



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

ACERWC Secretariat | E-mail: acerwc-secretariat@africanunion.org
Tel: +266 52 01 00 18 | P.O.Box: 13460 Maseru,
Address: Nala House, Balfour Road, Maseru
Kingdom of Lesotho

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
----- **Ordinary Session**
February 2026
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD**

INTRODUCTION

1. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/Committee) was established during the 37th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Lusaka in July 2001 in accordance with Article 32 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC/Charter);
2. As stated in Article 1 of the African Children's Charter, States Parties shall recognize the rights, freedoms and duties enshrined in the Charter and shall undertake the necessary steps to adopt legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
3. The ACERWC is established to promote and protect the rights of the child and in particular to monitor the implementation of the African Children's Charter;
4. Pursuant to its mandate under the Charter, the Committee has undertaken several activities such as receiving State Party Reports on the implementation of the Charter, consideration of Communications (individual complaints), adoption of various documents and other activities as stated in this Report;

Accordingly, the current report summarises the Recommendations and Decisions of the 45th and 46th Ordinary Sessions of the Committee, which were held from 07-11 April 2025 and 26 November-06 December 2025 in Maseru, Lesotho respectively, as well as other activities undertaken between January and December 2025.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE ACERWC DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD
(January-December 2025)**

I. THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE ACERWC

1. *The ACERWC is composed of the following Members:*
 - i. *Hon. Sabrina Gahar- Algeria- Chairperson of the ACERWC*
 - ii. *Hon. Ghislain Roch Etsan- Republic of Congo- Vice-Chairperson of the ACERWC*
 - iii. *Hon. Poloko Ntshwarang- Botswana- Rapporteur of the ACERWC*
 - iv. *Hon. Wilson de Almeida Adão- Angola - Member of the ACERWC*
 - v. *Hon. Aver Gavar- Nigeria- Member of the ACERWC*
 - vi. *Hon. Ann Musiwa-Zimbabwe- Member of the ACERWC*
 - vii. *Hon. Aboubekrine El Jeri- Mauritania- Member of the ACERWC*
 - viii. *Hon Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing-Cameroon- Member of the ACERWC*
 - ix. *Hon. Robert Nanima- Uganda- Member of the ACERWC*
 - x. *Hon. Karoonawtee Chooramun-Mauritius- Member of the ACERWC*
 - xi. *Hon Joseph Sunday Sinnah- Sierra Leone- Member of the ACERWC*

2. The Mandate of 7 members of the Committee will come to an end and during this Summit, new Members will be elected for a term of 5 years. In this regard, the Committee recommends to State Parties to extend their cooperation and facilitation for Members of the Committee to take part in the Committee’s business.

II. STATUS OF RATIFICATION, RESERVATION AND REPORTING ON THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)

3. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (African Children’s Charter) is currently ratified by 51 Countries. Four Countries are yet to ratify the Charter, namely, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Tunisia. The ACERWC has been informed that the Federal Republic of Somalia has ratified the Charter at domestic level during the reporting period, however, the ratification instrument is yet to be deposited to the African Union Commission. Four Countries have placed reservations on the application of some of the provisions of the Charter, namely the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and the Republic of The Sudan. Among the countries who have ratified the Charter, 43 have submitted at least their initial report while more than 20 of them have submitted their periodic reports. The following table summarizes the status of ratification, reservation and state party reporting under the African Children’s Charter.

Status of ratification and reporting on the implementation of the African Children’s Charter, as of December 2024

Countries which have not ratified the African Children’s Charter	Countries which have placed reservation on one or more of the African Children’s Charter	Countries which have not yet submitted any report
---	---	--

Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Sudan and Republic of Tunisia	The Arab Republic of Egypt, Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Republic of The Sudan and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Mauritius, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, and Sao Tome and Principe.
--	---	--

III. SUMMARY OF STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

4. The below table summarizes the status of implementation of the previous Decisions of the Executive Council. The details of the status of implementation are provide in the subsequent sections where each activity item is reported.

Previous Decision from EX.CL/1579(XLVI) on the 2024 activity report of the ACERWC	Status of Implementation
Member States which have not yet ratified the African Children’s Charter to expedite the ratification of the Charter	The ACERWC has been informed that the Federal Republic of Somalia has ratified the Charter at domestic level during the reporting period, however, the ratification instrument is yet to be deposited to the African Union Commission
State Parties which have not yet reported to the Committee to comply with their reporting obligations	The Committee received 6 State Party reports during the reporting period.
Day of the African Child for the year 2025 to be celebrated on ‘Planning and Budgeting for Children’s Rights: Progress since 2010’.	The Committee co-convened DAC 2025 with the adopted theme with the Government of Malawi in Lilongwe.
Member States to take legislative measures to ensure free and compulsory primary education and progressively free secondary education; provide early childhood development; regulate of private schools; ban all forms of barriers to access education; and ensure inclusive education	The Committee adopted General Comment No 09 on Article 11 of the Charter on the Right to Education to guide Member State with the full implementation of the right.
Member States to implement the recommendations of the ACERWC from the 2019 study on ‘Mapping children on the move within Africa’	The Committee is in the process of developing a report to assess the level of implementation of the recommendations of the Study to identify progress, challenges and opportunities.
Member States to protect children from drug addiction and drug trafficking	The Committee is in the process of developing a General Comment on Article 28 of the Charter on Drug Abuse.
Concerned Member States to address the challenges of children with albinism	The Committee adopted a Guiding Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism to guide State action and reporting on measures on State Party reports.
Member States to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the adoption of the African	The Committee celebrated the 35 th Anniversary of the Charter with two days symposium on 28-29 November 2025 in the presence of Member

Children's Charter and collaborate with the ACERWC on the same	States and other stakeholders. Other continues advocacy works were also undertaken such as a publication on the Charter @35 and social media messages.
Federal Republic of Nigeria, the State of Eritrea, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Burundi to continue cooperating with the ACERWC in the context of the pending Communications	<p>The Federal Republic of Nigeria authorised the investigative mission requested by the Committee and submitted its response on the Communication before the Committee.</p> <p>The Republic of Malawi honoured the invitation for hearing and participated in the hearing in the presence of the Applicants.</p> <p>The Republic of Ghana requested for extension for finalising the pending amicable settlement.</p> <p>The Republic of Burundi amicably settled the matter and submitted its report on implementation of the terms of the settlement.</p>
African Union Commission to operationalize and implement the policy in collaboration with the ACERWC	The Committee plans to undertake mainstreaming of the AU Child Safeguarding Policy in 2026 which is included as part of its approved program for 2026.
Member States to address the plight of children in conflict situations; and ACERWC to undertake a comprehensive study on child soldiers in Africa and present a report to the Policy Organs for consideration (2024 Decision)	A study on the recruitment of children by armed groups in conflict zones considering that the request was made by the Executive Council of the African Union with Decision No EX.CL/Dec.1248 (XLIV-2024).
The host country to continue providing the required pursuant to the host agreement, including the timely construction of the permanent office premises.	The Kingdom of Lesotho provides support to the Committee's work as a host of its Secretariat. However, the permanent office construction is yet to materialise.
The African Union Commission to expedite the finalization of recruitment of the ACERWC Secretariat's staff and provide guidance on the possibility of allowing the ACERWC to recruit its own staff	During the reporting period, no recruitment of new staff has been carried out. The guidance on allowing the Committee to process recruitment of its staff has not been undertaken.

IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

5. During the Reporting Period, the ACERWC has undertaken several activities executing its mandate. Though the report focuses on summarizing the outcomes of the major undertakings, it would be essential to note the following activities conducted by the ACERWC:

- i. The Committee held two Ordinary Session in 2025 which are its 45th Ordinary Session held on 7-11 April 2025 in Maseru Lesotho and its 46th Ordinary

Session held from 72 November to 06 December 2025 in Maseru Lesotho. The Committee held various activities such as consideration of complementary reports, consideration of Communications, panel discussion, and consultation with States among others.

- ii. State Party Reports- The Committee received State Party Reports from 6 State Parties in the Reporting Period
- iii. Communications: considered various Communications, issuing rulings on their admissibility and merits.
- iv. The Committee also considered CSO complementary reports on the First Periodic Report of the Republic of Burundi and the Third Periodic Report of the Republic of Kenya.
- v. The Committee conducted a follow-up mission in the Republic of Burundi to monitor the implementation of its concluding observations and recommendations on the State party's initial report in February 2025.
- vi. At the 45th Ordinary Session in April 2025, held in Maseru, Lesotho, the Committee held an advocacy engagement with the Central African Republic on the submission of its initial State Party report.
- vii. The Committee held a panel discussion on Children in Conflict Situation in Africa during its 45th Ordinary Session.
- viii. In July 2025, the Committee undertook an on-site investigation in the context of Communication No: 0017/Com/001/2021 -Child Rights and Rehabilitation Network, Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa and Center for Human Rights (On Behalf of Children Affected by Witchcraft Accusations in Nigeria) against the Federal Republic of Nigeria bringing to the attention of the ACERWC alleged violations of the rights of children accused of witchcraft.
- ix. On June 16, 2024, the Committee co-convened a continental commemoration of the Day of the African Child in Malawi, under the theme "Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress Since 2010"
- x. The Committee adopted General Comment No 9 on Article 11 on the Right to Education; General Comment No 10 on Article 25 on Children Without Parental Care; Monitoring Tool on Children Without Parental Care; Guidelines on Reparations; and Guidance Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism.
- xi. The Committee launched its Study on Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations of the ACERWC; Study on Climate Change and Children's Rights in Africa.
- xii. The Committee Organised a Child Rights Symposium with RECs in June 2025 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.
- xiii. The Committee Organised a Member States' Consultative Forum on the Situation of Children on the Move in Africa in October 2025 in Addis Ababa
- xiv. The Committee Organised a Stakeholder Engagement Forum on Child Rights and Business in November 2025 in Addis Ababa
- xv. The Committee convened a Symposium on Litigating Children's Rights before the ACERWC in October 2025 in Addis Ababa
- xvi. In November 2025, the Committee organised a training for Girls' Parliamentarians in Maseru.
- xvii. In November 2025, during the 46th Ordinary Session in Maseru, Lesotho, the Committee organized a two days Symposium on the Commemoration of the 35th Anniversary of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

- xviii.** During the 35th Anniversary the Committee held panel discussions on Harmful Practices & Violence against Children; Planning and Budgeting for Children; the Role of Parliamentarians in upholding the rights of children; Children with intellectual disabilities: lessons and policy directions; and Child friendly cities: the role of municipalities and children's voices.
- xix.** Ahead of the 46th Ordinary Session, the Committee invited the Republic of Mauritius and the State of Libya for a consultation on the submission of their initial reports on the Implementation of the African Charter on the rights and Welfare of the Child to the Committee.
- xx.** The Committee held panel discussion with the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Mali on the status of implementation of its decisions on Communication No 013/Com/001/2020 against Republic of Mali and Communication No 006/Com/002/2015 against the Republic of Cameroon during the 46th Ordinary Session.
- xxi.** During the 46th Ordinary Session, the Committee held Forum on State Party Reporting and Experience Sharing of National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF).
- xxii.** The Committee organised a Technical Workshop on Implementation of Decisions with NHRIs and CSOs during the 46th Ordinary Session.
- xxiii.** During the 46th Session, the Committee held deliberations on the various documents it is developing including on the Draft new Strategic Plan of the ACERWC (2026-2028); Draft Report on Children on the Move; Draft report on the Status of Implementation of the 2nd Implementation Phase of Agenda 2040; Draft General Comment on Article 28 of the Charter on Drug Abuse; Draft Guidance Note on the Digitalization of Birth Registration in Africa.
- xxiv.** The Committee held two meetings of its Working Groups in April and November 2025 and conducted various activities through its working groups.
- xxv.** The Committee jointly with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR/the Commission) issued a Letter of Appeal the Republic of The Gambia, regarding the death of a one-month-old baby girl from complications following Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

V. REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES

ITEM 1: STATE PARY REPORTS

6. In the reporting period, the Committee did not consider any State Party report due to the delay in the submission of reports from State Parties. The Committee received 6 State Party reports during the reporting period namely the first periodic report of the Republic of Burundi, the third periodic report of the Republic of Kenya, the first period report of the Arab Republic of Egypt; the Second Periodic Report of the State of Eritrea; the initial report of the Republic of The Gambia, and the first periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. However, these reports were all submitted in the last two quarters of the year which did not allow sufficient time for preliminary examination of the reports. The Committee considered the complementary reports submitted on the first periodic report of the Republic of Burundi and the third periodic report of the Republic of Kenya. The Committee will issue the list of issues based on the preliminary review of the reports and share the same for the respective State Parties for their consideration and response.

