meetings. He identified the Day of the African Child (DAC) as a further opportunity for joint action and encouraged RECs to consider DAC as a flagship activity. The Committee is also advocating for 16 June to be recognised as a public holiday across the continent, as it is in South Africa (National Youth Day). Finally, Dr Ayalew called for more structured engagement between the Committee and RECs. He proposed that RECs create space for child rights actors, including the Committee, to participate in their statutory meetings and, likewise, that RECs be invited to contribute to the Committee's Ordinary Sessions, including through written submissions.
6. **Ms Adiam Zemenfes, Senior Legal Researcher, and Mr Philippe Sekone, Senior Child Rights Officer, ACERWC Secretariat**, presented on the status of implementation of the Charter. Recent trends show a lack of new State Party reports and ongoing challenges in receiving responses to Communications, follow-up reports on decisions, and authorisation for country visits. However, the interest in ACERWC Sessions is increasing, with 19 Member States attending the 45th Session. Additionally, country missions remain limited, but the Committee has adopted an

innovative approach by inviting States to sessions and bilateral consultations to sustain dialogue and follow up on concluding observations and decisions. Ms Zemenfes and Mr Sekone shared a status update on implementation across the RECs, which is included in this report as Annex 1. The table outlines the status of ratification and key activities through which the Committee monitors the implementation of the Charter, including initial and periodic reports, country visits, Communications, and letters of urgent appeals or statements.

7. Hon. Anne Musiwa reflected on the discussions raised and then opened the floor for open dialogue with participants. The main points raised include:
 - The need to institutionalise RECs-Committee collaboration, including building on the existing AU protocols.
 - The role of civil society in the reporting process was also raised, particularly the complementary reports. The Secretariat shared that these reports are integral to the Committee's engagement and inform the List of Issues and encouraged support from the CSO Forum for more regular submissions.
 - The value of regionally disaggregated data was raised, and it was recommended that the table presented by the ACERWC Secretariat be broken down by region to help RECs identify countries that comply/engage and to support cross-learning.
 - The 35th anniversary of the Charter was seen as an opportunity to galvanise action and identify strategies that would support Member States in strengthening implementation and shifting from 'red' to 'green' on key indicators.
 - Reporting fatigue was raised, particularly in contrast to the simplified approach of the UNCRC and the burden of overlapping obligations across treaty bodies was highlighted, especially in contexts with limited capacity. The Secretariat acknowledged this challenge and shared that the Committee is reflecting on simplified approaches within its mandate, although full harmonisation would require amending the Charter.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

8. **Ms Hussienatou Manjang, Legal Researcher, ACERWC Secretariat**, discussed the preliminary findings from the Committee's Thematic Report on Harmful Practices Affecting Children in Africa with a focus on child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). The report adopts a regional case study approach, drawing on data and legal analysis from ten countries across five regions: Chad, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Somalia, Egypt, Sudan, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and Mali. A checklist based on the Joint General Comments of the Committee and the Banjul Commission on ending child marriage and FGM was used to assess the national frameworks across the case study countries. The findings indicate widespread gaps in enforcement, inconsistencies in legal frameworks, and underfunded systems. However, the report also highlights promising practices, including judicial interventions, community dialogue, engagement with traditional leaders, and youth-led advocacy. The examples from countries like Egypt, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe illustrate the opportunities in advancing the Elimination of child marriage and FGM. Ms Manjang concluded with key recommendations including, but not limited to, aligning national laws with regional standards, strengthening enforcement mechanisms, investing in survivor support, and

ensuring context-sensitive strategies. She noted that the draft report remains open to input and that REC perspectives would be essential in finalising a document that reflects both national realities and regional dimensions.

9. **Ms Nena Thundu, Policy Officer, HHS Department, AUC**, presented an overview of the African Union Accountability Framework on the Elimination of Harmful Practices, a newly adopted document aimed at enhancing Member States' accountability in ending practices such as child marriage and FGM. The Framework provides indicators and guidance for Member States to measure progress, foster intersectoral coordination, and promote the use of data and evidence in policymaking. It builds on existing AU initiatives and is designed to work across four levels: (i) Member States; (ii) RECs; (iii) AUC; and (iv) AU organs. The Accountability Framework emphasises the importance of good performance measurement systems grounded in legal and policy commitments while also highlighting the current gaps in data, documentation of best practices, and follow-up mechanisms, often due to limited capacity and funding. Ms Thundu also highlighted the role of RECs in facilitating reporting, peer learning, and data aggregation to ensure sustained progress. As part of the next steps, a consultative workshop will be held in Nairobi from the 5th to the 7th of August 2025, with participation from six pilot countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia, Djibouti) and other stakeholders, including AU, RECs and children. The purpose of the workshop is to strengthen capacity, promote shared learning, and support the effective implementation of the Framework across the continent.
10. **Ms Saba Lishan, Coordinator of the African Partnership to End Violence Against Children, ACPF**, reflected on the pledges made by 39 African Union Member States during the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children held in Bogotá in November 2024. The conference marked a pivotal moment in galvanising global and regional momentum, bringing together over 100 governments and a wide range of stakeholders to commit to accelerated action on ending violence against children (VAC). The strong representation of African countries at the conference reaffirmed the growing political will to end VAC. She highlighted that these pledges signal a continental commitment to a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, prioritising system strengthening, cross-sector coordination, and survivor-centred partnerships. Many States pledged to expand prevention and response services, reform legal and policy frameworks, improve data systems, and invest in the social service workforce. Importantly, Ms Lishan underscored the need for RECs to play a more structured and proactive role in tracking progress, facilitating cross-learning, and institutionalising monitoring mechanisms within their child protection architecture. She called for regular ACERWC-REC engagement to ensure that pledges translate into action and that progress is not only sustained but systematically reviewed and scaled across the continent.
11. Hon Ghislain Roch Etsan reflected on the discussions raised and then opened the floor for open dialogue with participants. The main points raised include:
 - The sector-specific approach of the Accountability Framework was welcomed, but concerns were raised about the risk of fragmentation. Questions were raised about whether developing multiple frameworks for each child rights issue is the

right methodology, with a more unified and holistic model proposed as an alternative.

