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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: [www. www. au. int](http://www.wwww.aau.int)

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

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

**INTRODUCTORY NOTE**

1. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) was established during the 37th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Lusaka in July 2001 in accordance with Article 32 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The Committee is mandated *inter alia*, to promote and protect the rights of the African child pursuant to the provisions of the Charter.
2. Pursuant to its mandate under the Charter, the Committee has undertaken several activities including consideration of State Party reports on the implementation of the Charter, investigative mission to Tanzania on the situations of children with albinism, took the initiative in developing Africa's Agenda on Children 2040, conducting a continental study on the impact of conflicts and crises on children in Africa, declaration on the theme for the Day of African Child 2017, and joint Open Session with Peace and Security Council on children and armed conflict.
3. This Report summarizes the Recommendations and Decisions of the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27th Ordinary Sessions of the Committee held on 16-19 November, 2015 and 02-06 May 2016 respectively, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as other activities undertaken within this timeframe.
4. The Report is hereby submitted for consideration by the Executive Council.



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

### Introduction

1. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) was established during the 37th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Lusaka in July 2001 in accordance with Article 32 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The Committee is mandated *inter alia*, to promote and protect the rights of the African child pursuant to the provisions of the Charter.
2. Currently, the Committee is composed of members from Ethiopia, Zambia, Burundi, Egypt, Tanzania, Nigeria, Botswana, Cote D'Ivoire, Niger, Togo and Mauritania.
3. Pursuant to its mandate under the Charter, the Committee has undertaken several activities including consideration of State Party reports on the implementation of the Charter, consideration of Communications (individual complaints), investigative missions, adoption of various documents and many other activities as stated in this Report.
4. This Report summarizes the Recommendations and Decisions of the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27th Ordinary Sessions of the Committee held on 16 to 19 November, 2015 and 02-06 May 2016 respectively, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as other activities undertaken within this timeframe.
5. The Report is hereby submitted for consideration by the Executive Council.

**I. Decisions and Recommendations of the 26th and 27th Ordinary Sessions of the ACERWC**

**1. Decisions and Recommendation of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session**

**1.1. Consideration of the initial report of the Republic of Congo on the implementation of the African Children's Charter**

**6.** In accordance with Article 43 of the ACRWC the Committee received and considered the Initial Report of the Government of the Republic of Congo on the implementation of the African Children's Charter. After taking the floor, the delegation of the Republic of Congo gave a briefing on the implementation of the Charter in the State Party. Following the briefing, the Committee Members raised a number of issues for clarification including the low rate of birth registration and the situation of stateless children, participation of children in the celebration of the Day of the African Child (DAC), services available for children with disability, services available for unaccompanied migrant children, banning of corporeal punishment, challenges of children in the oil extraction industries, and the plights of children with albinism. The Committee further sought clarifications on provision of health services, elimination of child marriage, access to education, prevention of diseases, juvenile justice systems, provision of free medical care for birth and infant care, recruitment of children to military services, internal displacement and services available for children of imprisoned mothers. Responding to the Committee's questions, the Delegation had a constructive dialogue with the Committee. After the constructive dialogue, the Chairperson of the Committee commended the Government of the Republic of Congo for submitting the Initial Report, and for all the efforts that are being deployed on the ground to implement the African Children's Charter. The Chairperson also indicated that after careful consideration of the facts, the Committee will send its concluding observations and recommendations to the Government of Congo and undertake a mission to follow up the implementation of the recommendations.

**1.2. Consideration of the initial report of the Republic of Gabon on the implementation of the African Children's Charter**

**7.** The Committee also received and considered the initial report of the Government of the Republic of Congo on the implementation of the African Children's Charter. After taking the floor, the delegation of the Republic of Gabon gave a briefing on what the Government has been undertaking in implementing the provisions of the African Children's Charter. Following the briefing, the Committee Members raised a number of issues for clarification. These include the level of participation of children in the celebration of the Day of the African Child (DAC), reasons for a reduced amount of budgets allocated for protection and promotions of children's rights, measures taken to end corporal punishment, access to birth registration to all children including children in

rural areas, protection of children with albinism and the pigmies. The Committee further sought clarifications on how the Government selects families that need social security support, provision of free medical care for birth and infant care, the effort employed by the Government in raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years both for boys and girls, and how the Government ensures that children with disabilities have full access to public services. Responding to the Committee's questions, the Delegation had a constructive dialogue with the Committee. At the end of the constructive dialogue, the Chairperson of the Committee commended the Government of the Republic of Gabon for submitting the Initial Report, and for all the efforts that are being deployed on the ground to implement the African Children's Charter. The Chairperson also indicated that after careful consideration of the facts, the Committee will send its concluding observations and recommendations to the Government of Gabon and undertake a mission to follow up the implementation of the recommendations.