ITEM 2: ADVOCACY FOR REPORTING ON THE CHARTER

2.1. Discussion with Central African Republic on the submission of its initial report in April 2025

7. The Committee held a discussion on Reporting on the African Children's Charter with the Central African Republic during its 45th Ordinary Session in April 2025 to highlight the progress, challenges, and opportunities in the country's efforts to fulfil its reporting obligations. The consultation served as a platform for dialogue between the Delegation of the Central African Republic, the ACERWC, development partners including UNICEF, and other stakeholders. The Committee acknowledges the political will demonstrated and the significant steps taken by the State Party to advance the reporting process, while also noting the considerable challenges that persists. From the discussion, the Committee notes that:

- The State Party has faced significant challenges at political, security, institutional, and community levels. Politically, the country has suffered from chronic instability since ratifying the Charter in 2003, with multiple regime changes, armed conflict, and the presence of armed groups disrupting the functioning of State institutions and public services.
- Institutionally there is lack of coordination among child protection actors, weak involvement of sectorial ministries, poor data collection systems, and the absence of community-based child protection networks.
- Several opportunities exist for progress, including the signing of a peace agreement in 2022 that enabled armed groups to engage in the DDR process, contributing to improved stability and at the institutional level, the establishment of the National Council for the Promotion and Protection of Children under the Prime Minister's leadership. Moreover, the deployment of administrative and child protection services across the territory, the training and redeployment of national defense and security forces, and the gradual return of displaced populations as signs of stabilization and commitment to improving child protection were noted during the discussion.
- The State Party adopted decree in 2022 to restructure the national report drafting committee and appoint new members.
- On the issue of children's participation, structures such as junior deputies were in place to ensure child involvement have been weekend due to recurring crises and institutional disruptions. Efforts are underway, supported by UNICEF, to revive and institutionalize such structures, including the Children's Parliament.

8. During the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- Expedite the Submission of the initial report noting that reports submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child could be adapted to the African Charter by including relevant elements related to duties and responsibilities;
- Ensure quality and consultative process while compiling the State Party report;
- Utilize, support and proposed mechanisms by actively engaging partners such as UNICEF to operationalize agreed recommendations;

- Consider report drafting not as a bureaucratic formality but rather as a crucial process that helps assess progress, identifies challenges, and promotes constructive dialogue for the advancement of children's rights in the country;
- Strengthen institutional coordination and capacity for reporting on the Charter;
- Establish robust data and monitoring systems for a comprehensive, disaggregated child rights data that informs the report.

2.2. Consultation with the State of Libya on Reporting on the Charter, November 2025

9. The Committee convened an advocacy consultation with the State of Libya on the submission of its State Party report with representatives the relevant ministries and national mechanisms responsible for compiling and submitting reports on 25 November 2025 in Maseru, Lesotho. The State of Libya ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2000; however, it has not yet submitted its initial report yet. The Consultation aimed to assess the level of implementation of the Charter, advocate for compliance with the State Party's reporting obligations, and support progress toward the finalisation and submission of Libya's overdue initial report. The engagement sought to identify progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the Charter and in preparing and compiling the State Party's initial report, with a view to enhancing and accelerating its timely submission. The Committee notes with great appreciation the firm Commitment made by the State of Libya to submit its initial report during the first semester of 2026. The Committee learned that the State Party has recently drafted its report, and it is awaiting validation and clearance for submission. The Delegation informed the Committee that the draft report was prepared by a committee established through a decision of the Minister of Social Affairs, comprising experts and representatives from all relevant sectors.
10. Based on the Consultation, the Committee commends the steps the State of Libya has taken to compile the State Party Report and further recommends that the State Party:
 - Finalizes and submits its initial report on the implementation of the Charter during the first semester of 2026 as pledged during the Consultation;
 - Fast-tracks the validation and clearance process for the timely submission of the report;
 - Ensures that the report incorporates information on all the clusters under the State Party Reporting Guidelines and meets the requirement therein;
 - Undertakes consultation with children and wide range of stakeholders including CSOs to incorporate their views in the report;
 - Adjusts the submission of the reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and that of the Committee to make use of similar data and process by making the required adjustment as per the provisions of the Charter;
 - Updates the drafted report with disaggregated and up-to-date data on children.

2.3. Consultation with the Republic of Mauritius Reporting on the Charter, November 2025

11. On 25 November 2025, the Committee held an advocacy consultation with the Republic of Mauritius on the submission of its State Party report with representatives from the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development, and Family Welfare which is responsible for compiling and submitting reports to the Committee. The Republic of Mauritius ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 1992; and has not submitted its initial report to date. The Consultation aimed to advocate for compliance with the State Party's reporting obligations, understand the challenges faced, and progress toward the finalization and submission of the overdue report. The engagement sought to identify the status of preparation, progress made, and obstacles encountered in compiling the report, with a view to establishing a clear roadmap for its timely submission. The Committee commends the commitment made by the State Party to submit its overdue report by the 47th Ordinary Session of the Committee. The Committee learned that a draft report has been prepared and is awaiting internal validation and stakeholder engagement.
12. In light of the discussions held, commending the preliminary steps taken by the Republic of Mauritius to compile the State Party Report, the Committee recommends for the State Party to:
- Honour its commitment to submit its initial report in 2026;
 - Expedite the validation processes by holding validation consultations with children and all relevant stakeholders on a timely manner;
 - Fast-track the government validation and executive clearance process;
 - Ensure inclusive and participatory meaningful consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including children, the National Children's Council, civil society organizations and, and incorporate their views and experiences into the final report;
 - Update the drafted report with disaggregated, and up-to-date data on children's rights, addressing identified gaps in interdepartmental data flow and ensuring the report aligns with the thematic clusters of the State Party Reporting Guidelines;
 - Address systemic challenges by clarifying mandates to reduce overlap between departments, establishing a sustainable multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism and improving institutional systems for data collection and management to facilitate future reporting cycles;
 - Leverage on the reports submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child by making necessary adjustments on the provisions of the Charter to avoid duplication of efforts;

ITEM 3: FOLLOW-UP MISSION TO REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Committee undertook a follow-up mission to the Republic of Burundi on 24-27 February 2025 to monitor the implementation of its concluding observations and recommendations. The Mission aimed to identify the progress achieved,

challenges faced, and available opportunities to ensure the effective implementation of the Committee's concluding observations and recommendations. The Committee also intended to bring stakeholders together to boost collaboration between the Government, UN agencies, CSOs, and other stakeholders. Moreover, the Committee sought to enhance and accelerate the implementation of its recommendations and ensure that the reporting cycle was maintained.

14. Following the assessment, while appreciating the progress, the Committee recommended that the Republic of Burundi:

- Submit the first periodic report on the status of the implementation of the Charter to the Committee in 2025; the Committee appreciates that following such recommendation, the Republic of Burundi has submitted its report.
- Accelerate the adoption of the Child Protection Code and initiate legislation on inheritance;
- Continue efforts to harmonize existing laws, including the Family Code, with international and regional instruments relating to children's rights;
- Increase budgets allocated to child protection and improve public financing for the social sectors;
- Establish a database on children's rights and ensure the collection of updated data on child-related issues in the next report;
- Continue engagement with civil society and support organisations working in the field of childhood to contribute effectively to the Government's priority actions responding to children's needs;
- Take the necessary measures to ensure that the legal minimum age of marriage is respected, and that no practice contradicts the legal age;
- Adopt legislation regulating inheritance and ensure that girls are not discriminated against in succession matters;
- Strengthen measures to reduce child mortality, notably by consolidating prevention and treatment interventions for major causes such as malaria, and by improving vaccination coverage, access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and maternal and child healthcare, including by increasing the rate of assisted births;
- Remove penalties for late birth registration, and make greater efforts to reach all regions of the country, including through mobile registration units;
- Continue efforts to ensure the effective enforcement of laws prohibiting corporal punishment, conduct awareness campaigns targeting teachers and parents on its harmful effects on children's well-being, and promote positive discipline techniques;
- Eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, including through the effective implementation of the Bogota Declaration commitments;
- Continue implementing the National Alternative Care Strategy, including the deinstitutionalisation process and child care measures by strengthening the foster care system;
- Continue implementing free healthcare policies, particularly for children under five, pregnant women and vulnerable populations;
- Ensure the expansion of services for children with disabilities throughout all provinces and intensify efforts to provide a comprehensive services, including identification, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of disabilities;

- Continue and intensify efforts to guarantee universal access to free and compulsory primary education, notably by eliminating all indirect and informal fees in public schools;
- Strengthen measures to ensure inclusive education for all children with disabilities by allocating sufficient resources for adapted learning materials and teacher training, and intensifying community awareness campaigns to combat stigma;
- Ensure the protection of children against trafficking, abuse, and exploitation, particularly those who are returned through bilateral and regional cooperation;
- Expand the geographical coverage of rehabilitation centres for children in conflict with the law to all regions;
- Strengthen support mechanisms in detention facilities, including nurseries, access to healthcare, education, recreational activities and nutrition services for detained children and pregnant women;
- Strengthen efforts to prevent and address drug abuse among children, by expanding access to detoxification and psychosocial support services;
- Address the phenomenon of children in street situations, ensuring robust family and community reintegration mechanisms, sustainable follow-up after street withdrawal, and intensifying psychosocial support measures to prevent relapse, while addressing root causes such as poverty, family breakdown and violence;
- Accelerate the effective implementation of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour and its Worst Forms (2024–2027), as well as relevant laws, including the revised Labour Code.

ITEM 4: FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

4.1. Discussion with the Republic of Cameroon on Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Communication No. 006/Com/002/2015 against the Republic of Cameroon

15. The Committee held discussion with the Republic of Cameroon during its 46th Ordinary Session on the implementation of the decision of the Committee on Communication No. 006/Com/002/2015 submitted by IHRDA and Finders Group Initiative (on behalf of TFA) v the Republic of Cameroon. The Representative of Cameroon provided updates on the measures undertaken the status of implementation. The measures include: prosecution and conviction to 12 years' imprisonment of the perpetrator; detention of perpetrator while appeal is pending; an award of 10 million CFA in damages to TFA; follow-up efforts with Ministry of Finance for payment of the damage; institutional and legislative developments, including the adoption of a national child protection policy, action plans against harmful practices, and circulars enabling pregnant students to remain in school. The State Party also reported that it has provided psychosocial and educational support directly to TFA, enabling her continued schooling. Despite these advances, the State Party acknowledged persistent challenges such as budget constraints which hinder the establishment of specialized courts and the broader rollout of training initiatives; administrative and financial limitations which hinder implementation of decisions; challenges in ensuring adequate coverage of capacity-building initiatives; and gaps in infrastructure necessary for nationwide specialized child protection services.

