



**PROGRAM FOR 47TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ACERWC AND ACTIVITIES
AROUND THE SESSION**

Validation of the Strategic Plan, 13 and 14 April 2026

Time	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-17:00	Validation of the ACERWC Strategic Plan 2026-2028	Closed Session
09:00-17:00	Validation of the ACERWC Strategic Plan 2026-2028	

Working Group Meetings 15 and 16 April 2026

15 April 2026

Time	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-12:00	Meetings of the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions	Closed Session
14:00-17:00	Meetings of the Working Group on Children with Disabilities	

16 April 2026

Time	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-12:00	Meetings of the Working Group on Children's Rights and Climate Change	Closed Session
14:00-17:00	Meetings of the Working Group on Children's Rights and Business	

16 April 2026: Bilateral engagements with State Parties

Time	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-12:00	Advocacy Consultation on State Party Reporting with the Republic of Togo with the Country Rapporteur	Closed Session

47th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC) 17 April – 25 April 2026

17 April

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
08:30-10:00	i. Procedural Matters ✓ Adoption of the Agenda and the Program of Work. ii. Organization of work ✓ Assignments of Committee Members for consideration of applications for Observer and Affiliate Status ✓ Assignment of Second Rapporteur	Closed Session
10:00-12:30	Official Opening of the 47th Session of the ACERWC AU and the Kingdom of Lesotho Anthem i. Liekolo Montsi, Children’s Representative from Lesotho ii. Allan Caroline, Children’s Representative from Malawi iii. Mr Kgomontso Montso, Representative of the CSO Forum iv. Prof James Mouangue Koblia, Chairperson of NANHRIs v. Mr Marcel Clement Akpovo, Regional Director, Regional Hub for East and Southern Africa, and Representative to the African Union (Virtual) vi. Dr Laila Omar Gad, UNICEF Representative to the AU vii. Hon. Louis Cheick Sissoko, The presiding officer, African Union Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) (Pre-recorded Video) viii. Honourable Idrisa Sow, Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Virtual) ix. Hon. Lady Justice Tujilane Chizumila from the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights x. Representative of PAP xi. Representative of APRM xii. Representative of HHS xiii. H.E. Ambassador Jainaba Jagne AU Special Envoy for Children Affected by Armed Conflict xiv. Hon Sabrian Gahar, Chairperson of the ACERWC xv. Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of the Kingdom of Lesotho Performance and poem by children Swearing in Ceremony for the Newly Elected members of the ACERWC	Open Session
12:30-13:00	Family Photo	

13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by Member States (3 minutes each) • Remarks by NHRIs with Affiliate Status (3 minutes each) • Statements by UN Agencies and International Partner Organizations (3 minutes each) 	
17:00-17:30	Signing of MOU with NANHRIs	

18 April

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-11:30	Statements on the recommendations of the CSO Forum: (8 minutes) Briefings by Organizations with Observer Status (3 Minutes Each) Remarks by Development Partners (3 Minutes Each)	Open Session
11:30-11:45	Tea Break	
11:45-13:00	Briefings on intersession activities and planned activities of Working Groups of the ACERWC	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:15	<p>Panel Discussion on the theme of the Day of the African Child 2026 <i>"Ensuring universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene for every child in Africa."</i></p> <p>Moderated by Hon Wael Abdel-Radek, Special Rapporteur on Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming Remarks by Hon Wael Abdel-Radek - Presentation of the DAC 2026 Concept Note and overview of the theme, Ms Aouatef Mahjoub, Legal Researcher, ACERWC Secretariat - Reflections on the AU Theme of the Year 2026 and continental priorities on water and sanitation including strategic directions under the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Agenda 2063, Mr Harson Nyambe, Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy of the AU - Good practices and initiatives supporting child-responsive WASH in Africa, Dr Laila Gad, UNICEF Representative to the AU - National initiatives and experiences in advancing WASH for children, Representative of Kingdom of Lesotho - Experience sharing on access to water, sanitation and hygiene and its impact on children's lives, Akinbo Shiloh Darasim, Child representative from Nigeria 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of civil society in advancing children's rights to WASH, World Vision International 	
15:15-16:00	<p>Conversation with the AU Special Envoy for Children Affected by Armed Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening Remarks and briefing on the mandate of the ACERWC Special Rapporteur on Children in Conflict Situations, Hon Robert Nanima, Special Rapporteur on Children in Conflict Situations - Briefing on the Mandate of the AU Special Envoy for CAAC, H.E. Ambassador Jainaba Jagne, AU Special Envoy for CAAC - Interactive Session - Final Reflections, H.E. Ambassador Jainaba Jagne, AU Special Envoy for CAAC - Closing Remark, Hon Sabrina Gahar, Chairperson of the ACERWC 	
16:00-17:00	<p>Presentation ACERWC's report on the second phase assessment on the implementation of Agenda 2040</p> <p>Prof Frans Viljoen, Consultant</p>	