### **1.3. Consideration of the initial report of the Kingdom of Lesotho on the implementation of the African Children's Charter**

8. During the 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, the Committee also received and considered the initial report of the Government the Kingdom of Lesotho on the implementation of the African Children's Charter. After taking the floor, the delegation of the Kingdom of Lesotho gave a briefing on what the Government has been undertaking in implementing the provisions of the African Children's Charter. Following the briefing, the Committee Members raised a number of issues including the efforts employed by the Government in harmonizing the various laws in line with the Charter, access to birth registration, protection from employment that hamper the development of children, access to medical services to all children, the protection accorded to children born out of wedlock, the availability of children's courts in rural areas, the challenges of children with disability, school enrolment and completion rate, and facilities available for children within the juvenile justice system. In addition, the Committee sought clarification on the concerns of children of imprisoned mothers, extraterritorial application of anti-trafficking laws, the challenges in the applications of adoption laws, measures taken to address stunting problems, immunization coverage, protection for orphan and vulnerable children, and protection for children with albinism. Responding to the Committee's questions, the Delegation had a constructive dialogue with the Committee. At the end of the constructive dialogue, the Chairperson of the Committee commended the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho for submitting the Initial Report, and for all the efforts that are being deployed on the ground to implement the African Children's Charter. The Chairperson also indicated that after careful consideration of the facts, the Committee will send its concluding observations and recommendations to the Government of Lesotho and undertake a mission to follow up the implementation of the recommendations.

#### **1.4. Consideration and adoption of the report on the investigation mission on the situation of children with albinism in Tanzania**

9. In line with the ACERWC's investigation mandate, Under the Same Sun (UTSS), a non-governmental organisation based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, approached the Committee calling to investigate the situation of children with albinism hosted in Temporary Holding Shelters (THS) in the Lake Zone of Tanzania. The application was made in accordance article 45 of the African Children's Charter and paragraph 3 (1) (a) of the Guidelines on the Conduct of Investigations by the ACERWC.

10. At its 24th Ordinary Session held on 01-06 December 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the Committee considered the application and noted that the request falls within its mandate. The Committee then decided to undertake an investigative mission to the State Party pursuant to Article 45 of the African Children's Charter. The Mission was undertaken on 10-14 August 2015.

11. From the visit, the Committee noted that in Tanzania there are 32 Holding Centres for children with albinism. Among the Centers, the Committee visited the Center with the largest population of children with albinism which is called the Buhangija Centre. By the time the Committee visited the Center, it was indicated that the Centre accommodates a total of 405 children out of which 301 are children with albinism. The age of the children with albinism varies, with the youngest being two years old. Although the Center serves as a refuge by shielding the children from further attacks, looking at the bleak situation of the children in the Center, the Committee is of the strongest view that Buhangija resembles more of a preventative detention facility than a safe house. From its visit, the delegation notes major challenges and interlinked child rights violations of the children with albinism in Tanzania, particularly of those who are kept in the Buhangija Temporary Holding Center.

12. The delegation noted, with strong concern that, due to very limited resources, teaching and learning materials are in short supply in the Center. Moreover, the delegation witnessed the deteriorating health conditions of the children to the extent that some are developing skin cancer at various stages, mainly due to the lack of sunscreens and basic health facilities. The delegation witnessed that most of the children with albinism in Buhangija Center have visual impairments, fungus, severe wounds on their skin and suffer from complicated health problems accompanied by high fever. It was also indicated that malaria is a major challenge. The situation clearly leaves the children in a situation where their health is severely endangered which could eventually result in a significant number of deaths.

13. There are no guidelines, rules and regulations for the regulation and establishment of the 'temporary' holding centers including Buhangija. Furthermore, there is no clear exit strategy in place to reunite the children back to their families.

**14.** The delegation realizes that people with albinism in general and children in particular are facing many challenges to enjoy the right to physical safety and the right to life in Tanzania. Regular and structural attacks, often with a view to trade in their body parts, are so rampant that children with albinism are not free to live out their daily lives in their areas of origin. Despite the frequent and grave violations against children with albinism, great concern has been expressed by the delegation that the attacks and killings of children with albinism end with impunity. The Committee was told that there have been only 5 known convictions out of 139 attacks, including murders, mutilations and kidnappings.