- Questions were raised about the engagement of RECs in the pledge process during the Bogota conference, including whether they were adequately consulted and if their roles were meaningfully reflected.
- Concerns were raised about the validation process of the Accountability Framework, especially the exclusion of COMESA. Given the continental scope of the issues, all AU-recognised RECs should be consistently and inclusively engaged.

PRESENTATION BY THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

Planning and Budgeting for Children: Opportunities and Challenges within Partner States

12. Mr Richard Atwaru, Focal Person on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC),

COMESA Secretariat, explained that COMESA is a regional economic community with 21 Member States focused on promoting integration through trade and investment to improve living standards. Its work on children's rights falls under the Governance, Peace and Security programme, which includes interventions for children affected by armed conflict, conflict prevention (through COMWARN), post-conflict reconstruction, mediation, and youth peace and security. In addition, COMESA has also integrated child-sensitive indicators into early warning systems like COMWARN. Mr Atwaru shared that COMESA is currently developing a regional child protection framework, which includes a baseline study on children affected by armed conflict and a strategy focused on prevention, promotion, and protection. Moreover, COMESA has issued technical guidance on the role of children in post-conflict recovery and developed DDR guidelines for troop- and police-contributing countries. He underscored the importance of working closely with child-focused institutions and ensuring that national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society are sensitised and involved.. On planning and budgeting, he pointed out that nearly half of the region's population are children. While many Member States have dedicated structures for children, the cross-cutting nature of child rights requires coordination across sectors such as education, health, and agriculture. He concluded by highlighting the importance of partnerships with governments and civil society, noted ongoing challenges such as debt burdens, budget constraints, and the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

13. Dr Laila Omar Gad, UNICEF Representative to the African Union and UNECA,

reflected on the broader global and political shifts affecting the role of RECs from a stakeholder perspective. She noted that several speakers had already mentioned key trends, including the decline in development assistance, rising military spending, and increased pressure on Member States to rely more on domestic resources. These trends directly impact the implementation of the ACRWC. She highlighted that by 2050, Africa will be home to one billion children under the age of 18, making up 40 percent of the global child population. While this presents great potential, she also pointed to significant concerns. The Human Development Index has declined in recent years, with Africa among the most affected. This reversal, which began after COVID-19, has been worsened by conflict, climate shocks, and poverty. She referred to the

2024 UN Secretary-General's report on CAAC, which recorded the highest number of verified violations against children since tracking began in 1996. Violations have increased by 25 percent in the past two years. As of mid-2024, one in three children under five in Africa is experiencing severe food poverty. By 2030, 43 percent of children living in extreme poverty will be in Africa.

14. Dr Gad then reflected on the 35th anniversary of the Charter and encouraged stakeholders, especially RECs, to consider concrete actions they can take to influence national governments to invest in children. She noted that RECs have strong convening power and bring Member States together where key political decisions are made, yet child rights are often not well integrated into broader policy discussions. She stressed the need to involve ministries of finance and foreign affairs, which are responsible for implementing international commitments. On accountability, she supported the idea of developing a child rights report card with RECs to help track progress through peer review and creating a compendium of best practices from across the continent. She concluded by urging a clear focus on what RECs need to better integrate child rights into national budgeting, planning, and policy, stressing that their direct input is key to influencing governments and raising the profile of child rights at national and regional levels.
15. Hon. Wilson Almeida Adão reflected on the discussions raised and then opened the floor for open dialogue with participants. The main points raised include:
 - Planning and budgeting for children is often confined to the line ministry instead of being treated as a shared responsibility across all ministries. Questions were raised about how CRC General Comment 6 is being applied at sub-national levels and how RECs can be adequately resourced to support coordination.
 - Development funding is shrinking, and as partners shift from rights-based approaches to trade and investment, national policies must prioritise children to ensure limited resources are effectively allocated. Strategies are needed to mobilise domestic resources and embed children's needs in national planning.
 - The issue of growing national debt was raised, particularly in light of the World Bank's recent report naming Africa as the most indebted continent. Reckless lending for infrastructure projects, often disconnected from children's rights, was highlighted.
 - In conflict and crisis contexts, reports are submitted to global bodies like the UN Security Council, but political leaders often fail to act. Stronger mechanisms for accountability are needed.
 - Pledges made by Heads of State are often not reflected in national plans or budgets. Budgeting and planning processes must be aligned with continental and global commitments.

Child Trafficking and Sexual Tourism against Children in Africa: Cross Border Response Strategies Within ECOWAS