20 April

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-13:00	State Party Report Consideration: First Periodic Report the Republic of Burundi	Open Session
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:00	<p>Presentation of the Draft General Comment on Article 13 on the Rights of Children with Disabilities</p> <p>Lawrence Mute, Consultant (Virtual)</p>	
15:00-15:45	Presentation on the outcome of the AUC Child Care Conference by HHS	
15:45-17:00	<p>Launch of the Guiding Note on Reporting on the Rights and Welfare of Children with Albinism</p> <p>Moderated by Hon Anne Musiwa, Chairperson of the Working Group on Children with Disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome and Opening Remark- Hon Anne Musiwa - Keynote Address- Ms. Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond, UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism - Content of the Guiding Note and modality of use in Reporting, Ms Adiam Zemenfes, Senior Legal Researcher, ACERWC Secretariat 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added value of the Guiding Note for States Parties: How the Guiding Note indicators shape interventions and reporting on the Charter, Representative from Kingdom of Lesotho - Stakeholders Reflection on utilizing the Guiding Note to report on the rights of children with Albinism, Ms. Olive Namutebi: Executive Director of ALBINISM UMBRELLA Uganda - Reflections from Child Representative: MWAPE CHIMPAMPA, Child Representative from Zambia 	
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21 April

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-13:00	State Party Report Consideration: Second Periodic Report of the State of Eritrea	Open Session
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	<p>Launch of the ACERWC's Study on Harmful Practices</p> <p>Moderated by Hon. Hermine Kembo, Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage and Other Harmful Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Remarks by Hon Hermine Kembo - Welcome Remarks by Ms Sally Ncube, Regional Representative Southern Africa, Equality Now - Presentation of the major findings and key recommendations of the Thematic Report, Ms Hussienatou Manjang, Legal Researcher at ACERWC Secretariat - Reflections from civil society, Equality Now - Member State perspective - Girls as agents of change, Allan Caroline, Children's Representative from Malawi 	
15:30-17:00	Consultation with RECs on Violence Against Children in Preparation for the 2 nd Ministerial Conference on VAC	

22 April

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-13:00	State Party Report Consideration: Third Periodic Report of the Republic of Kenya	Open Session
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:00	Panel on Closing the Accountability Gap: Financing, Enforcement, Legal Protections, and State Accountability to End Child Marriage in Africa by Equality Now and Girls Not Brides	

15:00-16:00	Presentation by ACPF on Terror, security and childhood in Africa: why counter terrorism must put children first	
16:00-17:00	Presentation by Save the Children on the Guidance on How to Environment and Climate Change Issues in the Reporting Cycle on the ACRWC	

23 April

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-12:00	Consideration of Complementary Report on the First Periodic Report of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Closed Session
12:00-13:00	TBC	
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-17:00	Consideration of Complementary Report on the Initial Report of Republic of The Gambia	

24 April

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-12:00	Consideration of Complementary Report on the Initial Report of Libya	Closed Session
12:00-13:00	Presentation on Budget and Planned 2027 Activities	
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-17:00	Consideration of Complementary Report on the First Periodic Report of Arab Republic of Egypt	

25 April

TIME	ITEM/ACTIVITY	Access to Session
09:00-13:00	Consideration of pending communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Admissibility of Communication No 027 submitted by Committee for Justice, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, and the Sinai Foundation for Human Rights (on behalf of Bahaa El-Din Fathy Mohamed Maher Ismail Khalil) against Arab Republic of Egypt 	Closed Session

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Admissibility of Communication No 028 submitted by MN, Women’s Probono Initiative (WPI), and the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) vs. the Republic of Uganda - Merit of Communication No 023 submitted by Incorporated Trustees of ISH-61 Human Rights & Social Justice Initiative, Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa, and The Centre for Human Right, University of Pretoria against the Federal Republic of Nigeria - Merits of Communication No 019 submitted by Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa and Mr. Solomon Joojo Cobbinah (on behalf of school-girls living in villages along the River Offin in the Ashanti Region of Ghana) against the Republic of Ghana - 	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-17:00	<p>Adoption of Decisions</p> <p>Documents for consideration and adoption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Plan of the ACERWC - General Comment on Article 28 on Drug Abuse - Agenda 2040 Implementation Study - Amendment of SOPs for Special Mechanisms - Code of Conduct of the ACERWC Members - Resolution on the establishment of a Working Group on Communications - Guidelines on Advisory Opinion - Guiding Note on Standards for Girls’ Rights in Africa <p>Other decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointment of Members of the Committee to Special Mechanisms including the request to establish a Special Mechanism on Children in Digital Space - Countries to Pilot for Targeted State Party Reporting - Proposal for new theme for Special Rapporteur - Decisions on Affiliate and Observer Status - Decisions on Partners’ Requests - Date for next session 	
17:00-17:30	Closing Ceremony	Open Session