**15.** The Committee concludes that though the Government of Tanzania established the Temporary Holding Centres with a view of protecting the children with albinism from further attacks and killings, the shelters are no longer temporary and they are not serving the best interest of the children. Stigma and discrimination against children with albinism are structurally embedded, and the marginalization and social exclusion of these children have to be reported as a worrying human rights problem in Tanzania.

**16.** Taking the findings into consideration, the Committee then provided a set of recommendations on key points primarily to the Government of Tanzania and other stakeholders with a view to producing effective mechanisms to protect the rights of children with albinism in Tanzania. The Committee would like to continue to count on the good will and commitment of the Government of Tanzania, and draw its attention particularly to the following major recommendations:

- ✓ A plan and strategy has to be in place for the Government to immediately stop institutionalization of children with albinism and instead assist them in reconnecting and reuniting the children in the centres with their parents, or close relatives; an integration plan back to the community should also be in place;
- ✓ With a view of preventing further complicated health problems, including skin cancer, the Government should come up with a short term plan to enhance the health facilities such as by providing of affordable sunscreen and other sun protective gear to children with albinism; and
- ✓ As part of its long term plans, the Government of Tanzania should also work towards addressing the cross border aspect of the violations in collaboration with neighbouring countries to combat the violations and prosecute perpetrators.

**II. Recommendations and Decisions of the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session which was held on 02-06 May 2016**

## **2.1. Consideration of the draft Africa's Agenda for Children 2040: Fostering an Africa Fit for Children**

**17.** Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the African Children's Charter, the ACERWC organized an international conference to assess the status of children's rights in the past 25 years. At the Conference, a number of papers, in line with the identified thematic areas were presented. The presentations and discussion mainly focused on the impact of the African Children's Charter on the protection of the rights of children as well as the challenges faced in the implementation of the Charter. Based on the findings and by taking stock looking back and prioritising future action, the ACERWC decided to develop a 25 year Agenda for children's rights in Africa. The Draft Agenda was presented during the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session. The Agenda aspires for, by 2040, the rights of Africa's children should be firmly protected, with full effect being given to the priorities in this Agenda. The Agenda elaborates on Paragraph 53 of AU-Agenda 2063 and presents measurable goals and priority areas to which the African Union and its Member States commit themselves for the coming 25 years. While implementing the Agenda, Africa will be in a position to nurture and nourish its children. It calls for collective efforts in relation to the priorities set; and enhances collaboration among stakeholders by identifying shared concerns.

**18.** The Agenda currently is at its draft stage and once it is finalized the ACERWC will be presenting the document before the Executive Council for adoption of the Agenda as an African Union document. At this juncture, the Committee would like to kindly draw the attention of the Executive Council to call upon Member States and stakeholders to collaborate and join hands with the ACERWC in the finalizations of the Agenda.

## **2.2. Consideration of the findings of the continental study on the impact of conflicts and crises on children in Africa**

**19.** Among the activities during the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sessions was the presentation on the findings of the continental study on the impact of crises and conflicts on children in Africa. With regard to the study, the ACERWC would like to refer to the Decision of the Executive Council which requested the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) to take into account the rights of the child in its agenda and cooperate actively with the ACERWC (Decision EX.CL/Dec.712 (XXI)). In view of implementing such Decision, the ACERWC held a joint meeting with the PSC on 18 February 2014 where the Council suggested for the ACERWC to undertake a study which assesses the situation of children in armed conflict and its impact across the Continent. It was based on this suggestion that the ACERWC launched the continental study.

**20.** The study takes into consideration the fact that recent trends in armed conflict have resulted in new challenges for the protection of children's rights. It concentrates on

conflicts and crises across Africa over the last 10 years and the measures by State and non-State actors to protect the rights of children during and in the aftermath of such situations. It addresses psychological impact, education, health and nutrition/food security, separation from parents/caregivers and sexual and gender-based violence. The study builds its analysis on the four cardinal principles of the African Children's Charter namely the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child as evidenced through children's voices.

**21.** Being the first of its kind at the African Union level, the study draws urgency towards Member States to address the challenges that children are facing in conflict situations and halt recruiting and using children for military purposes. Taking the new challenges into consideration, the study, particularly, urges for a high level commitment from Member States to establish effective and functioning mechanisms to address the impact of conflict and crises on children and provide for the care and protection of children affected by armed conflict. Once the report is finalized, the finding of the study will be submitted to the AU Executive Council, and widely disseminated among stakeholders.

### **2.3. Day of the African Child (DAC)**

**22.** As it a practice every year, the Committee decided on the theme of the 2017 Day of the African Child to be **'The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for Children in Africa: Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunity'**.

