



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

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RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Committee), meeting at its 47th Ordinary Session, held in Maseru, the Kingdom of Lesotho, from 17 April to 25 April 2026.

Considering its mandate on the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the child in Africa pursuant to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (African Children’s Charter);

Noting its mandate to receive and consider Communications on alleged violations of the provisions of African Children’s Charter against State Parties pursuant to article 44 of the Charter;

Recalling Article 38(1) of the African Children’s Charter that authorizes the Committee to establish its own Rules of Procedures, which the Committee developed and revised in 2013, 2015, and 2020 respectively;

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

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

Considering Section V(ii) of the Committee’s Revised Guidelines on Consideration of Communications and Monitoring Implementation of Decisions which stipulates that the Committee may establish one or more working groups as it deems necessary for consideration of questions of admissibility and the merits of any Communication;

In line with the Standard Operating Procedures for the establishment of Working Groups as special mechanisms within the Committee;

Considering that the Committee receives Communications on alleged violations of children's rights and that a Working Group would support the Committee in the effective examination of Communications;

Decides to establish a Working Group on Communications

Roles and responsibilities

The Working Group shall have the following roles and responsibilities, under the leadership and guidance of the Country Rapporteur for the State Party concerned:

- i. Monitor and ensure that the handling of Communications complies with the procedural requirements set out in the African Children's Charter and the Revised Communication Guidelines.
- ii. Meet prior to the Ordinary Sessions of the Committee or when necessary to deliberate on Communications tabled on the agenda of the session.
- iii. Review and analyze all Communications submitted to the Committee in accordance with article 44 of the African Children's Charter and the Guidelines for Consideration of Communications.
- iv. Advise the Committee on the admissibility, requests for provisional measures, merits, and any other issues relating to Communications.
- v. Ensure that analysis and recommendations are informed by robust legal research and adhere to international standards.
- vi. Prepare and submit reports on the activities and findings of the Working Group to the Committee during its Ordinary Sessions.

In the conduct of its work, the Working Group shall be guided by and adhere to the Committee's Standard Operating Procedures for the establishment of Working Groups; the provisions of the Revised Rules of Procedure relating to the consideration of Communications; Revised Communication Guidelines; as well as the Guidelines on Reparations.

Membership Criteria

The Working Group shall be composed of members of the Committee with an academic legal background and expertise.

In addition, the Country Rapporteur for the State against which a communication has been brought shall form part of the Working Group.

Term of office

The term of office of the Members shall run for two years, unless stated otherwise in the Standard Operating Procedures, which shall start counting from the date that the Committee adopts this resolution.

**Done on 25 April 2026, during the 47th Ordinary Session of the ACERWC,
Maseru, The Kingdom of Lesotho**