16. In light of these, the Committee, while commending the Republic of Cameroon for the measure undertaken thus far, recommends the Republic of Cameroon to:
- Strengthen specialized justice mechanisms for children by establishing children's courts;
 - Finalizing the judicial proceedings and compensation procedures for TFA and ensure effective remedy
 - Provide sustained psychosocial support to mitigate risks of traumatization to TFA and other victims
 - Scale-up the training and prevention campaigns against sexual violence
 - Enhance training to the judiciary, persecutors, police and other actors on the support to be provided for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse
 - cooperate with the Committee to undertake follow-up visit on the implementation of its decisions and concluding observations and recommendations
 - Prioritizing implementation efforts and improving coordination across ministries to ensure full compliance with the Committee's recommendations
 - Enhance investment on child protection services and ensuring the decentralisation of the services to reach all children

4.2. Discussion with the Republic of Mali on Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Communication N°: 0013/Com/001/2020 against Republic of Mali

17. The Committee held discussion with the Republic of Mali during its 46th Ordinary Session on the implementation of its decision on Communication No. 012/Com/001/2020 (AS v. Republic of Mali). The measures reported by the State Party include: the prosecution and conviction of the perpetrator to 10 years' imprisonment; comprehensive legal and institutional reforms, including the revision of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code in 2024, the adoption of the Law on Judicial Organization establishing specialized juvenile courts and chambers; the establishment of a National Directorate of Child Judicial Protection; the operationalization of a Child Protection Code; and the expansion of holistic services for survivors through One Stop Centres, a national hotline, and community-based alert committees. Furthermore, the State has recruited and trained magistrates to strengthen the justice sector. Despite these advances, the State Party acknowledged persistent challenges hindering full implementation, including: security constraints in many regions limiting access to justice and protection services; insufficient availability of specialized child judges and social workers; logistical and administrative barriers affecting data collection, coordination across ministries, and the sustained functioning of reporting systems; and, critically, the inability to locate and contact the victim (AS) to facilitate the payment of court-ordered compensation, which has stalled the completion of reparations.
18. The Committee notes with appreciation the measures undertaken by the Republic of Mali in implementing its decisions and further recommends the State Party to:

- Intensify and coordinate all possible efforts, in close collaboration with the applicants (APDF/IHRDA), to locate the victim (AS) and facilitate her access to the compensation process without further delay, ensuring the finalization of this critical aspect of the decision;
- Finalize and submit a comprehensive written report on implementation to in line with the decision of the Committee and the Guidelines for Consideration of Communications outlining all measures taken, challenges faced, and a clear plan with timelines for implementing outstanding recommendations;
- Accelerate the full operationalization of the newly established juvenile courts and specialized chambers across the territory, ensuring they are adequately staffed with trained child-specialized judges, prosecutors, and social workers;
- Increase the geographical coverage and capacity of the One Stop Centre model and other victim support services, particularly in conflict-affected and remote regions;
- Address administrative gaps by strengthening inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, investing in data collection systems on child rights violations, and ensuring the stability and capacity of ministerial focal points for reporting;
- Expand community awareness programmes and the network of village alert committees to prevent violence and improve early reporting;
- Institutionalize and adequately resource the ongoing legal and policy reforms to ensure their sustained implementation;
- Continue to engage constructively with the Committee and civil society partners.

4.3. Report on Implementation of Decisions

19. In December 2025, the Committee received a report from the Republic of Burundi on the implementation of the Amicable Settlement on Communication No 022/Com/004/2022 submitted by the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa against the Republic of Burundi. The Committee commends the efforts of the Republic of Burundi in submitting its implementation report.

ITEM 5: GENERAL COMMENTS, GUIDELINES, RESEARCH

20. During the Reporting period, the Committee developed studies, reports, and normative standards aimed at enhancing the implementation of the Charter by providing guidance and recommendations to Member States on measures to be undertaken in several thematic areas. Accordingly, during its 45th and 46th Session, the Committee adopted the following documents:

5.1. General Comments and Guidelines

5.1.1. General Comment No 9 on Article 11 of the Charter on the Right to Education

21. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child guarantees every child the right to education, a right essential for their development, dignity, and future. Article 11 of the Charter outlines this right in detail, setting out the aims of education and the specific obligations of States to ensure its realisation.

22. The Committee adopted this General Comment to guide State Parties in fulfilling their obligations under Article 11. It provides an authoritative, Africa-specific interpretation of the right to education, clarifying its core elements: that education

must be accessible, affordable, of quality, and adaptable. It elaborates on the specific aims of education, which include the holistic development of the child's personality and talents, fostering respect for human rights and African values, preparing children for responsible life in society and respect for environment, and promoting African unity in line with the regional integration aspiration of the Continent.

23. The General Comment establishes that States have an immediate obligation to provide free and compulsory basic education for all children, including by eliminating all direct and indirect costs and ensuring inclusive access for children with disabilities through reasonable accommodations. It further obliges States to provide early childhood education and to progressively make secondary education free and accessible and to ensure higher education is accessible based on capacity and ability.
24. The General Comment addresses barriers to education in Africa, including discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, and marginalised groups; harmful practices like child marriage and FGM; violence and corporal punishment in schools; and the impact of conflicts, emergencies, and climate change. It provides detailed guidance on measures to ensure regular school attendance, reduce dropout rates, protect pregnant girls' right to continue their education, and regulate all educational institutions including public, private, and faith-based to meet minimum standards.
25. It outlines the nature of State obligations required to respect, protect, and fulfil the right to education including legislative, institutional, budgetary, and judicial measures. Furthermore, it highlights the roles of other stakeholders, including National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), civil society, the private sector, and community leaders, in upholding this fundamental right and ensuring accountability for its implementation.
26. The General Comment is grounded in the broader framework of Agenda 2063, Agenda 2040: An Africa Fit for Children, particularly Aspiration 6, which envisions that every child benefits fully from quality education. It also aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on inclusive and equitable quality education.
27. The Committee launched the General Comment on the Right to Education during its 46th Ordinary Session on 02 December 2025 in Maseru, Lesotho. The launch featured presentations on the content of the General Comment, financing of education, curriculum relevance, and litigation of the right to education, alongside testimonies from child representatives on corporal punishment and other forms of abuse in schools and communities affecting education. Member State experiences were shared by the Republic of Cabo Verde and Kingdom of Lesotho. Some of the main issues amplified during the launch include that:
 - Education should be relevant by solving the challenges faced in the continent by promoting innovative contextual solutions. It must also integrate African aspirations of integration, history, civilisation, and values.
 - The expulsion of pregnant girls and related practices like pregnancy testing should be prohibited; sexual and reproductive health education should be

integrated in schools; and support to pregnant girls to continue their education should be availed.

- Adequate, transparent, and efficient financing is foundational to realizing the right to education. Investment in education must be prioritized as a long-term development strategy, with increased domestic budget allocations (exemplified by Cabo Verde's 15% allocation), improved tax collection, and mechanisms to prevent illicit financial flows.
- The right to education must be justiciable, and litigation is a critical tool for its enforcement. The General Comment provides a clear framework for strategic litigation to challenge discriminatory laws, secure school safety, protect pregnant learners, ensure access for children with disabilities, and address digital exclusion.
- Ending violence in schools is imperative for a safe and supportive learning environment. Child testimonies highlighted the persistent use of corporal punishment, verbal abuse, sexual exploitation, and bullying, which cause severe psychological harm and lead to school dropout.

5.1.2. General Comment No 10 on Article 25 of the Charter on Children Without Parental Care

28. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child recognizes the family as the natural and fundamental unit for a child's development. However, millions of children across Africa are temporarily or permanently deprived of parental care, facing increased risks to their safety, development, and well-being as outlined in the Committee's Study on the Children without Parental Care. Article 25 of the Charter provides the framework for protecting these children, entitling them to special protection and assistance and obligating States to provide alternative family care and support family reunification where possible.

29. The Committee adopted this General Comment to clarify the nature and scope of State obligations under Article 25 and to guide comprehensive care systems reform. It establishes that the overarching goal is to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families and, when separation occurs, to prioritize family-based alternative care over institutional placement. It underscores that institutional care should only be a temporary measure of last resort.

30. The General Comment elaborates on the principles of necessity and suitability which elaborate that children should only enter alternative care when absolutely necessary, and the care provided must be the most appropriate for their individual needs. It emphasizes the critical role of gatekeeping mechanisms to assess each child's situation before placement and the importance of case management, individualized care plans, and the participation of the child in all decisions affecting them. It provides detailed guidance on specific categories of children without parental care and outlines targeted protection measures for each group.

31. The General Comment provides that States should develop and implement a multi-year national care reform strategy aimed strengthening families through social protection, developing a continuum of family-based care options such as foster care, kinship care, and kafalah, investing in the social service workforce, and pursuing deinstitutionalization. The General Comment also outlines the need to

establish a strong monitoring, data collection, and accountability mechanisms. It also outlines the obligations of States to take legislative, policy, budgetary, and administrative measures. It also highlights the essential roles of other stakeholders including civil society, community and religious leaders, National Human Rights Institutions, and development partners.

32. During its 46th Ordinary Session, the Committee launched the General Comment on Children Without Parental Care. The Launch emphasized the imperative to prioritize family and community-based care, treat institutionalization as a measure of last resort, and reform care systems to protect the rights and well-being of every child. Country experiences from Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Kenya, and Nigeria were shared during the Launch. The Launch emphasized that children's right to a family is paramount, hence, investing in preventive support to keep families together must be prioritized. Effective prevention of separation requires economic and psychosocial support for families, parenting programs, access to social protection, and combating practices like early marriage and orphanage trafficking. Moreover, it was underlined that conflicts exacerbate family separation, hence, responses must integrate family tracing and reunification, psychosocial support, and continuous education into emergency plans to protect vulnerable children and preserve family unity wherever possible. During the Launch, it was strongly recommended that Member States should review and harmonize their national laws with the Charter and the General Comment to explicitly promote family-based care, regulate all care institutions, set time limits for institutional placement, and prevent unnecessary separation.

5.1.3. Guiding Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism

33. With a view to strengthening the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child for children with albinism, the Committee has developed a Guiding Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism in Africa. The Guiding Note recognises the unique and severe human rights challenges faced by children with albinism including ritual attacks, discrimination, barriers to healthcare and education, and family separation. Noting the significant gap in information provided in state reports on children with albinism and recognising the need to adopt indicators based on their specific vulnerabilities of children with Albinism, to guide States in gathering information, , the Committee developed this Guiding Note to assist Member States in fulfilling their obligations. The Guiding Note provides a structured set of indicators across six thematic areas namely on equality and non-discrimination, service delivery, accessibility, budgeting, participation and accountability and governance, to enable comprehensive and consistent reporting, thereby allowing the Committee to effectively monitor progress and recommend targeted interventions.

5.1.4. Resolution on Targeted State Party Reporting

34. With a view to enhancing the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and addressing significant challenges in state party reporting, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) has adopted a Resolution to establish a Targeted State Party

Reporting Procedure. This complementary procedure is established with the aim to facilitate more effective and timely reporting and easing the burden States in the reporting process. The Targeted Procedure operates on a case-by-case basis for States Parties that have already submitted an initial report. The Procedure involves the Committee identifying eligible States, developing a focused list of issues prior to reporting, and allowing the State six months to submit a targeted report responding to the issues raised in the list of issues. The process maintains the inclusive engagement of civil society, National Human Rights Institutions, and children, and concludes with the Committee's consideration of the report and issuance of concluding observations. This procedure aims to proactively assist States facing resource and capacity constraints, thereby strengthening the overall monitoring and implementation of the African Children's Charter.

5.2. Other Documents

35. The Committee also adopted the following documents during the reporting period:

- Monitoring Tool on Children Without Parental Care which provides indicators on monitoring progress and challenges on children without parental care
- Guidelines on Reparations which provides guidance and principles for the Committee in issuing reparations in its Communication Procedure.
- Evaluation report of the Committee's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 which identifies key success and challenges of the Committee and identify priority areas for the upcoming strategic period
- Thematic report on Harmful Practices Affecting Children's Rights which evaluates the progress made by States in address harmful practices, identifies challenges persisting, and provides recommendations to Member States on measure that should be undertaken to eliminate harmful practices
- Guidance Note on Digitalization of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: With a Focus on Birth Registration which provides guidelines on various options in the digitalisation of birth registration by documenting best practices.