## **III. Other Activities**

### **3.1. Open Session with the PSC on children and armed conflict**

**23.** Following the Decision of the Executive Council (Decision EX.CL/Dec.712 (XXI)) where it requested the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to take into account the rights of the child in its agenda, the PSC at its 434th meeting, on 8 May 2014 held an open session, exclusively devoted to the theme: "Children in Armed Conflicts in Africa". One year later, on 19 May 2015, it held its second Open Session jointly with the ACERWC on the same theme. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union has now regularized such sessions dedicated entirely to the protection of children's rights in the context of armed conflict. Accordingly, it held the third Open Session on 10 May 2016. During the Session the ACERWC briefed the Council on the findings of the continental study on the impact of conflict and crises on children in Africa and highlight the particular case of attack on education during armed conflict. The Committee specifically addressed the Council on the following issues:

- ✓ Establishing the best suited accountability mechanisms against perpetrators, particularly peace keepers, who happen to sexually abuse children in a conflict setting;

- ✓ The need to engage and include the ACERWC in Commissions of Inquiries and fact finding missions that the AU establishes and the Committee should be mainstreamed within the AU structures;
- ✓ With a view of addressing the awareness gap, the ACERWC suggested for the PSC to consider working towards a declaration of a theme for the AU year with a focus on children in the context of armed conflict.

### **3.2. Meeting with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons**

**24.** On 05 May 2016, the Chairperson of the Committee had a meeting with Commissioner Maya Sahli Fadel who is the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons at the ACHPR. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the remaining steps and the way forward towards the adoption of the draft Protocol on Nationality and Prevention of Statelessness. From the discussion, the Committee notes the potential role of the Protocol in eliminating one of the root causes of conflict and forced displacement on our continent by ensuring that all persons have a nationality and ending arbitrary deprivation of nationality. The Protocol also assists Member States to ensure that every child shall have a nationality from birth and be registered immediately after birth. The Committee therefore is convinced that it is necessary for the Protocol be adopted by the AU Policy Organs.

## **IV. Recommendations**

**25.** In conclusion, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child would like to draw the attention of the Executive Council on the following issues:

- Seven Member States have not yet ratified the ACRWC, namely: Tunisia, Sao Tome and Principe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Somalia. Therefore, the ACERWC would like the Executive Council to urge these countries to expedite the ratification of the Charter;
- To congratulate State Parties which have submitted their reports on the implementation of the African Children's Charter and to urge State Parties which have not yet reported to the Committee to comply with their reporting obligations;
- To urge the Executive Council to call up on the four State Parties, namely Botswana, Egypt, Mauritania and Sudan, that have placed reservations on

the implementation of some of the provisions of the ACRWC.to withdraw their reservations;

- The ACERWC would like the Executive Council to adopt the theme of the 2017 DAC, which is on '**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for Children in Africa: Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunity**' as the theme for the Day of the African Child 2017';
- To urge the Government of Tanzania to closely work with the ACERWC and the AUC Department of Social Affairs in protecting the rights and welfare of children with albinism in Tanzania;
- To welcome the ongoing continental study on the impact of conflicts and crises on children in Africa;
- To welcome the Africa's Agenda on Children 2040 and work towards the full implementations of the principles included in the Agenda;
- To urge Member States to work towards adopting the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on Nationality and Prevention of Statelessness.

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: [www. www.au.int](http://www.wwww.aau.int)

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**REPORT OF THE ASSESSEMENT MISSIONS TO THE COUNTRIES  
THAT HAVE OFFERED TO HOST THE SECRETARIAT OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND  
WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)**

**REPORT OF THE ASSESSEMENT MISSIONS TO THE COUNTRIES  
THAT HAVE OFFERED TO HOST THE SECRETARIAT OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND  
WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)**