16. **Ms Tamwakat Elizabeth Golit, Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs, ECOWAS Commission**, presented recent child rights developments and explained why ECOWAS is placing greater emphasis on children's rights. In this regard, she

indicated that over 50% of West Africa's population is under 18, and children are affected by persistent child marriage, trafficking, child labour, climate change, conflict, and displacement in the region. Highlighting the legislative developments in ECOWAS, Ms Golit informed the adoption of child rights laws and policies, including Child Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (2019-2030), Child Protection Systems Strengthening Framework (2017), Roadmap on Prevention and Response to Child Marriage (2019-2030), Regional Action Plan on the Elimination of the Worst forms of Child Labor Force Labor. She further emphasised that the ECOWAS Child Protection Architecture is focused on systems strengthening and includes components of prevention, response and rehabilitation. She underlined the 10 ECOWAS Commitments for Systems Change, which are: (i) international compliance; (ii) strong institutional frameworks; (iii) regional and global cooperation; (iv) inclusive partnership; (v) capacity building; (vi) comprehensive support services; (vii) functional information systems; (viii) budgeting and accountability; (ix) communication and advocacy, (x) regional coordination and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The priority thematic areas for ECOWAS child rights efforts include VAC, child marriage, child labour, birth registration, children on the move, children in contact with the law, children in custody, and children with disabilities. Ms Golit highlighted the institutional coordination mechanisms at ECOWAS, including the ECOWAS Intra-Coordination on Child Rights and the Regional Child Protection Working Group composed of various stakeholders. Challenges on the implementation of child rights policies and frameworks were highlighted, including fragmented coordination at the national level, low budget allocation to child protection sectors, weak enforcement of child laws, inadequate data systems, social norms and cultural resistance. Key success areas were also mentioned, such as the development of a regional Standard Operating Procedure for children on the move; an integrated birth registration and child protection case management system which is in progress; and piloting training of frontline officers on implementation guidelines and greater synergy with CSOs and communities.

17. Ms Golit also presented ECOWAS' response to child trafficking and sexual tourism. She noted that in ECOWAS, child trafficking refers to the transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation, and sexual tourism refers to travel with the intent to engage in sexual activities with a child, often facilitated by weak laws, corruption, or informal arrangements. She emphasised that although the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement aims to foster regional integration, it has been exploited by traffickers. The main exploitation channels for child trafficking in ECOWAS include street begging, domestic servitude, sex work, online sexual exploitation, child pornography and sexual tourism. She noted that trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation is widespread in Benin, Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire, reported in 12 of 15 ECOWAS States, and that digital abuse has increased since COVID-19. Ms Golit highlighted that Ghana and Nigeria are the major source, transit, and destination countries for child trafficking. She spotlighted the key drivers of child trafficking in the region, which include structural factors, cultural norms, legal gaps, and weak governance. She mentioned regional child protection systems, transit monitoring and referral mechanisms, training for law officers and border officials, and the establishment of a network of focal persons as

key responses in place. She also referred to multilateral cooperation agreements between Western and Central Africa, along with regional referral mechanisms, as supporting structures. She highlighted innovative practices such as transit monitoring hubs, a regional training manual, and the use of machine learning and digital tools. Ms Golit underscored areas of gaps in the travel and tourism sector, including the lack of a legally binding code of conduct across ECOWAS for tour operators or transport workers, lack of legal liability for travel operators in many ECOWAS states, and few prosecutions of tourism actors complicit in child sexual exploitation. Moreover, she emphasised challenges, including weak intelligence sharing, porous borders, under-reporting of cases, stigma impeding reintegration, limited child protection budgets, and private sector resistance. As part of her recommendations, Ms Golit raised the following:

- Legal reform to ensure liability for travel/tourism operators by developing an ECOWAS-wide code of conduct for travel and transport operators
- Transit monitoring scale-up by Institutionalising monitoring at key border & transit points across ECOWAS transport hubs
- Data sharing to develop a centralised child trafficking case repository
- Increase investment in CP professionals and services
- Training of border officials and transport sector staff
- Formalise CSOs roles and enhance partnerships
- Support AI/geolocation for investigations
- Ensuring victim protection through harmonised cross-border referral systems and strengthened survivor-centred reintegration programs
- Scale up community sensitisation and feedback mechanisms

She concluded by indicating that the long-term plan at ECOWAS is to revise the ECOWAS Treaty to include a child protection clause.

18. During this session, **Ms Isabel Magaya, Programme Manager-Children and the Law, ACPF**, provided a reflection on child trafficking and sexual tourism from a stakeholder perspective. In her presentation, she highlighted some of the emerging trends in child trafficking, which include the online grooming of children, the increased vulnerability of children due to climate change, displacement and conflict, and the increased widespread of domestic trafficking, particularly in informal sectors. Ms Magaya stressed that children make up over half of the victims of trafficking and indicated that girls are mostly trafficked for sexual exploitation while boys are often trafficked for child labour. Providing insight on regional variations, the presentation informed that North Africa has less number of child trafficking, with most children trafficked in the region coming from West and Central Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa has a high share of child trafficking, with 63% for reasons of child labour. Ms Magaya indicated that the conviction rate for child trafficking and sexual exploitation remains very low in the continent; however, in terms of regional variations, Northern Africa has a higher conviction rate than sub-Saharan Africa, whose conviction rate stands as low as 10%.

19. Ms Magaya highlighted that each year, three million persons move to have sexual relations with minors and that 35% of perpetrators of sexual violence are customers of tour and travel. Explaining the global trends in sexual exploitation in travel and

tourism, she underlined that child sex tourism is perpetrated by both foreign and domestic travellers, particularly in coastal tourism areas, and offenders increasingly use online platforms to plan, connect, and share abusive material. She emphasised that many countries lack laws or enforcement mechanisms targeting sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. Moreover, extraterritorial jurisdiction is rarely operationalised, limiting the prosecution of nationals; victims are often stigmatised or criminalised rather than protected and supported. The challenges are exacerbated by a lack of specific legislation on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, as well as the poor regulation of hospitality and transport sectors. Regional and country-level measures in terms of legislative frameworks were commended, but lack of implementation was identified as the main challenge. In conclusion, Ms Magaya provided some recommendations, including the deployment of child-sensitive cross-border task forces; establishment of regional anti-trafficking intelligence hubs; enforcement of harmonisation of laws and cross-border justice cooperation; operationalising a regional child protection and victim recovery network; and launching REC-led campaigns to disrupt demand and deter offenders.