36. Moreover, the Committee decided to develop the following documents:

- A study on the recruitment of children by armed groups in conflict zones considering that the request was made by the Executive Council of the African Union with Decision No EX.CL/Dec.1248 (XLIV-2024).
- A continental benchmark on investment and budgeting for children
- A General Comment on Article 13 of the Charter on Children with Disabilities through its Working Group on Children with Disabilities.

ITEM 6: SYMPOSIUM ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

37. During its 46th Ordinary Session, the Committee held a two days symposium in the context of the celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the adoption of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on 28-29 November 2025 in Maseru, Lesotho. The 35th Anniversary was celebrated with a theme to '**Reflect, Renew, and Recommit**' for enhanced implementation. The Symposium was attended by various Member States, Children, NHRIs, CSOs, and other stakeholders. During the Symposium various sessions were held and recommendations were made on measure that should be undertaken towards recommitting for increased implementation of the Charter. The Symposium identified significant strides on the implementation of the Charter by Member States; persisting and emerging challenges; and recommendations on addressing the barriers.
38. The Symposium was graced by a remarkable message delivered by H.E. João Lourenço, the President of the Republic of Angola and the Chairperson of the African Union who called for concerted efforts to enhance the implementation of the African Children's Charter.
39. Members of the PRC and other high-ranking Officials have also participated in the Symposium including H.E. Miguel Bembe, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia & Permanent Representative to the AU, Chairperson of the Permanent Representatives Committee of the AU; H.E. Amb. Ntsiuoa SEKETE, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU, H.E. Amb. Willy Nyamitwe, Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU and Chairperson of the Subcommittee of Human Rights, Democracy and Governance;; and Hon. Mphuthi Mphuthi, Minister of Public Service on behalf of Hon. Pitso Lesaoana, Minister of Gender, Youth, and Social Development, Kingdom of Lesotho.
40. The various discussion and recommendations from the 35th Anniversary are summarised as follows:

6.1. Advancing the AU theme of the year through a child-rights lens

41. Linking the 2025 AU Theme of the Year, "*Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations,*" to the 35th Anniversary of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), emphasis was placed on framing reparations through a child-rights lens, on amplifying that historical injustice such as colonialism, enslavement, apartheid, and structural racism continue to impose intergenerational harms on children across the continent and in the diaspora; and on positioning the Charter and the Committee as the essential continental framework for interpreting and advancing reparatory justice for children. Three core dimensions of child-centred reparatory justice were recommended namely restorative measures including healing for affected communities; redistributive measures which entail equitable access to development, education, health, and social protection; and transformative narratives affirming cultural identity and dignity of children. Moreover, recommendations were made to ensure

child-centred participation in key forums on reparatory justice, promoting the concept through education, and fostering cross regional linkages.

6.2. *Children's Voices and Reflections on children's rights: trends, progress and challenges*

42. A dedicated, child-led session was convened during the 35th Anniversary providing a platform for children from across the continent to reflect on its implementation. Children celebrated advancements including the recognition of their right to participation, expanded birth registration, free primary education, digital learning initiatives, legislative reforms, and mechanisms like Children's Parliaments. However, the children highlighted significant and interlinked barriers to the full realization of their rights including limited access to education and healthcare due to unaffordable costs; persistent harmful practices such as child marriage, child labour, and corporal punishment; inequalities exacerbated by conflict and climate change leading to displacement, trauma, malnutrition, and school closures; digital exclusion and unequal access to technology-based learning; inadequate implementation of protective laws and policies despite strong legal frameworks; and insufficient meaningful participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Building on their reflections, the children made recommendations to Member States and called for:

- guaranteeing effective and structured child participation in all relevant decision-making and creating safe spaces for children to express their views;
- increasing investments and enforcing laws in education, health, and protection from violence and discrimination;
- bridging the digital divide by providing schools with computers and lowering internet costs;
- strengthening guidance and implementation to ensure pregnant girls can continue their education;
- fully prohibiting and eliminating all harmful practices, including accusations of witchcraft, corporal punishment, and economic exploitation.

6.3. *Harmful Practices & Violence against Children*

43. The discussion on harmful practices and violence against children recognized the positive political will and legal reforms that have achieved measurable progress such as Sudan's criminalization of FGM in 2020, Zimbabwe's Marriage Act of 2022, and Sierra Leone's 2024 Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. Yet, harmful practices remain pervasive due to deeply entrenched social norms, economic vulnerability, gender inequality, and weak enforcement. Key strategies and recommendations emerged for Member States during the discussions for accelerating progress include:

- High-level political and financial commitment for investing in harmful practices and violence against children including costed National Action Plan with direct presidential and vice-presidential support;

- Integrating survivor leadership based on lived experience in awareness raising and advocacy efforts of States
- Establishing safe, child-sensitive reporting environments by addressing barriers such as fear, threats, stigma, and a lack of knowledge about where to seek help.
- Ensuring coordinated, multi-sectoral responses
- Addressing legislative and systemic gaps by harmonising laws and addressing loopholes such as parental consent or customary/religious exemptions for child marriage,
- Harmonizing national, customary, and religious laws with the Charter
- Strengthen investigation and prosecution of perpetrators
- Driving community-led change through active engagement of traditional and religious leaders, youth-led advocacy, and intergenerational dialogue
- Addressing the economic drivers of harmful practices such as bride price or family financial burdens through empowerment programs, cash transfers, and support for girls' education

6.4. *Planning and Budgeting for Children*

44. The panel discussion highlighted the financing gap for child rights which affects the implementation of the Charter. Data presented showed that despite over 130 million child marriages, 79 million children experiencing sexual assault, and 87 million in child labour in Africa, only an estimated 0.2% of public spending is dedicated to child protection. The main recommendations of the Panel include:

- Establishment of a Continental Benchmark for child protection financing and service delivery by the Committee providing a clear, comparable standard to guide national planning, strengthen budget justifications, enhance accountability, by Member States;
- Enhance budget visibility and credibility through dedicated budget lines, costed service packages, and multisectoral coordination to give budget requests for children greater credibility with Ministries of Finance;
- Strengthen data collection, evidence generation to demonstrate needs, and budget tracking;
- Ensure meaningful child participation in planning and budgeting processes to ensure their priorities are reflected; and
- Build institutional and human capacity as well as address weak coordination, and the over-reliance on external partners.

6.5. *The Role of Parliamentarians in upholding the rights of children*

45. During the discussion, the Committee noted the critical role of parliaments in advancing child protection highlighted their mandate in law-making, budgeting, and oversight to implement the African Children's Charter. The Pan-African Parliament's development of model laws on issues like food security, migration, and the implementation of human rights decisions was cited as a key mechanism to standardize and strengthen child protection frameworks across Member States. The key recommendations from the discussions are for Member States and their Parliaments to:

- Strengthen legislative frameworks by Parliaments through enacting, amending, and harmonizing national laws in line with the Charter;
- Ensure oversight of implementation of laws and policies;

- Prioritize and track child protection budgets by utilizing tools like costed national action plans and benchmarks to justify funding requests and monitor expenditure, ensuring effective utilization of resources;
- Foster meaningful collaboration with children and CSOs through structured engagement with child parliaments and CSOs; formalizing consultation processes; publishing parliamentary records for transparency; and ensuring children's recommendations are systematically integrated in decision-making.
- Enhance the capacity and visibility of child parliaments by establishing them through legislation, allocating resources, and providing them with platform to influence laws and decisions;
- Adopt an inclusive approach whereby legislation and policies recognize the disproportionate impact of abuse and discrimination on girls, children with disabilities and other vulnerable children to adopt targeted measures.

6.6. *Children with intellectual disabilities: lessons and policy directions*

46. The Discussion on children with intellectual disabilities emphasized the principle of leaving no child behind. The Committee noted that an estimated 16.8 million children with intellectual disabilities in Africa face profound and unique vulnerabilities, including heightened risks of violence, forced sterilization, criminalization, institutionalization, and exclusion from education, with an estimated 86.5% out of school in some regions. Persistent harmful beliefs, stigma, and a lack of focused policies render them invisible. Based on the discussions, the following recommendations were made to Member States to:

- Enact and implement specific legal protections that explicitly protect children with intellectual disabilities, recognizing their legal capacity through supported decision-making and harmonizing national frameworks with the Charter and the African Disability Protocol.
- Shift from the practice of institutionalization to inclusive community care of children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities by prioritizing family and community-based care over institutionalization and investing in support for caregivers.
- Guarantee inclusive, equitable, and meaningful education for children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities by providing adaptive materials, accessible infrastructure, and trained teachers.
- Allocate adequate budgeting for early childhood diagnosis, assistive technologies, and therapeutic services
- Undertake nationwide awareness and anti-stigma campaigns to transform societal attitudes, dispel myths linking disability to curses or witchcraft, and promote the dignity and participation of children with intellectual disabilities
- Generate disability-disaggregated data to ensure their visibility

6.7. *Child friendly cities: the role of municipalities and children's voices*

47. During the 35th anniversary the Committee held a discussion on child friendly cities inspired by successful models that have implemented child friendly cities shared during the discussion. The Committee notes the importance of urban environments that prioritize children's rights, safety, and participation. During the discussion, key priorities and recommendations identified for creating child-friendly African cities include:

- Adopting a systematic, municipality-driven approach learning from progress in countries like Senegal, Cameroon, and Gabon to ensure sustainability and local ownership;
- Ensuing that children must be active participants in the design, planning, and governance of cities and that their views, particularly on safety, infrastructure, and services, must guide all development;
- Ensuring safety and addressing specific vulnerabilities in cities by enforcing safety measures like speed limits in school zones and decisively tackling issues like drug and substance abuse in communities and school;
- Guaranteeing equitable access to essential services through reliable access to healthcare, clean water, sanitation, education, and electricity;
- Addressing infrastructure gaps, such as flooding that blocks school access, unreliable power (load-shedding), and a lack of safe public transport;
- Focus on inclusion and reach beyond city centers by reaching informal settlements and rural villages to ensure equitable development without leaving the most marginalized, including children with disabilities behind;
- Combat corruption and strengthen governance for the effective allocation and utilisation of resources for child-friendly city projects.

6.8. *Intergenerational dialogue on Shaping the future: Recommitting to child Rights in a changing Africa*

48. The Committee held intergenerational dialogue between children and national and regional level decision makers to facilitate exchange of information and integration of children's views in decision making processes. While celebrating advancements, particularly the formal recognition of children's right to participate and the use of digital tools for connection and information, the dialogue underscored that the most persistent challenge is not a lack of laws, but the failure to translate strong legal frameworks into tangible improvements in children's daily lives. Some of the identified barriers and recommendations for accelerating implementation by children and others who participated in the dialogue include:

- Strengthening multi-sectoral coordination and systemic integration to address weak coordination among social services, justice, health, and education sectors;
- Investment in training, tools, and staffing for frontline workers;
- Responsive child-governance systems at sub-national levels should be established ensuring children's views inform policies, budgets, and community action plans;
- Governments should increase domestic investment in education, health, and social protection, moving beyond reliance on donor funds;
- The widespread lack of disaggregated data on child rights violations undermines effective planning and monitoring. Member States need to institutionalize robust data collection and regular "state-of-the-child" reporting to guide evidence-based policies and track progress;
- Implementation strategies must adapt to new challenges, including digital risks like online exploitation, the worsening mental health crisis among youth, the alarming rise in attacks on education, and the disproportionate impact of climate change on children;
- Children's rights must be insulated from political cycles and leadership changes by anchoring commitments in permanent institutions, legislation, and long-term national strategies.