**INTRODUCTORY NOTE**

- 1.** Pursuant to the Decision of the Executive Council, Decision EX.CL/Dec. 712(XXI), the Council requested the African Union Commission to continue consultations with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) with regard to financial implications of moving the Secretariat of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the child (ACERWC) outside the headquarters and register the offer made by Burkina Faso to host the Secretariat of the ACERWC.
- 2.** Following the offer made by Burkina Faso, four other Countries expressed their interest to host the Secretariat. These Countries are: the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Botswana, the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Sudan. After submitting the official offer, the Republics of Botswana and Kenya have withdrawn their offers. The Government of Botswana through a Note Verbal officially informed the AUC that it has withdrawn its offer. The Government Kenya on its part had a meeting with the assessment team and informed the same that it has made the decision to withdraw with a view of extending the opportunity to other Members of the Union.
- 3.** Pursuant to the offer made by the above mentioned Countries to host the Secretariat of the ACERWC, an assessment team composed of representatives of the Department of Social Affairs, the Secretariat of the ACERWC, the Office of the Legal Counsel, Finance, Protocol Services, and Administration and Facilities Management undertook missions to the Kingdom of Lesotho (22-23 October 2015), Republic of Burkina Faso (04-05 November 2015) and Republic of Sudan (23-25 February 2016) to discuss with the relevant authorities and evaluate the facilities the proposed host countries are putting forward with regard to hosting the Secretariat of ACERWC.
- 4.** The Report of the assessment team is hereby submitted for consideration by the Executive Council.

**REPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON  
THE OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES TO HOST THE SECRETARIAT OF THE  
AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS  
AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)**

**I. Background and introduction**

1. The Declaration on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (AHG/ST.4 Rev.I) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU in July 1979, recognized the need to take appropriate measures to promote and protect the rights and welfare of the African Child, thus resulting in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The ACRWC was adopted on 11 July 1990 and came into force on 29 November 1999.

2. The main objective of the ACRWC is to promote and protect the rights of the African child in a manner that takes into account the historical, economic, social and cultural background and reality of the African continent.

3. The implementation and monitoring of the ACRWC is supervised by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Committee/ACERWC) which was established in July 2001 pursuant to articles 32-45 of the ACRWC. In accordance with Article 40 of the Charter, the African Union Commission (AUC) appointed a Secretary for the Committee. The Secretariat was officially established in 2007 and is a division within the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission. The Secretariat has the following mandate:

- To co-ordinate the work of the ACERWC
- To maintain effective links between the Committee and Member States
- To ensure effective partnership between the Committee and the Stakeholders
- To mobilize resources and raise awareness for the Committee's activities

4. Pursuant to the Decision of the Executive Council N° 7 of EX CL /Dec. 712(XXI), the Council requested the Commission to continue consultations with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) with regard to financial implications of moving the Secretariat of the Committee outside the headquarters and register the offer made by Burkina Faso to host this Secretariat. Following the offer made by Burkina Faso four other Countries expressed their interest to host the Secretariat. The Countries which offered to host the Secretariat are the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Botswana, the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Sudan. After submitting the official offer, the Republics of Botswana and Kenya have withdrawn their offers. The Government of Botswana through a note verbal officially informed the AUC that it has withdrawn its offer. The Government Kenya on its part has informed the assessment team that it made the decision to withdraw with a view of extending the opportunity to other Members of the Union. The head of the assessment Mission had a meeting with Her Excellency the Ambassador of Kenya to Ethiopia who communicated the Decision of the Government to this effect.

5. In this regard and pursuant to the offer made by the above mentioned countries to host the Secretariat of ACERWC, an assessment team composed of representatives of the Department of Social Affairs, the Office of the Legal Counsel, Finance, Protocol Services, and Administration and Facilities Management undertook missions to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic of Burkina Faso and Republic of Sudan to discuss with the relevant authorities and evaluate the facilities the proposed host countries are putting forward with regard to hosting the Secretariat of ACERWC. Prior to the visits, the criteria for hosting AU organs was shared with the countries. It is known that the requirements prescribed in the criteria for hosting an AU Organs (EX.CL.195 (VII) Rev. was adopted by the 7th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and endorsed by the 5th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Syrte, Libya on 1-2 and 4-5 July 2008. In accordance with the said criteria for hosting AU organs, the countries were advised to facilitate the assessment by the AUC Team/Delegation of the respective countries readiness as follows:

**a) Basic Minimum Requirements**

- i) The host country shall provide, at its expense a secure structure with furnished and equipped office premises for the seat of the organ on the basis of the objective requirements of office space;
- ii) The premises offered by the host country should be such that the organ shall be easily accessible;
- iii) The host country shall meet the requirements of a conducive political atmosphere and adequate logistical facilities;
- iv) There should be appropriate and efficient modern infrastructure especially telecommunication facilities to enable the office to function efficiently;
- v) There shall be available housing, hotel accommodation and health infrastructure to meet the functional needs of the organ.