20. Following the presentations, Hon. Sabrina Gahar reflected on the discussions raised and then opened the floor for open dialogue with participants. The main points raised include:

- Suggestions were made on enhancing engagements and capacity building of various sectors involved, such as immigration, the private sector, and media, by all actors.
- Strong regulation of transport and hospitality sectors, including airline travel, was emphasised.
- Suggestions were made to assess and respond to orphanage trafficking as part of child trafficking and sexual tourism

Responding to the Vulnerabilities of Girls Through Policy and Effective Programming in EAC and ECCAS

21. **Mr Morris Tayebwa, Gender, Youth and Children Expert, EAC Secretariat**, presented on the development of child protection frameworks within the EAC. He introduced the 2000 EAC Treaty and the 2016 EAC Child Policy, guided by ten priority areas and are aligned with the Charter. The EAC has developed legal harmonisation studies and a regional framework to strengthen child protection systems by setting standards, defining success indicators, and guiding system-wide implementation. He highlighted efforts on cross-border child protection, including training immigration officers, customs officials, and local authorities on issues such as trafficking and child labour. On child participation, he shared that the EAC worked with the ACERWC to develop and contextualise regional guidelines and promote awareness through school debates, outreach to street-connected children, and child-friendly policies. As an intergovernmental body, the EAC supports coordination, monitoring, peer learning, and policy development among Member States. He highlighted key national reforms undertaken by Member States since 2016, including:

- Kenya's Children Act (2022), which prohibits corporal punishment; Burundi's Updated Child Protection Policy (2021–2022);

- Uganda's Children (Amendment) Act (2016), which strengthened guardianship provisions; South Sudan's Action Plan to End Child Marriage (2017–2030);
- Democratic Republic of Congo's revised labour code addressing child labour in mining;
- Tanzania's 2019 Court Ruling against child marriage;
- Rwanda's Child Protection Law (2018), which ensures comprehensive rights for children; and
- Somalia's Child Rights Bill, approved by Cabinet in 2023

He noted that Somalia and South Sudan are the only EAC countries yet to ratify the Charter, but both have committed to do so by 2025.

22. Mr Morris then presented the vulnerabilities affecting girls in the region and how EAC is responding to this. Child marriage remains widespread, with rates up to 52% in South Sudan. Adolescent pregnancy ranges from 5% to 27%, and FGM prevalence reaches 99% in Somalia. These vulnerabilities are interconnected and reinforced by factors such as poverty, limited access to finance, and low education levels. Education remains a major gap, with secondary school enrolment and completion rates ranging from as low as 1% to 52%. Key barriers include early marriage, pregnancy, domestic labour, and inadequate facilities for girls. The EAC adopted a Gender Policy in 2018 and drafted both a Gender Bill and an FGM Bill. However, neither has been assented into law. Although the full legislative process is followed, including public hearings and parliamentary passage, Heads of State often do not sign, which remains a serious challenge. In terms of programming, interventions include education support through scholarships, cash transfers, and menstrual hygiene initiatives; health services such as youth-friendly clinics and sexuality education; gender-based violence (GBV) prevention through community dialogues, safe spaces, and response centres; and economic empowerment through skills training, mentoring, and social protection. Despite these challenges, there are notable success stories. In Kenya, the DREAMS Initiative on HIV prevention and empowerment has resulted in a 50% reduction in violence. In Tanzania, engagement with Maasai communities has contributed to a reduction in FGM through alternative rites of passage. Nationally, FGM has decreased from 18 percent to 10 percent. In Rwanda and Burundi, education programmes have achieved gender parity, contributing to reduced teenage pregnancy.

23. **Ms Gloriose Nzinahora, ECCAS Secretariat**, presented on the development of child protection frameworks, noting that although ECCAS was established in 1983, a Department for Social Protection was only created in 2012, and a dedicated child protection unit in 2019.. She highlighted ongoing challenges and emphasised limited staff capacity. A key framework is the joint ECCAS-ECOWAS agreement on combatting trafficking in persons, particularly children, given the high mobility between the two regions. While implementation has been weak, she called for its renewal. ECCAS also maintains a strategic partnership with UNICEF, guided by global and continental frameworks, including Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063, and Agenda 2040. The 2021-2025 ECCAS Strategic Plan focuses on birth registration, education resilience, and data protection. A UNICEF study showed that 6 out of 10 children in Central Africa are not registered at birth, which causes a barrier to acquiring a legal identity and accessing their rights. To address this, a regional dashboard was

developed to track education and birth registration data across all 11 Member States. This dashboard was publicly endorsed by DRC President Félix Tshisekedi at the 2022 ECCAS General Assembly. She also discussed ECCAS's growing work on social protection. A recent study supported by ILO, IOM, and ECA showed that only 17% of people in Central Africa are covered, including 20.1% of the elderly and just 9.3% of vulnerable populations. The study has informed a roadmap now being transformed into a regional strategy. ECCAS is further working with FAO on a three-year plan to expand social protection to rural and informal sectors, where children remain largely excluded. She concluded by calling for three priority actions: (i) develop a strategy to accelerate child rights implementation; (ii) strengthen M&E; and (iii) establish a network of REC focal points.