49. The Committee Launched the Commemorative Publication of the Charter @35 during the 35th Anniversary of the Charter which contains articles on implementation of the Charter on various thematic areas.

ITEM 7: PANEL DISCUSSIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND LAUNCHING EVENTS DURING SESSIONS

7.1. *Children in Conflict Situation*

50. During its 45th Ordinary Session, the Committee held a Panel Discussion on Children in Conflict Situations to spotlight their challenges, share practical interventions, and develop recommendations for enhanced protection. Presentations were made on the scale of violations, child testimonies from conflict zones, accountability mechanisms, humanitarian interventions, and the critical role of education and sustainable investment. After the deliberation, the Committee notes the following:

- Violence against children in African conflict zones are alarming and widespread. The panel highlighted that children face targeted violations including recruitment and use by armed groups, killing and maiming, abduction, sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and forced displacement. The situation has sharply deteriorated in regions such as The Sudan, the Sahel, and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where children endure constant fear, trauma, and the collapse of essential services.
- There is an urgent need to strengthen accountability and the implementation of existing legal frameworks. While national legislative efforts and youth involvement in peacebuilding were commended, significant concern was expressed over weak enforcement, persistent violations, and impunity. The Committee notes the critical importance of improving monitoring and reporting systems, ensuring Member States' compliance with regional and international obligations, and holding all perpetrators accountable.
- Protecting education and ensuring access to essential services are fundamental pillars of child protection in conflict. The continued military use and targeting of schools and hospitals represent a grave violation of children's rights and safety. The Committee underscores the imperative for all Member States to endorse and fully implement the Safe Schools Declaration and the Paris Commitments. Furthermore, guaranteeing uninterrupted access to quality education, healthcare, and psychosocial support is a vital tool for healing, peacebuilding, and breaking cycles of trauma.
- A holistic, child-centred approach is essential for the recovery and reintegration of children affected by conflict. The Committee notes that children experience separation from families during conflicts through displacement, detention, or loss of caregivers. Effective interventions must prioritize the best interests of the child, comply with International Humanitarian Law, and support family tracing and reunification. Reintegration programs must be age-appropriate, gender-sensitive, and include comprehensive psychosocial support.
- Sustainable child protection requires addressing root causes and investing in peace and development. The Committee notes the imbalance between rising military spending and declining investment in peacebuilding and social services. There is a pressing need to redirect resources towards sustainable development, poverty reduction, and social safety nets. Strengthening child

protection within peace support operations, developing contingency plans, enhancing early warning mechanisms, and ensuring proper budgeting for education, health, and civil documentation are key to effective prevention and durable solutions.

7.2. Follow-up on the 1st Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children

51. The Committee, in collaboration with the Africa Child Policy Forum (ACPF), UNICEF, and WHO, co-convened a high-level panel discussion to follow up on commitments made by African Union Member States at the 1st Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (VAC) in Bogotá. The session provided an analysis of national pledges, shared implementation progress from select countries, and outlined a way forward for accountability. After the deliberation, the Committee notes the following:

- Violence Against Children remains a pervasive crisis in Africa, exacerbated by systemic gaps in implementation. Despite the ratification of the Charter, the UNCRC, and the existence of national laws, violence persists driven by harmful practices, corporal punishment, online abuse, and sexual violence with 79 million girls being affected by sexual violence. Moreover, the Committee noted the over-reliance on external donor funding, which threatens the sustainability of child protection systems.
- The Bogotá Conference yielded significant, actionable commitments from Member States that must now be operationalized. An analysis of pledges from 40 participating African States showed commitments to: strengthen legal frameworks and criminalize online abuse; end child marriage and corporal punishment; establish multi-sectoral coordination structures; scale up prevention and response services; increase financial allocations; and enhance data surveillance systems.
- Translating commitments into national action requires governance, dedicated financing, and inclusive coordination. Case studies from Uganda, South Africa, and Eswatini demonstrated the importance of establishing high-level multi-sectoral committees, aligning national programmes with Bogotá themes, and strengthening partnerships with civil society, UN agencies, and faith-based organizations.
- A multi-stakeholder, evidence-based approach is critical for effective prevention, response, and monitoring. The Committee acknowledged the value of the Pathfinding Global Alliance on Ending VAC as a platform for knowledge-sharing and peer accountability. Efforts should be employed for continuous and disaggregated data collection, including on overlooked groups like refugee children, to inform policies.
- Meaningful child participation and collaboration with civil society are essential for designing effective interventions and monitoring government performance.
- The Committee's mandate plays a pivotal role in monitoring pledges and guiding sustained implementation. The Committee calls for the integration of implementation of the Bogota Pledges in State Party Reports and implementation of its Guidelines on Ending Violence Against Children.

7.3. Launch of Study on Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations of the ACERWC

52. During its 45th Session in April 2025 the Committee Launched its Study on Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations in Maseru, Lesotho. The Launch brought reflections on the findings of the study, experience sharing from the other African Human rights organs, perspectives of children, CSOs and the academia. The Committee commends the various steps undertaken by States to implement its recommendations and decisions including cooperation in submitting implementation reports and responding to implementation hearing invitations. Some of the recommendations and observations made during the discussions include:

- States often partially implement decisions or fail to comply with the decisions and recommendations of the Committee. Some of the factors identified for lack of full implementation of decisions include lack of knowledge and awareness about the mandate of the Committee and its decisions at national level; lack of institutional mechanisms to oversee implementation of decisions of the Committee; lack of data on compliance; lack of budget and resource for the implementation of decisions; lack of coordination among various government actors; political instability; weak governance; and persistent inequalities.
- The Committee's role to enhance monitoring practices through measures like in-country follow-up visits, implementation hearings was amplified.
- States are encouraged to establish dedicated national coordination and focal points for effective implementation and serve as a primary contact for regional bodies and civil society. Mobilization of various arms of the executive, judiciary, legislative along with public engagement, to drive implementation was recommended.
- Implementation relies on active, coordinated roles for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), academic institutions, and national courts.
- Information on decisions must be repackaged and disseminated in accessible formats including for children and tailored to different stakeholders (parliamentarians, diplomats, communities) to drive action.
- There is an urgent need for domestic investment and adequate funding for the follow-up work of human rights bodies.
- To address the perception of decisions as "foreign judgments," key recommendation was proposed for the development of an AU Model Law to guide Member States in implementing regional decisions, providing a standardized, continentally endorsed framework on the position of the decisions of the Committee and other regional bodies at national level.

7.4. Launch of Study on Climate Change and Children's Rights in Africa: A Continental Overview

53. The Committee convened a panel discussion to launch its continental study on "Climate Change and Children's Rights in Africa: A Continental Overview" during its 45th Session held in April 2025 in Maseru, Lesotho. The session highlighted findings from the study and featured perspectives from child advocates, civil society, and experts. The study and the discussions framed climate change as a critical child rights crisis, underlining that children in Africa are disproportionately

affected yet systematically excluded from decisions that shape their future. Climate change is a direct, systemic threat to the realization of children's rights in Africa. Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and environmental degradation severely undermine children's rights to food, water, health, education, and protection. National climate policies fail to integrate child-specific needs and participation. Existing frameworks, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), largely lack child-focused strategies and mechanisms for meaningful child participation. There is a critical evidence and implementation gap in linking climate action to child rights. Child testimonies highlighted climate change as a lived reality causing displacement, school closures, food insecurity, and trauma. During the launch the following recommendations were proposed:

- States should treat children on the frontlines as active agents, not just victims, and include their views in decision-making on climate issues.
- Children should participate in developing climate policy at all levels, from local planning to national delegations and global forums like the UNFCCC, ensuring their voices inform resilience and adaptation strategies.
- Integrated, rights-based approaches are needed to address the climate-conflict nexus and protect vulnerable children. In regions like the Sahel, climate change amplifies conflict drivers, exposing children to compounded risks of violence, recruitment, and displacement. Solutions require aligning climate adaptation with peacebuilding, investing in climate-resilient livelihoods, and strengthening early warning systems.
- Urgent action is required to translate findings into policy, financing, and child-sensitive infrastructure.
- Member States should revise national climate plans to incorporate child-focused strategies, scaling up climate education and mental health support, ensuring targeted climate finance reaches child-sensitive programs, and increasing investment in resilient infrastructure like schools and health facilities.
- States were encouraged to make use of the recommendations in the Study in climate actions, raising awareness, and enhancing political will to protect from climate related risks.

ITEM 8: WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS

8.1. *Forum on State Party Reporting and Implementation of the ACRWC*

54. The Committee convened a Forum on State Party Reporting and Implementation of the African Children's Charter on 01 December 2025 in Maseru, Lesotho, during its 46th Ordinary Session in collaboration with ACPF and RWI. The Forum brought together representatives from Member States particularly those that have not submitted any report yet and whose reports have been overdue for over 10 years namely, the Republic of Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of The Gambia, the State of Libya, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Mauritius, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, the Republic of Togo. Moreover, National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up from Kenya, Mauritania, and Senegal shared experiences on their roles and operation in ensuring timely reports and implementation of the recommendations of the Committee. The Forum also shared experiences on reporting and follow-up

from other similar mechanisms such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as pledges for support from UN Agencies, CSOs and NHRIs. The objective of the Forum was to enhance awareness about reporting obligation in line with the Charter, explain the Guidelines on Reporting, elaborate on the process of report compilation in a consultative manner, and the content of State Party reports. The Forum also aimed at identifying modalities in which States can utilise already existing data to compile reports, mobilising support from all corners, and sharing of experiences among States on best practices for timely reporting and effective implementation of the recommendations of the Charter.

55. The Forum highlighted that State Party reporting is a critical covenant for accountability and a tool for national progress, yet widespread delays and non-reporting remain a major challenge. Out of 51 State Parties, 8 have never submitted an initial report, and 22 are overdue. The decline in submissions in recent years underscores an urgent need for revitalized political will and institutional action. Some of the key discussions and recommendations that came out during the Forum include:

- Member States consistently identified weak inter-ministerial coordination, fragmented data systems, limited technical and financial capacity, high staff turnover, and competing national priorities as major obstacles. In conflict-affected states, security crises further disrupt institutional processes.
- Member States should establish a legally founded and well-resourced National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs). Experiences shared demonstrated that NMIRFs with clear mandates, sustainable budgets, and inclusive multi-stakeholder composition, involving government, NHRIs, CSOs, and children, are essential for managing the reporting cycle.
- Meaningful child participation must be institutionalized throughout the reporting cycle by creating consultation spaces, developing child-friendly report versions, and involving children's parliaments and organizations from the initial data collection through to validation and follow-up.
- Stakeholder support and collaboration are indispensable for success. UN agencies (UNICEF, OHCHR), CSOs, NHRIs, and academic partners play vital roles in providing technical assistance, capacity building, data collection support, and shadow reporting. Collaborative models, such as adapting UNCRC reports for the ACERWC and using joint reporting formats, were recommended to streamline efforts and reduce the burden on States.
- Recommendations were made to fast-track the establishment of the Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure which the Committee is considering which allows States to report on list of issues prior to reporting.

56. Member States made concrete pledges to submit overdue reports. Several States provided updated timelines for submission. Countries like Cabo Verde and Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, and Mauritius informed that their reports are ready and will be submitted soon. All other countries pledged to submit their reports by 2026.

8.2. Child Rights Symposium with RECs

57. The Committee in collaboration with the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) convened the Child Rights Symposium with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on 26-27 June 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Symposium noted the critical role of RECs as strategic partners in promoting and protecting child rights through Member State engagement and cross border cooperation. The Symposium's focus was on mainstreaming child rights into regional frameworks, supporting the implementation of the Committee's decisions, and addressing challenges in the mandate of the Committee such as non-compliance and non-cooperation in its monitoring mandates. 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), as well as UN Agencies and CSOs. The Symposium also focused on some thematic areas such as planning and budgeting for children, harmful practices, child trafficking and sexual tourism, humanitarian response, child participation, among others.
58. Based on the presentations and discussions, the following recommendations were proposed with the aim to strengthen regional coordination and implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:
- 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;
 - 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 to influence Member States to adopt, ratify, and implement child protection laws and policies informed by the Committee's recommendations;
 - Provide technical support to RECs;
 - 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;
 - 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.