**Additional Requirements**

- i) Without prejudice to these criteria, nothing in these criteria shall be taken to preclude a member state from offering more facilities. In this regard, a member state offering to host an organ of the Union is encouraged to provide, at its expense, where the Head of the Organ is required to be resident at the seat, an appropriate furnished and equipped official residence; and
- ii) A Member State hosting or wishing to host any of the organs of the Union should have ratified the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the OAU, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

6. The assessment was also made in accordance with the established Checklist for AU Fact-finding Mission. The AUC takes note that in addition to the standard in the criteria for hosting AU Organs, it is customary for the assessment team to cover aspects related to the nature of the technical activities to be carried out by the Organ; hence it developed a check-list. The purpose of the check-list is; therefore, to guide the concerned Member States for their preparation for the mission, to adequately prepare for the mission team and also to ensure all necessary information is obtained by the team. Accordingly, the checklist was sent in advance to the Member States with a series of indicative questions relating to child rights to help in their preparation. The visit to the Kingdom of Lesotho was done on 22-23 October 2015, to the Republic of Burkina Faso on 04-05 November 2015 and to the Republic of Sudan on 23-25 February 2016.

## **II. National Authorities and organizations visited**

7. With a view of reviewing and validating the capacities proposed by the Member States which offered to host the Secretariat of the ACERWC, the assessment team visited the following Authorities and organizations in the Member States: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, National institutions responsible for the welfare of the child, Ministry of Justice, the Police, National Human Rights Institution, National and Regional Courts, Ministry of Finance, prison centers, and other relevant Agencies of Government. Besides, the delegation also visited various institutions including Central Banks, telecommunication companies, medical centers and national and international institutions. Courtesy visits to the Queen of the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Prime Minister of Lesotho, the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso and the Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Sudan were also made.

## **III. Observations of the assessment team**

### **i. Juridical and legal matters including immunities and exemptions of taxes and custom duties**

8. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/195(VII) Rev.1, *“the Member State hosting or wishing to host any of the organs of the Union should have ratified the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the OAU, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations”*.

9. Looking at the ratification status of the offering Countries, by the time the delegation visited the Countries, the Kingdom of Lesotho had not ratified the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the OAU. However, it is pertinent to note that shortly after the evaluation mission, Lesotho acceded to the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities and its Additional Protocol and has deposited its instrument of Accession to the AUC via a Note Verbal referenced LAA/AU/41 Note/224/2015 dated on 16 November 2015. It is also noted that Lesotho acceded to the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of 18 April 1961 on 26 Nov 1969 and the Vienna Convention on consular relation 26 July 1972.

10. Burkina Faso ratified the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the OAU 06 July 1981, the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of 18 April 1961 on 4 May 1987 and the Vienna Convention on consular relations on 11 August 1964.

11. It is noted that the Republic of Sudan ratified the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the OAU on 01 June 1969. Sudan also acceded to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations on 13 April 1981 and 23 March 1995, respectively.

12. Based on additional information regarding judicial and legal matters, the delegation has noted the following facts in the respective Member States.

**The Kingdom of Lesotho:** While presenting the offer by the Kingdom of Lesotho to host the Secretariat of ACERWC, the Acting Minister for Social Development of Lesotho pledged Lesotho's commitment to according juridical personality to the Secretariat of ACERWC and granting full immunity in relation to the property, funds, premises, facilities and officials of the Secretariat. The Acting Minister also pledged Lesotho's commitment to the Vienna Conventions and the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the OAU. As stated in the official offer, the Government confirms that it will extend diplomatic immunities to the Members of the Committee, the Representatives of Member States, the Executive Secretary of the Committee, and other staffs of the Secretariat. It also indicated that the Government will ensure functional immunity for locally recruited staffs. Furthermore, the Government notes that it will extend such privileges and immunities, as necessary, to persons who are attending the Committee's Ordinary Sessions. During the discussion the Government officials pledged to provide tax exemptions, however enquiries during the visit revealed that the African Union is not listed as an organization entitled to enjoy diplomatic privileges under the Value Added Tax No. 9 of 2001 of Lesotho. Responding to the matter, the officials of the Kingdom of Lesotho informed the assessment team that this would be resolved once the Lesotho accedes to the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the OAU and, if the offer is accepted by the policy organs of the African Union, a Host Agreement will be signed with the African Union, which will resolve the matter in accordance with the requirement of the law. Finally, the assessment team observed that entry visas are required for staffs of the African Union Commission travelling to the Kingdom of Lesotho on an official business with AU official travel document. The Government official indicated that the issue is currently being looked upon and discussions ongoing with the Government of South Africa to guarantee access without visa from South Africa, since on the part of Lesotho, no such visa requirement exist for staffs of the AU Commission.