24. **Mr Ahmat Djibia, ECCAS Secretariat**, presented on the efforts to address the vulnerabilities of girls through policies and programmes within ECCAS. He noted that mechanisms, laws, and programmes have been established to protect girls, particularly from GBV, limited access to education, poor infrastructure, and poverty. These interventions aim to support families and safeguard young girls in especially vulnerable situations. Sectoral ministries, especially Ministries of Social Affairs, are responsible for coordinating and implementing national policies across ECCAS Member States under the guidance of the ECCAS Commission. Mr. Djibia also highlighted the SWEDD initiative, which began in the Sahel but has since expanded to Central and West Africa. The project aims to leverage the demographic dividend by revising laws and policies to better protect girls, for example, reviewing laws that previously excluded pregnant girls from school. The ECCAS Commission is pushing for reforms that allow pregnant students to stay in school, aiming to reduce dropout rates and vulnerability. A scholarship programme has been introduced to support girls' access to education and improve high school completion rates, which remain low. Legal reforms are also being promoted to ensure girls complete secondary education, with additional support to guide girls into STEM fields. Social protection measures have been introduced to ban child marriage and end harmful traditional practices. ECCAS Member States have also set up incubator centres to support young or teenage mothers and girls affected by abuse, violence, sexual exploitation, FGM, and early marriage. Mr. Djibia concluded by stressing that these efforts need significant funding and highlighted poor coordination among ministries as a key barrier to effective implementation.
25. Following the presentations of EAC and ECCAS, there were various reflections from different stakeholders' perspectives. **Mr Charles Nyukuri, Interim Director and AU Representative of Plan International**, highlighted nine key points. First, while budgeting has been widely discussed, civil society needs to better understand the full budget cycle, including the key stages, when to engage, and how to bring in young people. Second, Member States are experiencing reporting fatigue due to changing political cycles and limited capacity and need more support and standardised templates to improve the quality and consistency of their reporting. Third, on child participation, there is a need to reflect the realities of both rural and urban children and ensure States include children in national processes. Fourth, youth-led research must be prioritised, with better dissemination and opportunities for young people to

shape research agendas. Litigation was also mentioned as a tool for outcomes and for empowering communities. Fifth, the harmonisation of laws remains a problem, as seen in delays in passing the Sexual and Reproductive Health and FGM Bills within EAC. Sixth, there is a need to pay more attention to emerging issues like the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, artificial intelligence, and digital tools that affect education, child protection, and broader systems. Seventh, the private sector must be seen as more than just a CSR actor and contribute more actively through outreach, infrastructure, and the use of simple, relevant language that communities can relate to. Eighth, traditional leaders hold real influence and must be engaged more meaningfully in efforts to protect children. Ninth, partnerships are critical, especially as donor funding continues to shrink.

26. **Mr Benedict Omillo, EACRN**, noted that while the EAC Treaty provides for civil society engagement, platforms like the Consultative Dialogue Framework remain largely unused. He raised concerns about the region's heavy reliance on donor funding for child-related programmes, with minimal government contributions. He pointed to the Ministries of East African Affairs in Partner States as potential coordination entry points but noted inconsistencies in how these ministries are operationalised as some are merged with foreign affairs or are entirely non-functional. He proposed structured learning between these Ministries across RECs and the establishment of national contact points to improve collaboration. He also warned that the current push for "localisation" risks dismantling regional programme units and weakening collective child rights advocacy, calling instead for a more balanced definition that preserves regional efforts.
27. **Ms Rebecca Kyarimpa, EALS**, outlined EALS's mandate to promote good governance, harmonise laws, support EAC justice mechanisms, and enable cross-border legal cooperation. She noted that EALS works with civil society to advance child rights policies. Highlighting gaps, she pointed out that Somalia and South Sudan have ratified key instruments but not yet domesticated them. She called for stronger inter-REC collaboration and sharing of best practices. She also urged greater use of strategic and public interest litigation through regional courts and lawyers' networks, noting that few child rights cases have reached final rulings. Cultural and religious resistance continues to delay laws like the FGM Bill and the revision of the 2016 Children's Policy despite new Member States joining the EAC. She concluded by urging deeper engagement with these States to align policies with child rights standards and called on the AU to support implementation while respecting national sovereignty.
28. Hon. Anne Musiwa reflected on the discussions raised and then opened the floor for open dialogue with participants. The main points raised include:
- The Committee should consider integrating climate change as a cross-cutting theme, given its growing impact on child rights, particularly in the Sahel region.
 - Migrant children are often excluded from protection frameworks. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and General Comment No. 4 remain key binding instruments for safeguarding their rights.

- ECOWAS has made notable progress through its collaboration with civil society, and other RECs could consider adopting similar approaches to strengthen regional responses to child rights through more effective partnerships.

Humanitarian Responses at Sub-Regional Level and Partner States Level for Children in Conflict Situations in CEN-SAD and Protection of Children on the Move in IGAD

29. **Mr Kouadio Maurice N'Dri, Director of Legal Affairs, CEN-SAD Secretariat**, presented on the development of child protection frameworks within CEN-SAD, a regional bloc of 25 Member States. While CEN-SAD's mandate includes peace, security, and socio-economic integration, it lacks a dedicated child protection policy, institutional mechanism, or legal framework. Child issues fall under the Directorate of Social Affairs and Education, but no standalone treaty, protocol, or coordinated policy exists to address children's rights. As a result, child protection has not featured prominently in CEN-SAD's activities, which have typically focused on development, defence, migration, and culture. Although all Member States have ratified the UNCRC and ACRWC, only Morocco, Tunisia, and Somalia, have not ratified the ACRWC. The region faces grave child rights violations, including conflict-related violence, trafficking, child labour, early marriage, and weak national systems. There is no central coordination, monitoring, or accountability framework, and severe structural limitations persist, including budget constraints, a lack of donor support, irregular statutory meetings, and insufficient staff. Nonetheless, some positive steps have been taken, such as a recent symposium co-hosted with ACPF and the signing of a memorandum of understanding. Moving forward, he called for the adoption of a regional child protection policy, the creation of a dedicated unit, the mobilisation of resources, stronger partnerships, and a unified monitoring framework to track progress and support Member States in aligning with the Charter.