8.3. Member States' Consultative Forum on the Situation of Children on the Move in Africa

59. The Committee, in collaboration with UNICEF, organised a Member States' Consultative Forum on 23-24 October 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Forum convened Member States to consult on key factors influencing the movement and child protection risks facing children on the move in Africa. The overall aim of the Forum was to gather information and undertake consultation with Member States on key factors driving child displacement and migration in Africa and the child protection risks facing migrant and displaced children. The consultative Forum was designed to complement standardised questionnaires sent to all Member States of the African Union in the context of the ongoing assessment of the Committee on the implementation of its recommendations from its report on Mapping of Children on the Move in Africa. Member States that participated in the Forum include the Republic of Burkina Faso, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Mozambique, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of South Africa, and the Republic of Uganda. Member States agreed on the following action points and recommendations, among others:

- Adopt and implement laws protecting displaced and migrant children's rights to access identity documents, education, health care, psychosocial support and child protection services
- Collect disaggregated data on multiple child protection risks in migratory context and inform data-driven planning
- Entrench and act on multi-level collaboration and coordination among states, regional bodies, and civil society organisations
- Prioritise vulnerable and marginalised child migrant groups for targeted protection, especially in areas with a high concentration of migrants.
- Address legal, policy and practical gaps by extending protections to undocumented migrant children and ensuring non-discrimination in accessing services regardless of documentation status.
- Enhance cross-border RECs level cooperation to combat trafficking, smuggling and child labour in different countries.
- Provide sustainable livelihood programs for vulnerable families and children to reduce the number of people forced to flee their homes

8.4. Stakeholder Engagement Forum on Child Rights and Business

60. The Committee convened a Stakeholders' Engagement Forum on Children's Rights and Business in collaboration with the African Child Policy Forum, the Dullah Omar Institute, and Save the Children on 06-07 November 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Forum was attended by Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Malawi, Kingdom of Morocco, and Republic of Mozambique. The Forum was organised to facilitate direct dialogue between the Committee, AU Member States, United Nations agencies, Regional Economic Communities, international organisations, civil society organisations, and business actors on children's rights and business practices in Africa. It further aimed to disseminate and promote the findings and recommendations of the Continental Study on Children's Rights and Business; strengthen partnerships with

chambers of commerce; promote the integration of child rights due diligence processes into business operations and policies while enhancing accountability; and encouraging governments and businesses to adopt policies and practices that uphold children's rights in the context of business. Following the discussions, and noting both the child rights and business-related challenges as well as the efforts and progress made by Member States, the following recommendations were made to Member States:

- Include in State Party reports information on initiatives undertaken to address children's rights and business-related challenges.
- Expand social protection measures and strengthen oversight in informal urban settings.
- Strengthen labour law enforcement, establish a child labour monitoring system, introduce a fair minimum wage, and integrate the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Child Rights and Business Principles into national policies and industrial strategies.
- Address children's rights and business comprehensively, avoiding an exclusive focus on child labour and covering issues such as environmental health, digital and online safety, marketing practices, supply chains, land use, and taxation.
- Adopt and adequately finance National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights that embed child rights due diligence, enforcement mechanisms, and robust monitoring systems, with meaningful participation of affected communities and children.
- Support National Human Rights Institutions to monitor business impacts on children, receive and refer complaints, and contribute to national reporting and legislative review on children's rights and business.

8.5. Technical Workshop on Implementation of Decisions with CSOs and NHRIs

61. The Committee convened a Technical Workshop with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Civil Society Organizations on the Implementation of Decisions with a focus on girls' rights during its 46th Ordinary Session on 03 December 2025 in collaboration with GIZ and RWI. The Workshop was organized to identify sources of decisions of the Committee requiring implementation; examine the current implementation status and persistent barriers; identify opportunities for stronger follow-up and coordinated action; share successful strategies and lessons; and identify the role of NHRIs and CSOs in the implementation of decisions. The Workshop concluded by identifying some recommendations including strengthening the institutionalization of NHRIs roles in monitoring and implementing decisions, including by establishing dedicated departments or focal points within NHRIs for this purpose; foster tripartite engagement among NHRIs, victims/affected children, and State Parties to ensure effective follow-up and remedy; and address implementation gaps through sustained multi-stakeholder collaboration. Moreover, NHRIs and CSOs were encouraged to enhance their collaboration with the Committee and support its mandates by popularizing and utilising Committee decisions and jurisprudence, provide briefings, alternative and complementary reports on implementation of

decisions; cooperate with the Committee in its monitoring activities such as country visits; and integrate Committee's recommendations and decisions in their programming. NHRIs and CSOs were further encouraged to support Member States in the implementation process by providing capacity building, technical support, awareness raising among others.

8.6. *Symposium on Litigating Children's Rights*

62. The Committee organised a Litigation Symposium on Children's Rights in collaboration with GIZ on 06–07 October 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Symposium was organised to strengthen the effective use of the Committee's Communications Procedure by enhancing the knowledge, skills, and capacity of practitioners to litigate children's rights before the Committee. It further aimed to raise awareness of the Committee's protective mandate, deepen understanding of the legal and procedural requirements under Article 44 of the Charter, and build strategic litigation skills, given the underutilization of the mechanism. The Symposium highlighted the need to establish mechanisms to enforce decisions related to children's rights; enhance the capacity of justice sector actors on child-sensitive procedures, strategic litigation; strengthen documentation and evidence-gathering systems to improve the child rights violations reporting; expand access to legal aid; and increase the follow-up and advocacy on Committee decisions by translating decisions into local languages, raising awareness through media and community dialogues, and producing child-friendly versions of decisions.

8.7. *Training for Girls' Parliamentarians in Maseru*

63. The Committee organised a training for girl parliamentarians from Botswana, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Mauritania, and Uganda. During the training, the girl parliamentarians gained knowledge about the African Union and its decision-making organs, the African Human Rights System, the mandate of the Committee and the Pan-African Parliament. The training focused on educating the girl parliamentarians about the rights of girls in line with the Charter. In addition, the training enabled the girl parliamentarians to understand the modalities of engaging the African Union and the Committee in advocating for the rights of girls in their respective countries. The girls were trained about effective advocacy strategies that can be used both at national and regional level advocacy.

ITEM 9: COMMUNICATIONS

9.1. *Amicable Settlement*

64. During the reporting period, *the* Committee considered Communication No 024/Com/001/2024 submitted by Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) (on behalf of ACM) against the Republic of Botswana. The Committee held hearing on the matter during the 45th Ordinary Session where both parties agreed to settle the matter amicably. Accordingly, the Communication was amicably settled within the auspicious of the Committee during the reporting period. The Committee commends the Republic of Botswana for its collaboration and cooperation in the proceedings of the Communication and its willingness to settle the matter amicably which demonstrates its willingness to remedy child rights

violations. The Committee calls upon the Republic of Botswana to fully implement the agreed terms of settlement including:

- Payment of Compensation to ACM within six (6) months of the date of settlement, a sum of USD7,500.00 as compensation for the non-pecuniary damage she suffered.
- Provide ACM with all the necessary psychosocial support including but not limited to trauma counselling within three (3) months of the date of Settlement, and, access to appropriate educational support and reintegration
- Ensure that the matter is prosecuted to its final conclusion
- Undertake relevant stakeholder consultations to develop clear, formal escalation procedures as well as timelines for handling child abuse cases
- Commits to strengthening oversight structures such as Office of the Ombudsman; the National Children's Council; the Village Child Protection Committees; and the Gender Commission to increase awareness-raising initiatives on their functions, as well as their accessibility
- Implement or provide adequate legislative, administrative, social and economic resources as may be necessary to ensure the protection, punishment and eradication of all forms of sexual violence against children.
- Provide support services for victims of sexual violence including information, legal services, health services and counselling.
- Strengthening existing measures, mechanisms or procedures for the protection of children by raising awareness on a continuous and ongoing basis, among others.
- Develop and implement a National Plan of Action on Ending Violence against Children aimed at implementing awareness raising strategies for the eradication of beliefs, practices and stereotypes which exacerbate the persistence and tolerance of violence against children
- Submit report the Committee on the implementation of the terms of the amicable settlement.

9.2. Other Communications

65. During the reporting period, the Committee considered the following Communications and made decisions/rulings:

- Communication No 0017/Com/001/2021 submitted by Child Rights and Rehabilitation Network, Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa and Centre for Human Rights (On Behalf of Children Affected by Witchcraft Accusations in Nigeria) against the Federal Republic of Nigeria: The Committee deliberated on the elements of the decisions on the merits of the Communication.
- Communication No. 0019/Com/001/2022-The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa and Mr. Solomon Joojo Cobbinah on behalf of schoolgirls living along the River Offin in the Ashanti Region against the Republic of Ghana: The Committee considered the request of the Respondent State to extend the finalisation of the Amicable Settlement. Having heard from the Applicants that this is the final extension they agree to, the Committee granted 3 months to the Respondent State to finalise the Amicable Settlement. The Committee further

decided to proceed and adopt a decision on the matter if the Respondent State fails to comply with the extension deadline.

- Communication No: 0020/Com/002/2022 submitted by Lawyers Associated for Human Rights in Africa (on behalf of Children of Jehovah's Witnesses) against the State of Eritrea: The Committee deliberated on the elements of the decisions on the merits of the Communication.
- Communication No: 0021/Com/003/2022 submitted by People Serving Girls at Risk and Equality Now (on behalf of Esnart Kenesi) against the Republic of Malawi: The Committee held hearing on the Communication during its 45th Ordinary Session in the presence of both parties and deliberated on the elements of the decisions on the merits of the Communication during its 46th Ordinary Sessions.
- Communication No:0023/Com/005/2022 IHRDA and Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (On Behalf of Children in Nigeria) against the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Committee deferred the consideration of the merits of the Communication and decided to adopt the decision on the merits during the next session after considering the submission of the Respondent State and the Observation of the Applicants on the arguments of the Respondent State.
- Communication No 0025/Com/001/2024 African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies on behalf of Mohammed Abdelmonim Salih Vs the Republic of Sudan: The Committee decided to withhold the consideration of this Communication until things resort to peaceful and normal course in the State Party
- Communication No:0026/Com/001/2025 submitted by Mr. Emhemed Elremalli On behalf of Mohamed Elremalli (a minor) against the State of Libya: The Committee considered the admissibility of the Communication and declared the Communication inadmissible.

ITEM 10: DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD (DAC)

10.1. Commemoration of DAC 2025

66. This year, the continental commemoration of the Day of the African Child (DAC) 2025 on the theme '**Planning and budgeting for children's rights: Progress since 2010**' was held in Lilongwe, the Republic of Malawi on 16 June 2025. As part of the commemoration, a Children's Symposium was organized on 16 June 2025 where over 700 children participated alongside government officials, AU organs, UN agencies, CSO's, and private sector actors for a Continental Symposium on 16 June 2025. The Committee applauds the Republic of Malawi for hosting the DAC 2025 for the second time, following the 2018 celebration and continued collaboration with the Committee. Following the Commemoration of the DAC 2024 on 16 June 2024, an outcome statement was adopted by Children with a call to Member States of the AU to:

- Allocate more resources to address children's needs by identifying the most critical priorities and the most vulnerable groups of children.
- Invest in infrastructure for education, health, clean water, nutrition, food security, and sanitation.

