

African Union



ACERWC

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



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Status of implementation of
the Charter & **Agenda 2040:**

in the North Africa Region

25 November, 2020

#ACERWC36

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Workshop on Status of Children's Rights in North Africa Region Outcome Statement

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

25 November 2020, Addis Ababa

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee) meeting at its 36th Ordinary Session and the Workshop on the Status of Children's Rights in North Africa Region in Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Charter) on 25 November 2020;

Recalling its mandate to protect and promote children's rights in Africa as well as monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

In line with the Decision of the Executive Council (EX.CL/DEC.1084(XXXVI)), where the Council 'Welcomes the initiative of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) to lead on the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the adoption of the African Children's Charter in the year 2020; and Urges Member States of the African Union to take concrete steps to commemorate the Anniversary in 2020 and intensify their efforts to ensure the full implementation of the African Children's Charter;

Recognizing the efforts that Members States have taken in implementing the African Children's Charter **and** Africa's Agenda for Children' (Agenda 2040); **further recognizing** that the year 2020 sets a milestone in providing an opportunity to assess the implementation of the Charter as well as Agenda 2040;

On the basis of the findings of the ACERWC's studies on the Status of Implementation of Agenda 2040 and Harmonization of Laws, and noting the presentations from:

- i. The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria;
- ii. The Arab Republic of Egypt;
- iii. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania and;
- iv. North African Child Rights Network.

Commends the measures undertaken by States in North Africa, particularly for:

- The ratification of the Charter by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Libya and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- The Submission of Initial reports by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- Ensuring that birth registration is mandatory and for enhanced rate of under-five birth registration and;
- Reduction in under-five mortality rate.

At the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Charter, the Committee **calls North African States to:**

- Continue the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Charter in the year 2021 along with the theme and activities of the Day of the African Child for the Year 2021-'**30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children'**;
- Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Republic of Tunisia and Kingdom of Morocco to ratify the Charter;
- Arab Republic of Egypt to withdraw reservations on Articles 24, 30(a-e), 44 and 45(1) of the Charter and Islamic Republic of Mauritania to withdraw reservation on Article 9 of the Charter;
- Libya to submit Initial report on the Charter;
- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to submit their periodic reports on the Charter;
- Kingdom of Morocco and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic to adopt comprehensive child rights legislation aligned with the Charter;
- Libya and Republic of Tunisia to define a child as anyone under the age of 18 without any exceptions;

- All States to harmonize minimum ages of marriage, employment, recruitment in to armed groups and age of criminal responsibility in accordance with standards set by the Charter and the Committee;
- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to ensure the birth registration of children born out of wedlock without any discrimination;
- All States to repeal laws and practices that discriminate girls who become pregnant outside of marriage and to ensure that pregnant girls/adolescent mothers enjoy their rights in the Charter with necessary support provided, including their right to education;
- All States to ensure the availability and accessibility of Sexual and Reproductive health information and services to adolescents;
- All states except for Republic of Tunisia to outlaw corporal punishment in all settings;
- People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Libya and Kingdom of Morocco to criminalize Female Genital Mutilation;
- Arab Republic of Egypt to take accelerate and strengthen measures to reduce the rate of child marriage;
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Kingdom of Morocco to establish child friendly courts;
- Libya to ensure the protection of children affected by conflict, take measures to ensure that children are not recruited in to armed groups and provide rehabilitation and reintegration for children who have been associated with armed groups; and
- All States to undertake measures to mitigate the negative impact of Covid-19 on the overall wellbeing of children including their mental, physical, social, and psychological wellbeing.

Done at the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child virtually held on 23 November – 04 December 2020.