30. **Ms Fatima Abdurrahman, Director of the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs, CEN-SAD Secretariat**, presented the humanitarian responses for children in conflict situations. She acknowledged that historically, children have not been prioritised in conflict response frameworks, but CEN-SAD is now working to shift this. Their approach involves a three-step framework: (i) coordinating efforts among Member States (particularly in cross-border displacement contexts); (ii) strengthening the capacity of national systems; and (iii) conducting advocacy to ensure children's needs are addressed in emergency planning. She highlighted promising practices such as Nigeria and Niger's use of radio classrooms and trained tutors in camps, which have enabled children in refugee and IDP settings to continue learning. CEN-SAD aims to harmonise these approaches and scale them across the region. She also underlined malnutrition as a major threat to cognitive development and long-term competitiveness, noting that conflict-affected countries like Chad, Libya, and Burkina Faso have begun integrating nutrition interventions into their emergency responses. Some Member States have passed child protection laws, but federal systems face implementation gaps at the subnational level. Ms Abdurrahman concluded by underscoring the urgent need for sustainable funding, stronger political will, and better integration of child protection into conflict response frameworks to avoid a generation of children being left behind.

31. **Dr Emnet Berhanu Gebre, Child Protection Specialist, IGAD Secretariat,** presented the development of IGAD's Child Protection Framework, describing it as a model RECs can follow. She noted that although regional policy processes are often slow, IGAD developed and adopted an inclusive framework in under two years without compromising stakeholder engagement or policy quality. The process began in 2019 through collaboration with the EAC, leading to the development of a four-pillar roadmap focused on (i) enabling environment; (ii) technical capacity of frontline workers; (iii) coordination and cross-border mechanisms; and (iv) child participation. Between 2022 and 2024, IGAD led national consultations with ministries of justice, interior, defence, and others, underscoring that child protection is a cross-sectoral concern. For the first time, IGAD also engaged children directly in the policy process, conducting national consultations in Djibouti, Somalia, and Ethiopia and a regional consultation in Nairobi with children from Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan. The selection process aimed to ensure the representation of children from diverse backgrounds, including girls, children with disabilities, children in institutional care, displaced and migrant children, and children from host communities. Despite logistical challenges, such as the challenges of refugee children to travel due to lack of documentation, the process was viewed as a significant step forward for the region. In terms of next steps, she outlined both short and long term priorities. In the short term, IGAD will popularise the Child Policy Framework using child-friendly formats, hold its first regional celebration of the DAC, develop National Action Plans for country-level implementation, and carry out regional research to support advocacy and improve state reporting. In the long term, IGAD aims to establish a Child Rights Desk within the Secretariat, integrate child protection across all divisions, and make meaningful child participation a permanent part of regional policymaking.
32. Dr Emnet then presented on the protection of children on the move within IGAD. She highlighted that the region has some of the highest numbers of displaced children in Africa. For example, children account for over 50% of the migrant population in Uganda, and over 40% in Ethiopia and Sudan. Migration occurs along four major routes: eastern (via Somalia and Djibouti to Yemen and Saudi Arabia), northern (via Sudan and Libya to Europe), and southern (to South Africa), and internal movement within the region, which is often overlooked. She stressed that children on the move face various risks, including discrimination and detention for immigration-related reasons, which go against their best interests and violate international and continental commitments. Often, the root causes of child mobility in the region are weak family and community protection systems, further compounded by conflict and poverty. Dr Emnet outlined the legal and policy tools IGAD has developed or adopted to address these issues, such as the revised 2023 IGAD Treaty (not yet in force), which now explicitly references the protection of children and other vulnerable groups; the Regional Migration Framework; the Migration Action Plan, which prioritises protection for refugees and displaced persons; and the IGAD Free Movement Protocol, which, although pending ratification, includes provisions on the movement of vulnerable persons and students. She also highlighted the IGAD Gender Strategy (2023–2030), which includes specific provisions for girls and migrant children, as well as the IGAD Child Policy Framework, which mainstreams migration and displacement across sectors. She also highlighted the IGAD SOP on Protection and Assistance of Children

on the Move, which seeks to strengthen case management and cross-border coordination, though implementation remains hindered by limited funding and prioritisation. She concluded that the IGAD Child Policy Framework offers a comprehensive response rooted in child protection systems and requires strong national and regional alignment to succeed.

33. Hon. Ghislain Roch Etsan reflected on the discussions raised and then opened the floor for open dialogue with participants. The main points raised include:

- RECs must strengthen their internal coordination and institutional structures to support child rights. While programmes and partnerships exist, permanent mechanisms for continuity, especially when focal persons leave, are often lacking.
- The Committee-RECs Collaboration Framework was welcomed as a tool for knowledge sharing and institutional strengthening. Regular meetings between the Committee and RECs were recommended to improve coordination and follow-up.
- The risk of statelessness for children born to migrant mothers, particularly in countries where nationality is passed only through the father, was highlighted, with calls for legal reform.
- Concerns were raised about AU policies that affect RECs being developed without sufficient consultation.
- On implementation, it was noted that well-drafted policies can drive action even without dedicated strategies. IGAD's M&E framework was cited as a good practice, and there was agreement on the need to better integrate gender and migration issues across all interventions.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ABOUT CHILD PARTICIPATION AT THE RECS LEVEL