- Provide bursaries through social welfare systems to support all children in need, so they can stay in school.
- Allocate resources to ensure all children have access to technologies for learning, participation and access to information.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in how budgets for children are planned, allocated, and used and act against anyone who misuses these funds.
- Support and expand school feeding programs, particularly in rural areas, to reduce hunger and keep children in school.
- Increase investment in social protection to address poverty and reduce child labor.
- Create and strengthen existing child participation platforms.
- Ensure children participate in planning and budgeting processes in a child friendly manner at all levels, ensure their views are respected and acted upon, and provide feedback to them.
- Allocate resources for emergency preparedness and climate change response that specifically consider the needs and safety of children.
- Increase funding for child protection services and provide support for children living on the streets, children with disabilities, and those affected by conflict or climate change.
- Ensure national budgets and plans align with the AU Theme of the Year 2025 by prioritizing support for children's education, health, protection access to justice, and overall wellbeing.
- Work together with other stakeholders to mobilize more resources for children's needs.

67. The Committee encourages Member States to report on the commemoration of the DAC; and ensure that the commemoration of the DAC is constructive and innovative at the national level; and, during the commemoration, take all appropriate measures to involve the religious leaders as well as traditional and community leaders in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. Furthermore, the Committee encourages that efforts need to be in place to ensure that the activities and the agenda during the celebration of the DAC are made in child-friendly languages that make it easy for children to participate confidently and adequately in all matters that concern them.

10.2. Theme of DAC 2026

68. Following Consultations with various stakeholders and children, the Committee decided to align the theme of DC 2026 with the theme of the AU 2026. Accordingly, the Committee selected the theme of DAC 2026 to be '***Ensuring universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene for every child in Africa***'.

ITEM 11: LETTER OF URGENT APPEAL THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

69. On 14th August 2025, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR/the Commission) transmitted a Joint Letter of Appeal to His Excellency Hon. Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of The Gambia, regarding the death of a one-month-old baby girl from complications following Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Through the letter, the two Organs urged the Republic of The Gambia to Conduct prompt, impartial, and thorough investigation into the circumstances that led to the child's death and ensure that the perpetrators

are held accountable; reinforce multi-sectoral measures to eliminate FGM, including public awareness campaigns, community-based prevention initiatives, education in schools and media, and accessible services for survivors; and to strengthen national child protection and monitoring mechanisms to detect and prevent FGM, including through community-based reporting systems and collaboration with traditional and religious leaders.

ITEM 12: ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

70. The Committee elected a new Bureau to serve for a two-year term to server from November 2025 to November 2027. The new Bureau is composed of:

- Hon Sabrina Gahar, Chairperson of the ACERWC
- Hon. Ghislain Roch Etsan, Vice Chairperson of the ACERWC
- Hon Poloko Nuggert Ntshwarang, Rapporteur of the ACERWC

ITEM 13: WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

71. In line with its Rules of Procedures and the SOPs for Working Groups, the Committee has established 4 Working Groups which have been functional for over 4 years. The below table summarizes the activates of the Working Groups of the Committee during the reporting period.

1. Working Group on Children’s Rights and Business	
Activities	Outcome/Recommendations to Member States
Working Group Meetings (8 th and 9 th meeting on 5 April and 24 November 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on normative standards including the draft policy brief on access to remedies by victims of corporate induced child rights violations; the policy brief on access to remedies by victims of corporate induced child rights violations • Discussions on upcoming events such as Stakeholders’ Engagement Forum on Children’s Rights and Business; and DAC • Discussion on activities for the next 2 years • Receiving briefings from IHRDA on the ToR for the draft study on Child Rights Mainstreaming in National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights; from the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions on the role of NHRIs in promoting and protecting children’s rights in the context of business; and from NHRIs on child rights and business-related challenges in the respective countries and the activities of the NHRIs in advancing children’s rights in the context of business
Statement on the world day against child labor- 12 June 2025	<p>Recommendations to Member States include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise free, quality education, including vocational and life skills training, to provide children with viable alternatives to labour. • Expand social protection systems and make them more inclusive, targeting families most at risk,

	<p>particularly those impacted by conflict, displacement, and environmental shocks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend labour inspections to the informal and high-risk industries • Strengthen policy coherence and accountability across sectors. • Equip national action plans with clear targets, transparent monitoring mechanisms, and adequate resources. • Ensure all efforts are inclusive and sensitive to gender, disability, and geographic disparities.
<p>Statement on the DAC 2025 theme: Planning and Budgeting for children- 23 June 2025</p>	<p>Recommendations to States include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish robust, transparent budget systems that clearly show expenditure on children’s rights programmes. • Design effective tax systems that mobilize resources for children without disproportionately increasing the cost of basic goods. • Regulate markets to ensure access to affordable, safe products for children. • Institutionalize participatory budgeting and planning that involves children, private sector actors, chambers of commerce, civil society, and informal sector stakeholders • Include budget reporting on business-related commitments in State Party reports to the ACERWC
<p>Policy brief on access to remedies by victims of corporate induced human rights violations</p>	<p>Recommendations to Member States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove substantive, procedural, and practical barriers to remedies by strengthening liability regimes, providing legal aid and funding schemes, enabling class actions and public interest litigation, facilitating access to information and evidence (including from abroad), and, where justified, shifting the burden of proof through legislative measures. • Ensure access to diverse dispute resolution mechanisms, including arbitration and mediation, underpinned by child-friendly justice • Integrate liability for children’s rights violations and available remedies into National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, and forge alliances with businesses to concretise voluntary initiatives within these plans. • Enforcement of remedies, particularly in cases of long-term harm such as environmental degradation or loss of land, including through regulations

	reflecting the polluter pays principle and requiring restoration of damaged land.
2. Working Group on Children’s Rights and Climate Change	
Activities	Outcome/Recommendations to Member States
Working Group Meetings (8 th and 9 th meeting on 5 April and 24 November 2025)	Facilitate the protection of children’s rights in the climate crisis through standard setting, advocacy and monitoring through deliberating on key issues, documents being developed by the Working Group.
Statement of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on the occasion of Africa Environment and Wangari Maathai Day: 3rd March 2025	Recommendations to Member States include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the meaningful participation of children in all decisions related to the environment and Protect and empower child environmental defenders • Ensure the inclusion of child-rights safeguards in environmental impact assessments • Implement child-rights based climate policies and integrate child rights into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and disaster response policies/action plans • Integrate environmental education, including education on climate change, into national curricula to equip children with knowledge on sustainability and conservation • Enhance access to information on climate change through dissemination of context relevant information on climate change and other environmental issues
Side event at the margins of the Day of the African Child for engagement and capacity building of Child Leadership Team, June, 2025, Lilongwe, Malawi	The Working Group directly engaged with child climate justice advocates, to sensitize them about the Committee, its mandate, and the Working Group on Childre’s Rights and Climate Change.
Guidance Note to Member States on Prioritizing Child-Rights Based Climate Action at the Africa Climate Summit 2025, August	Recommendations to Member States include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include child representatives in national delegations to ACS2, in collaboration with child-focused civil society organizations and other partners; • Champion child-led and child-responsive climate solutions during the Summit and in national interventions. • Ensure a meaningful inclusion of the plights and voices of African children in the outcome statement of the ACS2. • Prioritize child-sensitive climate action in policy and funding frameworks and ensure that children’s rights

	are fully integrated into climate-related policies, programs, and financing mechanisms.
Side event at the African Climate Summit 2025: Intergenerational High-Level Dialogue on Accelerating Child-Responsive Climate Solutions and Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development, September 2025	<p>Recommendations to Member States include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate child-rights perspectives into NAPs, NDCs and other climate policies • Ensure mandatory child rights impact assessment in projects with implications on the environment and climate system • Prioritize adaptation and develop child-centered disaster preparedness strategies with clear evacuation and protection measures. • Institutionalize mechanisms for meaningful child participation in climate governance • Strengthen climate impact research focused on children. • Ensure the protection of children displaced internally and across national borders due to the impacts of climate change • Adopt a rights-based continental common position on climate displacement • Advocate for rights-based reparation from high polluting countries for climate change related harm faced by children in Africa. • Ensure the alignment positions in international climate negotiations with child rights obligations
Observations of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights In the matter of a request by the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) for an Advisory Opinion on the obligations of States with respect to the climate change crisis	The Submission aims to ensure the incorporation of obligations related to children's rights in the context of the climate crisis in the advisory opinion being developed by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
Advocacy brief on droughts, floods and the ocean: impact on children's rights in Africa	<p>Recommendations to Member States include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize integrated approaches that address the interconnected systems of water, food, and energy

	<p>security to build resilience and adapt to climate change impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and improve early warning systems for droughts and floods. • Ensure inclusive disaster planning. • Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure. • Promote climate-smart agriculture.
<p>Advocacy Brief on Climate-Conflict Nexus in Africa: Protecting Children's Rights and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Recommendations to Member States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt inclusive policies and robust accountability mechanisms to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of child-focused climate and conflict interventions. • Scale up and strengthen early-warning systems to better anticipate and mitigate climate-related risks affecting children • Integrate children's rights into climate, peace-making, and peacebuilding processes • Increase targeted investments in child-centred climate and conflict responses, placing children at the core of policy and programming.
<p>3. Working Group on Children with Disabilities</p>	
<p>Activities</p>	<p>Outcome/Recommendations to Member States</p>
<p>8th and 9th Working Group Meeting on 05 April and 25 November 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise documents such as the Guidance Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of the Child with Albinism; the concept note for the development of the General Comment on Article 13 on the Rights of Children with Disabilities; and Resolution on Children with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities • Discussion on the Position Paper on education for children with disabilities in Africa • Identify areas of mainstreaming the issues of children with disabilities in the various activities to be held by the Committee
<p>Statement on the International Albinism Awareness Day- 13 June 2025</p>	<p>Recommendations for Member States include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that sunscreen and skin treatment medications are regarded as essential medicine for the right to life, survival, and development of children with albinism, hence, make them freely available • Ensure that schools are friendly for children with albinism by addressing and responding to their sight and clothing requirements including by providing protective uniforms for free

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop standardized guidelines for health workers at all levels on the measures to be undertaken and the treatments/medications to be provided for children with albinism on early identification • Undertake sensitization measures and address discriminatory practices and the stigma attached to the skin of children with albinism • Encourage advocacy by children with albinism themselves • Ensure the effective prosecution of perpetrators of discriminatory practices, and attacks against children with albinism • Accelerate the ratification and implementation of the African Disability Protocol
<p>Statement on Investment on Children with Disabilities on 15 June in line with theme of DAC</p>	<p>Recommendations to States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure availability of up-to-date and disaggregated disability specific data to inform planning • Place children with disabilities at the centre of socioeconomic policymaking, taking steps to develop an attitude and practice that prioritises them in economic policy making and budgeting • Facilitate the participation of children with disabilities in the planning and budgeting processes • Increase budget allocations for ensuring the disability-accessibility of infrastructure and services; disability-inclusive child health; and inclusive education. • Invest in community inclusion of children with disabilities, through investing in play, cultural, recreational and religious activities • Implement social protection programmes (involving both in-kind and cash transfers) targeting children with disabilities and/or their families • Make investments in public awareness programmes • Adopt a multi-sectoral approach and nurture cross-sectoral synergies and coordination across ministries towards mainstreaming children with disabilities within sectoral investment priorities
<p>Statement on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities-03 December</p>	<p>Recommendations to States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate of physical, communication, and attitudinal barriers that prevent children with disabilities from accessing quality, and inclusive education; • Ensure access to the same range, quality, and affordable health care for children with disabilities as other children, including early identification, intervention, and rehabilitation services. • Establish child protection systems that include responses to children with disabilities in their design

