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## **RESOLUTION NO. 27/2023 ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CHILD PARTICIPATION**

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), meeting at its 42<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session, held from 08 to 17 November 2023, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

**Considering** its mandate on the promotion of the rights and welfare of the child in Africa pursuant to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

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

**Considering** Rule 58 of the Revised Rules of Procedure, which allows the ACERWC 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** the ACERWC's decision on the establishment of country and thematic based rapporteurs, adopted at its 28th ordinary Session, held on 21 October – 1 November 2016 in Banjul, The Gambia;

**Noting** with concern that the positive participation of children in Africa is severely limited in areas of development and human rights realization, while on the other hand their participation is worryingly rampant in conflict and hazardous work.

**Recognizing** that child participation, in accordance with the evolving capacity of the child, can advance the rights and welfare of the child under the Charter and is intrinsic in the realization of the right to freedom of expression, best interest of the child and the responsibilities of the Child.

**Considering** that Children's role towards their society should be meaningful and at the same time their participation should not jeopardize any of their rights under the charter.

**Underscoring** the importance of standard setting, promoting and monitoring of child participation in Africa;

**Decides** to appoint **Ghislain Roch Etsan** as Special Rapporteur on Child Participation. The mandate calls on the Special Rapporteur to:

- i. Participate in developing guidelines and standards on child participation in various sectors of society and governments in accordance with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- ii. Disseminate, seek, receive, examine and act upon information on areas related to child participation;
- iii. Submit reports on national practices, emerging trends and challenges in the area of child participation in Africa;
- iv. Bring to the attention of the Committee challenges affecting child participation;
- v. Initiate and take the lead in missions that aim to promote and advocate for child participation in development issues and realization of human rights;
- vi. Cooperate and engage in dialogue with Member States, National human Rights Institutions, other African Union Organs, relevant intergovernmental organisations, international and regional mechanisms, United Nations Agencies, civil society organisations and other stakeholders on issues relating to the promotion and realization of child participation;

- vii. Take the lead in the development of the ACERWC's documents, including General Comments and resolutions, related to child participation;
- viii. Serve as a focal person of the Committee on child participation; and
- ix. Follow up on the implementation of recommendations in the area.
- x. Report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child annually on the activities undertaken under the mandate.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17 November 2023.