34. **Mr. Wilfried Essomba Onguene, Facilitator of the development process for the “Operational Protocol for the Implementation of Children’s Participation” at African Movement of Working Children and Youth (MAEJT)**, highlighted the need to involve children beyond events and informed that the Operation Protocol for the Implementation of Children’s Participation was developed by MAEJT and Enda Jeunesse Action (EJA) to foster child participation at all levels by providing practical guide on the tools to use for child participation. He informed that the Protocol followed research conducted on child participation, which underlined the challenges, including legislative gaps, lack of inclusivity, cultural barriers, the unwillingness of adults to share leadership space, gender-based discrimination, and lack of meaningful and visible participation. He highlighted that the Protocol is a practical tool that guides decision-makers, community leaders, local elected officials, heads of technical or administrative services, and other actors involved in child protection and the promotion of their rights. Mr Onguene highlighted that the Protocol includes an implementation cycle which involves eight key standards namely: (i) identification and mapping of child-led groups and organisations; (ii) preparation and acceptance of child participation by stakeholders, including decision makers; (iii) establishment of participation spaces for child-led groups and organisations; (iv) training and information for child-led groups and organisations on the right to participation; (v) increasing access to information on opportunities, participation spaces, and decision-

making topics concerning children; (vi) decision-making by child-led groups and organisations to participate in spaces and issues concerning/impacting children; (vii) implementation of genuine and effective participation; and (viii) integration of learning in the participation cycle. In conclusion, Mr Onguene highlighted the cross-cutting principles to be taken into account in the participation cycle, which are: inclusion of all children; inclusion of children in planning and budgeting; continuous learning for strengthening capacities of child-led organisations; and integrating feedback or reporting practices by child representatives participating in activities on behalf of other children.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

35. Based on the presentations and discussions, the following recommendations aim to strengthen regional coordination and implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:

Strengthening collaboration between ACERWC and RECs

- Institutionalise a multi-level ACERWC-REC engagement structure, including: (i) an annual rotating forum for dialogue, learning, and capacity building; (ii) a high-level summit to strengthen structures, coordination, and budgets; and (iii) a formal framework to guide collaboration, define priorities, and align implementation and monitoring.
- Regularise REC participation in ACERWC sessions and activities for sustained engagement, cross-regional visibility, and alignment of regional and continental agendas.
- Establish a network of focal points in each REC to enhance coordination, information exchange, and follow-up on joint priorities using the Symposium's participant list.
- Undertake joint lobbying by ACERWC and RECs to influence Member States to adopt, ratify, and implement child protection laws and policies informed by the Committee's recommendations.
- Facilitate joint advocacy between RECs, ACERWC, the HHS Department of the AUC, and AGA-APSA to engage APRM in integrating key child rights indicators into Member State review questionnaires.
- Provide technical support to RECs that are less active in child rights advocacy.
- Spotlight one Member State per REC at future meetings to showcase promising practices in advancing child rights and fostering cross-learning.
- Establish a joint digital platform to collect and document data on children's rights and welfare, ensuring harmonised and accessible information for evidence-based policymaking.
- Develop an inter-REC child rights report every two or three years to take stock of regional progress and promote cross-learning and accountability.
- Undertake joint research between the ACERWC and RECs on specific child rights issues within each region to deepen contextual understanding and guide targeted interventions.
- Support RECs to establish child rights databases using ACERWC frameworks and, develop indicators, and sensitise Member States on their application at national and regional levels.

- Develop a compendium of best practices in the implementation of the Charter, including an annexe of supporting data.
- Develop an awareness strategy on children's rights and welfare to promote a culture of prevention and social protection, with an emphasis on investing in children as human capital.

Recommendations targeted at ACERWC for strategic engagement and leadership

- Undertake high-level courtesy visits to RECs to discuss and address strategic issues related to the implementation of the Charter.
- Leverage AGA-APSA as a channel for engagement between RECs and African human rights organs. As Chair of AGA-APSA, ACERWC should lead efforts to establish sustainable mechanisms for formal engagement.
- Ensure closer collaboration among governments, civil society, and other stakeholders within Member States to avoid fragmented activities.
- Strengthen collaboration with Member States to support effective implementation of existing child protection policies and strategies.

Recommendations targeted at RECs for increased coordination and collaboration

- Propose a joint thematic priority on child rights and develop a Joint Work Plan to maximise resources, coordinate research, and attract strategic partnerships.
- Identify one common advocacy issue annually, in coordination with civil society and ACERWC, to influence Member States on a shared child rights priority.
- Establish inter-REC learning platforms, including a community of practice on child rights and thematic working groups.
- Promote the work of ACERWC Country Rapporteurs and Thematic Rapporteurs and encourage Member States to domesticate and implement ratified child protection laws and policies.
- Facilitate the prosecution of child trafficking and crimes against children, and use regional courts to bring perpetrators to justice. Implement child participation guidelines at the REC level, involve children in law-making on a continuous basis, and prioritise child-led organisations.
- Continue to advocate for child-focused budgeting at national and regional levels and support civil society in planning and advocacy at the REC level.
- Strengthen partnerships with CSOs for programme implementation, especially at the grassroots level. Strengthen early warning systems to monitor drivers of child protection risks, violations, and child participation.
- Leverage the DAC to centre children in public discourse and promote the timely submission of State Party reports

Annexe 1: Status of Reporting on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Country	Ratification	Initial report	Periodic report/s	Country visits	Communications	Letter of Urgent Appeals/Statement
Algeria	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2021	–	–	–
Angola	Yes	Yes, November 2015	No, report due since 2021	–	–	–
Benin	Yes	Yes	Yes (1) next report due in 2026	–	–	–
Botswana	Yes	Yes, October 2021	No, next report due in 2026	Advocacy mission held in June 2022 for withdrawal of reservation	0024/Com/001/2023	–
Burkina Faso	Yes	Yes	Yes (2), next report Due since 2022	Follow-up mission held in 2012	–	–
Burundi	Yes	Yes, August 2017	No, next report due since 2020	None	0022/Com/004/2022	–
Cabo Verde	Yes	No, report due since 1995	-	Advocacy mission for reporting held in April 2023	–	–
Cameroon	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due since Due 2020	–	0018/Co/002/2021 010/Com/003/2016 006/Com/002/2015 implementation hearing held on Comm 006	Letter of urgent appeal issued an urgent appeal regarding extra-judicial killings of children in 2018 and statement on the reported killing of children in 2020
Central African Republic	Yes	No, report due since 2018	-	Investigation mission held on the situation of children in conflict situations in December 2024	–	–
Chad	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2027	Follow up mission held in February 2022	–	–
Comoros	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2020	–	–	–
Congo Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2026	–	–	–
Côte D'Ivoire	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2025	–	–	–
Djibouti	Yes	Yes	No, next report due in 2027	–	–	–