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create spaces and provide the necessary support for children with disabilities to express their views freely by establishing inclusive child participation platforms providing information in disability friendly manner; • Empower families and caregivers of children with disabilities through support and training,
<p>Resolution on Children with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disabilities</p>	<p>Recommendation to States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the decision-making capacity of Children with intellectual and psychosocial disability by providing the necessary platform, including supported decision-making regimes • Ensure data on children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities is adequately disaggregated, up-to-date, and available for informed interventions • Eliminate the institutionalisation of children based on intellectual and psychosocial disability redirecting resources towards the development of family-based and community-based support • Provide adequate financial and psychological support services to families and caregivers • Conduct extensive awareness-raising campaigns to combat stigma, stereotypes, and harmful practices against children with intellectual disabilities • Ensure accessible health services and supported decision-making services thereby preventing non-consensual medical procedures • Guarantee the right to inclusive, quality, and free primary and secondary education for all children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities • Strengthen child protection systems to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, abuse, harmful practices, neglect, and exploitation, including in homes, schools, institutions, and communities,
<p>Guidance Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism</p>	<p>Provides indicators to Members States giving guidance on areas that should be reported on the rights of children with albinism. The Guidance Note provides tools on how these indicators can be reported on as part of the State Party Reporting Forum.</p>
<p>Position Paper on Education of Children with Disabilities</p>	<p>Outlines the Committee’s take on education for children with disabilities elaborating what inclusive education entails and how it should be implemented. It elaborates on the position</p>

	of the Committee on special schools, reasonable accommodation, and other aspects which it will utilise in issuing recommendations to States
Webinar on Education for Children with Disabilities was organized on 03 September 2025	<p>Recommendations to States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize the implementation of inclusive education by ensuring the availability of reasonable accommodations, such as ramps, sign language interpreters, and materials in accessible formats like braille, in all mainstream schools, free of charge. • Invest in the systematic collection of disaggregated data on children with disabilities to inform targeted educational interventions. • Build the capacity of teachers through training in inclusive methodologies, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and Differentiated Instruction to effectively support diverse learners. • Increase public investment and ensure adequate budget allocation specifically for accessibility infrastructure and assistive technologies • Address stigma and discrimination through community sensitization programs, awareness campaigns • Adopt a whole-community and multi-sectoral approach to support children with disabilities, involving and empowering families, caregivers, and children with disabilities themselves
4. Working Group on Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations	
Activities	Outcome/Recommendations to Member States
7 th and 8 th Working Group Meeting on 05 April and 25 November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of pending documents such as the report on level of implementation of the Committee's Decisions; the Guidelines/Indicators on State Compliance with the Decisions and Recommendations of the Committee; Guidelines on Reparations; draft report on the status of implementation of decisions for Submission to the PRC subcommittee on democracy, governance, and human rights • Review the activities 2024-2025 work plan
Guidelines on Reparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guidelines seek to ensure that the reparative measures ordered by the Committee in its decisions are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound, and therefore easier for States to understand, to implement and to report on. They also

	provide guidance to the Committee in formulating precise and actionable recommendations to respondent States to facilitate monitoring implementation
Guidelines/Indicators on State Compliance with the Decisions and Recommendations of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guidelines seek to establish clear indicators for assessing the level of implementation of the Committee's decisions and recommendations by State Parties. They provide a structured set of substantive and procedural indicators, as well as practical quantitative and qualitative tools, to support the systematic evaluation and monitoring of implementation. The Guidelines further outline criteria for assessing implementation levels, including compliance with reporting timelines, approval and collaboration with the Committee to conduct follow-up missions, attend hearings and the extent to which concrete measures have been taken and tangible results achieved by concerned respondent states. On the basis of these criteria, an implementation level and corresponding category will be determined for each decision

ITEM 14: MATTERS OF HOST COUNTRY AND HUMAN RESOURCES MATTERS AT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ACERWC

72. Since its relocation in December 2020 to Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho pursuant to the Decision of the Executive Council, EX.CL/Dec.1010 (XXXIII), the Secretariat of the ACERWC has received support for the Host Country as per the Host Agreement to the Secretariat of the ACERWC. The Committee appreciates the support that the Host Country provides for the smooth operations of its Secretariat. However, the ACERWC, notes that some elements of the host agreement, such as the construction of the permanent office premises is yet to be complied with by the Host Country.

73. Over the past years since its relocation, the visibility of the Committee has increased which has increased its operations and programming in relation to its mandate of considering State Party Reports, Communications, undertaking investigation, and interoperation of the Charter. For the Committee to effectively deliver on its mandate, it requires a professional, effective, capacitated, well-staffed and competent Secretariat. The need to strengthen the Secretariat in terms of financial, human, and material resources, is very critical. It was with due recognition of this fact that the Assembly approved the revised structures of the Secretariat of the ACERWC (Assembly/AU/Dec.750 (XXXIII)). The ACERWC previously requested to recruit regular and short-term staff for fill the gap it has in terms of staffing. However, due to the heavy workload at headquarters, the Committee is faced with a considerable delay in the recruitment of staff which has further resulted

in loss of the budget allocated for staffing. In this regard, the ACERWC refers to the Decision of the Executive Council (EX.CL/DEC 1248 (XLIV)) whereby it requested the Commission to expedite the finalisation recruitment of the ACERWC Secretariat's staff and provide guidance on the possibility of allowing the ACERWC to recruit its own staff. The Committee, therefore, requests the Executive Council to request the Commission to facilitate the required modalities to support the Committee in recruiting its staff and to fast-track the recruitment of staff for its effective operation.

ITEM 15: RECOMMENDATIONS

74. In conclusion, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child would like to draw the attention of the Executive Council on the following issues:

- ✓ To encourage the Kingdom of Morocco, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Tunisia, which have not yet ratified the African Children's Charter to expedite the ratification of the Charter.
- ✓ To Commend the Federal Republic of Somalia for the national level ratification and urge the Member State to deposit its ratification instrument to the Union in due time;
- ✓ To congratulate the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Kenya, the Arab Republic of Egypt; State of Eritrea; the Republic of The Gambia, and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on the submission of their State Party reports on the implementation of the African Children's Charter and urge State Parties, which have not yet reported to the Committee to comply with their reporting obligations.
- ✓ To appreciate the Republic of Burundi for the measures it has undertaken in implementing the recommendations of the Committee on its initial report and encourage the same to fully comply with the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the Committee
- ✓ To appreciate the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Mali on the measures they have undertaken to implement the decisions of the Committee on the Communications brought against them and urge them to fully implement the decisions of the Committee and submit reports on the status of implementation
- ✓ To commend the Republic of Burundi for submitting its report on the status of implementation of the Amicable Settlement reached under the auspices of the Committee in Communication No. 0022/Com/004/22 and encourage those Member States that have not yet done so to submit their implementation reports.
- ✓ To appreciate the Republic of Botswana for the amicable settlement and encourage the same to fully implement the terms of the settlement
- ✓ To appreciate Member States for the measures they have undertaken in commemorating the Day of the African Child for the Year 2025 on the theme- "Planning and Budgeting for Children in Africa: Progress Since 2010" and encourage Member States to implement the recommendations of the Committee and report on the same.
- ✓ To encourage Member States to allocate sufficient budget for children and ensure their visibility in the national budgets and programs; take into account

the views of children in budgeting; have UpToDate data and disaggregated data to assess the needs of children; and undertake child rights assessments of budgeting and programs.

- ✓ To adopt the theme of the Day of the African Child to be on ***‘Ensuring universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene for every child in Africa’***
- ✓ To encourage Member States to utilise and implement the General Comment No 9 on Article 11 of the African children Charter on the Right to Education; and General Comment No 10 on Article 25 of the African Children’s Charter on Children Without Parental Care in upholding the provisions of the Charter.
- ✓ To encourage Member States to utilise the Guidelines on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism and include the measures undertaken to provide special measures of protection for children with albinism in their State Party reports in line with the Guidelines.
- ✓ To encourage Member States to utilise the Targeted State Party Reporting Procedure and cooperate with the Committee to participate in this procedure and submitting reports in line with the list of issues to be issued prior to reporting.
- ✓ To commend the participation of Member States in the commemoration of the 35th Anniversary of the adoption of the African Children’s Charter and encourage them to implement the recommendations that came forward during the celebration including:
 - Adopting a child-centred reparatory justice through restorative measures including healing for affected communities; redistributive measures which entail equitable access to development, education, health; and social protection; and transformative narratives affirming cultural identity and dignity of children
 - Establish effective, structured, inclusive, and well-resourced child participation platforms and incorporate the views of children in decision making processes
 - Elimination of violence against and harmful practices through laws, polices, administrative measures, prosecution of perpetrators, awareness raising among others
 - Allocate sufficient budget of children including adequately funding child protection services
 - Harmonise laws and policies with the Charter
 - Ensure the protection of children with intellectual disabilities, recognizing their legal capacity through supported decision-making and harmonizing national frameworks with the Charter and the African Disability Protocol; and shifting from the practice of institutionalization to inclusive community
 - Adopting a systematic and municipality-driven approach to ensure child friendly cities
 - Ensure disaggregated, comprehensive, and updated data on children
- ✓ To urge the concerned Member States to address the plights of children in conflict situation.
- ✓ To encourage Member States to implement their pledges during the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (Bogota Conference).

- ✓ To encourage Member States to implement the recommendations of the Study on Implementation of Decision and Recommendations of the ACERWC and the Study on the Climate Change and Children's Rights in Africa: A Continental Overview.
- ✓ To encourage Member States to establish a legally founded and well-resourced National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs). Experiences shared demonstrated that NMIRFs with clear mandates, sustainable budgets, and inclusive multi-stakeholder composition, involving government, NHRIs, CSOs, and children, are essential for managing the reporting cycle.
- ✓ To encourage the PRC Sub-Committee on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights to support the monitoring of implementation of the decisions of the Committee
- ✓ To encourage Member States to adopt and adequately finance National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights that embed child rights due diligence, enforcement mechanisms, and robust monitoring systems, with meaningful participation of affected communities and children.
- ✓ To encourage the Republic of Ghana to cooperate with the Committee in the context of the pending Communication and finalize the ongoing amicable settlement.
- ✓ To encourage the Republic of the Gambia to implement the recommendations of the Committee on elimination of FGM and prosecuting perpetrators of FGM that violates the right to life, survival and development of children and submit report on the measures that the State Party has undertaken to implement the recommendation of the joint letter of urgent appeal issued by the ACERWC and the ACHPR.
- ✓ To welcome the activities undertaken, resolutions, studies and standards developed by the Working Groups of the ACERWC and encourage Member States to make use of such mechanism within the ACERWC.
- ✓ To congratulate members of the ACERWC who are completing their terms of office, welcome those who are newly elected, and encourage Member States whose citizens have been elected to facilitate the effective participation of these members in the work of the Committee, including their participation in the ordinary sessions of the ACERWC.
- ✓ To decide to harmonise the benefits of the members of the ACERWC by proving Judicature Allowance and Inter-session Allowance in line with its quasi-judicial mandate and the benefits of other elected officials of other Organs pursuant to Executive Council Decision No EX.CL/Dec.1057(XXXV) and requests the Commission to work with the PRC Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination on Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters to implement the same.
- ✓ To encourage Member States to further strengthen their cooperation with the ACERWC, inter alia, by considering hosting the Ordinary Sessions of the ACERWC and by seconding qualified staff to address the acute human resource gaps within the Secretariat of the Committee.
- ✓ To Congratulate the Kingdom of Lesotho for ensuring the smooth operations of the Secretariat of the ACERWC; and encourage the host country to continue providing the required pursuant to the host agreement, including the timely

construction of the permanent office premises and continue facilitation of its Ordinary Sessions.

- ✓ Reiterate to the Decision of the Executive Council (EX.CL/DEC 1248 (XLIV)) requesting the Commission to expedite the finalisation recruitment of the ACERWC Secretariat's staff and provide guidance on the possibility of allowing the ACERWC to recruit its own staff.

