

**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. **URGES** Member States which have not yet ratified the African Children's Charter, namely urge the Kingdom of Morocco, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Tunisia, to expedite the ratification of the Charter; **COMMENDS** those withdrawing the reservations made, and **ENCOURAGES** State Parties that have entered reservation on the provisions of the African Children's Charter to consider withdrawing the same;
4. **COMMENDS** State Parties which have submitted their reports on the implementation of the African Children's Charter, and **ENCOURAGES** State Parties, which have not yet reported to the Committee to comply with their reporting obligations;
5. **ENCOURAGES** the concerned State Parties to fully comply with the Concluding Observations and Recommendations of the ACERWC;
6. **CALLS ON** the United Republic of Tanzania to fully implement recommendations of the ACERWC concerning Communication No: 0012/Com/001/2019;
7. **CALLS ON** the Republic of Mozambique to implement the recommendations of the ACERWC centering the situation of children affected by the conflict in Cabo Delgado;
8. **REITERATES** the importance of the Communications procedure of the ACERWC established pursuant 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;
9. **APPRECIATES** the Republic of Malawi for the measures it has undertaken in addressing the challenges of children with albinism, and **CALLS ON** the same to fully comply with the recommendations of the ACERWC

10. **APPRECIATES** Member States for the measures they have undertaken in commemorating the Day of the African Child for the Year 2022 on the theme- ***Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and Practice since 2013*** and encourage Member States to implement the recommendations of the Committee and report on the same;
11. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to commemorate the Day of the African Child 2023 as adopted by the Executive Council on the theme ***'The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment'*** and **CALLS ON** Member States to Commemorate this day and report to the ACERWC on the theme;
12. **ADOPTS** the theme for the Day of the African Child for the year 2024 to be ***'Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress since 2010'***
13. **TAKES NOTE of** 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
 - a. The Continental Study on the Status of Teenage Pregnancies in Africa;
 - b. Guidelines on Safe Return to Schools After/During the Covid-19 Pandemic
 - c. The Study on the Mapping of the Structures and Functions of NHRIs on Child Protection in Africa;
 - d. The Study on Children without Parental Care
 - e. The Guidelines on Children with Disabilities
 - f. Resolution N ° 16/2022 on the Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations of the Committee;
 - g. Resolution N ° 18/2022 on Integrating a Child Rights-Based Approach to Climate Change Responses;
 - h. Resolution N ° 17/2022 on the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights in the Digital Sphere in Africa; and
 - i. Resolution N °19/2022 on the Situation of Children with Albinism in Africa
14. **REQUESTS** the ACERWC to develop ***Child Safeguarding Policy for the African Union*** and report to the Executive Council on the same;
15. **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 pursuant to the host agreement, including the timely construction of the permanent office premises;
16. **REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite the finalization recruitment of the ACERWC Secretariat's staff, and provide guidance on the possibility of allowing the ACERWC to recruit its own staff.