DR Congo	Yes	No, report due since 2022	–	–	–	Urgent Call to Protect Children amidst Escalating Crisis in Goma, DRC, January 2015
Egypt	Yes, Has Reservation on articles 24, 30(a-e), 44, and 45	Yes	No, report due since 2013	–	009/Com/002/2016 008/Com/001/2016	–
Equatorial Guinea	Yes	No, report due since 2007	–	–	–	–
Eritrea	Yes	yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2025	–	0020/Com/002/2022	–
Eswatini	Yes	Yes, in June 2014	No, report due since 2022	Follow-up mission held in 2023	–	–
Ethiopia	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), Next report due in 2025	Follow-up mission held in October 2018	–	Statement Issued on the situation of children in conflict situation in 2022
Gabon	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2019	None	–	–
Gambia	Yes	No, report due since 2002	-	Advocacy mission on reporting held in September 2023	–	–
Ghana	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2020	Follow up mission held in April 2022; investigative mission held in 2024	0019/Com/001/2022	–
Guinea	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2026	Follow up mission held in August 2018	–	–
Guinea-Bissau	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2024	–	–	–
Kenya	Yes	Yes	Yes (2), next report due since 2024	Consultation with the Government held in 2024 on follow-up on implementation of decisions and recommendations	002/Com/002/2009	–
Lesotho	Yes	Yes November 2014	Yes (1) Next Due 2026	Follow up mission held in 2021	–	–
Liberia	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2017	Follow up mission held in August 2021	–	–
Libya	Yes	No, report due since 2002	–	–	0026/Com/001/2025	–
Madagascar	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2019	Follow up mission held in September 2019	–	–
Malawi	Yes	Yes in November 2003	Yes (1), next report due in 2028	Investigation mission held in August 2022	0021/Com/003/2022 004/Com/001/2004	–

Mali	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2013	–	0013/Com/001/2020	–
Mauritania	Yes, Has reservation on Article 9	Yes	No, report due since 2022	Fact finding mission in the context of the Communication held, Consultation on follow-up held in 2024	007/Com/003/2015	–
Mauritius	Yes	No, Report due since 1994	–	–	–	Letter of urgent appeal issued on 27 October 2019 on age of marriage under the child rights bill
Morocco	No	–	–	–	–	-
Mozambique	Yes	Yes, November 2014	Yes (1) Next report due in 2027	Follow up mission held in 2018, Investigation mission held in 2022	–	Press Statement issued on the Post-election violence against children in December 2024
Namibia	Yes	Yes	Yes (1) Dues 2028	Follow up mission, December 2021	–	–
Niger	Yes	Yes	Yes (2), next report due in 2027	Follow-up mission held in 2013	–	–
Nigeria	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2022	–	0023/Com/005/2022 0017/Com/001/2021	Statement issued on the recurrence of abduction of girls in 2021
Rwanda	Yes	yes	Yes (3) , next report due in 2027	Follow-up mission held in 2015	–	–
Sahrawi Republic	Yes- has reservation on article 10, 11(6), 18(2) , 21(2)	No, report is due in 2026	–	Advocacy mission on ratification held in April 2019; Consultation on ratification held in 2024	–	–
São Tomé and Príncipe	Yes	No, report due since 2021	–	Advocacy on ratification held in 2016	–	–
Senegal	Yes	Yes	Yes (2), next report due in 2027	Mission on Implementation of decision held in 2016	003/Com/001/2012	–
Seychelles	Yes	Yes	No, report due in 2025	–	–	–
Sierra Leone	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2021	Follow-up mission held in August 2023	None	Letter of urgent appeal and statement issued on the debates of decriminalisation of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the Child Rights Act.
Somalia	No	–	–	Advocacy mission held in July 2018 on ratification; Consultation held in 2024 regarding ratification	None	Letter of Urgent Appeal issued in 2018 regarding the Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes Bill which contained provisions that could undermine child rights protections
South Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes (2), next report	–	0014/Com/002/2020	–

			due in 2026			
South Sudan	No	–	–	Investigation mission on the situation of children in conflict situation in August 2014; Advocacy mission on ratification held in April 2023; and Consultation held in 2024 regarding ratification	None	Letter of urgent appeal issued on death penalty against minors
Sudan	Yes, reservations entered on Articles 10, 11(6), 21(2)	Yes	No, report due since 2013	Fact finding mission held in 2021 on the situation of children in conflict situation in the context of an amicable settlement	5 Communications: 0025/Com/001/2024 0016/Com/004/2020 0015/Com/003/2020 0011/Com/001/2018 005/Com/001/2015	Letter of urgent appeal issued on death penalty against a minor
Tanzania	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due since 2020	Investigation mission held in August 2015 on the situation of children with albinism	0012/Com/001/2019 Implementation hearing	Letter or urgent appeal issued on expulsion of pregnant girls from schools (jointly with the ACHPR)
Togo	Yes	Yes	No, report due since 2014	Follow-up mission held in 2012	–	–
Tunisia	No	–	–	–	–	–
Uganda	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2025	Fact-finding mission on the communication; and Advocacy mission during DAC 2024	Communication no 001	
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2027	Follow up mission held in June 2023	–	–
Zimbabwe	Yes	Yes	Yes (1), next report due in 2027	Follow up mission held in June 2019	–	–