**Burkina Faso:** The Government confirms that it is committed to extending diplomatic immunities and privileges to the Members of the Committee, Secretariat staffs, experts and consultants who will be working for the ACERWC, as well as family members of the Committee Members and Secretariat staffs and

persons invited to attend the Committee's business. The Government specifically mentioned that as soon as the appointment of Members and the staff of the ACERWC are notified, the Government will issue them a card bearing the photograph of the holder and identifying him/her as a member of the staff of the organization. This card will be recognized by the competent authorities as being authentic to the identity of the person and as a member of the staff of the ACERWC. The Government also stated that the competent authorities of Burkina Faso will deliver to the Executive Secretary of the ACERWC, his or her spouse, as well as the officer of the Protocol of the Organization access to the VIP lounge of airports in Burkina Faso. Finally, the assessment team observed that entry visas are not required for staffs of the African Union Commission who would be travelling to the Burkina Faso on an official business with AU official travel documents.

**Sudan:** It was indicated that the Government of the Republic of Sudan is committed to extending the diplomatic and legal immunity and privileges for the staff of ACERWC secretariat and their families, the Head and Members of the Committee and visitors who will be travelling to Sudan to participate in any of the activities of the ACERWC. It also indicated that the legal and judicial immunities will be made in accordance with the standards of National Laws, Regional and International Conventions ratified by the Sudan. This will be implemented by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Interior. It was also confirmed that the Secretariat will be accorded legal personality with a view of facilitating its capacity to undertake juridical activities including the capacity to enter into contracts and institute legal proceedings. Sudan agreed that details of the rights to be accorded the Secretariat will be developed in a subsequent host agreement if Sudan is awarded the offer to host the Secretariat. Besides, the Government also confirmed that it is committed to providing customs exemption and taxes for the staff of ACERWC Secretariat and their families, the head and members of the committee. Finally, the assessment team observed that entry visas are required from staff of the African Union Commission travelling to the Republic of Sudan on an official business with AU official travel document.

**ii. Financial arrangements, including financial suitability, monetary and fiscal policies and direct supports**

**13.** The fact-finding mission was able to gather the following findings on financial matters:

**Lesotho:** The country was observed to have considerable suitable monetary and fiscal policies for similar international organization. However, from the information gathered at the time of the assessment, African Union (AU) is not listed as one of the organization to benefit from Tax exemptions and immunities covered under the country's Value Added Tax (VAT) Act 9 of 2001 schedule 1 Section 46. The delegation paid a due attention to the following economic factors: The economy of the country is observed to be an open, emerging and diversified macro economy system with commercial banks as well as various non-bank financial

institutions (NBFIs) such as money lenders, insurance companies, private pension funds management companies, unit trusts, Savings and Credits Cooperatives (SACCOs) as well as with the possibility of having an account in foreign currency for foreigners. Regarding, the Financial Information Management System, the delegation notes the existence of a strong base in terms of financial information system that will enable the ACERWC carry out its activities as required. An efficient Financial Information Management System is observed in the banking sector particularly in the control of foreign exchange and online banking, financial transactions, information exchange and installation of SAP ERP. Financial Management includes features that support creation of ad hoc reporting as well as month-end, quarterly year-end financial reporting. With regard to financial Commitments at the time of the visit, the Kingdom of Lesotho made no specific financial commitment with particular to the budgetary appropriations process and the channeling procedures of funds foreseen for the activities of the ACERWC as contained in the Guidelines. However, the Government indicated that it will consider providing the Executive Secretary with an executive car and the Secretariat with a utility car. The Government also promised to provide security service for the office premises and residence of the Head of the Secretariat. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the Government will consider providing suitable transportation for Members of the Committee during official engagements. It is also important to note that the Country has been up to date in its statutory contribution to the African Union.

**Burkina Faso:** The country is observed to have considerable suitable monetary and fiscal policies for similar international organization. The expansion of economic activities was followed by a development of the financial system composed of many big banking groups and the development of a network of decentralized system under the supervision of the Central Bank of the States of West Africa (BCEAO). Burkina economy is observed to be an open, emerging and diversified macro economy country with a banking network of correspondence with several international groups that facilitates transactions cross-border in compliance with the regulations as well as the possibility of having an account in foreign currency for foreigners. A strong base for financial information system that will enable the ACERWC to carry out its activities is also noted in the banking sector through online banking, foreign exchange transactions, information exchange and possibility to install SAP ERP system with features that support creation of ad hoc reporting as well as financial and narrative reporting. In terms of direct financial support, it was indicated that the Government of Burkina-Faso is committed to support the cost of the two annual sessions of the African Committee of Experts on the rights and welfare of the child (ACERWC). The Government has also expressed interest to support the idea of direct contribution whenever the Secretariat expresses the needs for such support. It is also noted that the Country has been up to date in its statutory contribution to the African Union.

