

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)**

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
2. **ADOPTS** the Report and commends the Committee for the work done in monitoring the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
3. **ENCOURAGES** Member States which have not yet ratified the African Children's Charter, to expedite the ratification of the Charter; and **ENCOURAGES** State Parties that have entered reservation on the provisions of the African Children's Charter to consider withdrawing the same;
4. **CONGRATULATES** State Parties which have submitted their reports on the implementation of the African Children's Charter, and **URGES** State Parties which have not yet reported to the Committee to comply with their reporting obligations;
5. **DIRECTS** ACERWC to undertake a comprehensive study on child soldiers in Africa and present a report to the Policy Organs for consideration;
6. **ENCOURAGES** the concerned State Parties to fully comply with the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the ACERWC;
7. **REITERATES** the importance of the Communications procedure of the ACERWC established according to Article 44 of the African Children's Charter and call on the concerned Member States to comply with their obligations under the Charter by responding to the Committee's requests and implementing the Committee's decisions;
8. **CALLS ON** Member States of the African Union to take measures to protect children from substance use, **ENHANCES** the capacity and accountability of law enforcement agencies to enforce existing laws and regulations on substance use, to curb drug abuse and trafficking and **REQUESTS** the ACERWC to conduct an in-depth study and report to the Policy Organs;
9. **CALLS ON** Member States to adopt measures to protect children from sexual abuse and sexual predators and to **STRENGTHEN** the responsibility and capacity of law enforcement agencies to enforce existing laws and regulations in this regard and **REQUESTS** ACERWC to carry out an in-depth study on this subject and to report back to the AU's Policy Organs.

10. **URGES** the Committee to take note of the Banjul conclusions emanating from the Peace and Security Council Ministerial and High Level Open session on the promotion and protection of rights and welfare of children in situations of conflict in Africa, on the need for the ACERWC under its promotion mandate, to continue building the capacity of Member States and RECs/RMs on mainstreaming of protection of children in conflict situations and in collaboration with the AU Commission to strengthen the already existing AU roster of child protection experts. Thus **ENCOURAGES** the Committee to work with the African Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflict and the Peace and Security Council on this matter.
11. **APPRECIATES** Member States for the measures they have undertaken in commemorating the Day of the African Child for the Year 2023 on the theme- “The rights of the child in the digital environment” and encourage Member States to implement the recommendations of the Committee and report on the same;
12. **ADOPTS** the theme for the Day of the African Child for the year 2024 to be “**Education for all children in Africa: the time is now**” and the theme for Day of the African Child for the year 2025 to be ‘**Planning and Budgeting for Children’s Rights: Progress since 2010**’.
13. **WELCOMES** the development and adoption of the following documents and **CALLS ON** Member States to make use of the content of the documents in ensuring the rights and welfare of children in their respective territories and comply with their obligations under the African Children’s Charter;
 - Study on the Status of Implementation of Decisions of the ACERWC
 - Study on Children’s Rights and Business in Africa
 - Study on the Status of Children with Disabilities in Africa
 - Joint General Comment on FGM by the ACERWC and the ACHPR
 - ACERWC Guidelines on Children’s Rights During Election
 - The Study on Climate Change and Children’s Rights
 - The Guidelines on Violence Against Children
14. **CONGRATULATES** the Kingdom of Lesotho for ensuring the smooth operations of the Secretariat of the ACERWC; and **ENCOURAGES** the host country to continue providing the required according to the host agreement, including the timely construction of the permanent office premises;
15. **REITERATES** the Decision of the Executive Council where it requested the Commission to expedite the finalisation recruitment of the ACERWC Secretariat’s staff and guide the possibility of allowing the ACERWC to recruit its staff.