**Sudan:** The delegation notes that the Country has normative standards and policies with regard to monetary and fiscal matters. The Government strongly

claims the availability of foreign transactions which enables international and regional organizations working on humanitarian and development issues to carry out their functions with ease. However, some regional and international organizations brought the attention of the assessment team to the fact that international financial transactions are hindered due to the economic sanctions placed against the Government of the Republic of Sudan. This position, however, is contested by the Government of Sudan who emphasized that the sanction excludes international and regional institutions working on humanitarian affairs, like the African Union through ACERWC. The delegation also noted the existence of private commercial banks with a stable banking system. It is also noted that there is a possibility of having an account in foreign currency for foreigners. Despite functioning under economic sanction, Sudan's macroeconomic situation is observed to be stable with the existence of huge foreign investment. Concerning direct financial support, the Government expressed its readiness to consider any specific request by the ACERWC on budgetary assistance with a view to facilitating the Committee's work. Specifically, the Government indicated that it is committed to provide three (3) new modern cars as gifts for the Committee, seven (7) professional and three (3) admin local staff who shall be seconded to the ACERWC secretariat. The Government also promised to provide 24-hour security service for the office premises and residence of the Head of the Secretariat. Sudan also committed to provide air tickets for maximum ten (10) of the committee members when traveling to the Sudan for the first time. Finally, the assessment team notes that the Government of the Republic of Sudan is up to date in its statutory financial contribution to the African Union.

### iii. **Logistical support in terms of office facilities and residence**

**14.** With reference to paragraphs 3a) and 3b) of Executive Council Decision EX.CL/195(VII) Rev.1, the assessment team evaluated the offers from the respective Member States. The main element of logistical support considered by the AU hosting criteria is the offering Member State's capacity and commitment to offer appropriate and secure premises for the Organ. The Member States have extended their offers in terms of premises and physical condition assessment report was done by the assessment team. The physical condition assessment report was done with a view to determining the general condition of the facilities and it includes an assessment of the extent to which repair and replacement on the components of the facilities is required. The physical condition assessment report also evaluates the spatial adequacy of the facility with regard to the present needs and future demands of the Committee. The report analyses the general situation, structure, electrical system, plumbing, fire Protection system and interior components of the facilities. The following paragraphs briefly present the type of offers with regard to office facilities and residences by the Member States.

**Lesotho:** The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho indicated that it is committed to provide, at its expense, a secure, dedicated, equipped and furnished permanent structure for the Secretariat of the ACERWC and an appropriate and furnished official residence to the Executive Secretary of the Committee. It was also mentioned that the furniture and equipment for the

Headquarter of the Secretariat will meet the requirements of the African Union Commission. Pending the provision of the permanent premises, it was also indicated that the Government will make available a suitable temporary premises. The Government also confirmed that the premises will be equipped with the necessary facilities including water, electricity, telephone, fax and internet. In addition to Office premises, the Government indicated its commitment to provide appropriate, furnished and equipped official residence to the Executive Secretary of the ACERWC.

Assessing the general physical condition of the facilities offered for the Secretariat, the delegation notes that the office facility is located in Maseru near the Old Parliament about 15 minutes' drive from the center of town. It is a ground + 1 building which is currently under renovation. There are about twenty office rooms of various sizes. The visible evidence suggests that it was constructed quite recently, with in the range of the last 15-20years. It is located in a highly promising environment in terms of development of urban structures. It also enjoys a sizable area of its own site with a covered parking space which is also conducive for future expansion. All the necessary amenities like, power supply, water supply, telecom services, drainage and very good road network are readily available and provided. Though it is blessed with age old trees, the delegation observed that the perimeter fence and gate are not in fair condition. Moreover, HVAC system is not installed. The delegation also notes that the facility lacks relevant plans and technical specifications of the building. Absence of maintenance record of the building is also observed by the assessment team.

**Burkina Faso:** The Government of Burkina Faso has also offered a facility which will be put at the disposal of the ACERWC. It was observed that the offered building doesn't belong to the Government, it was however indicated that the Government will rent it on behalf of the Secretariat. The building will be located in the area called ZACA (Commercial and administrative area) located in the city of Ouagadougou. The building, according to the Government, will be equipped with furniture and household goods, with security and alternative energy source to ensure continuous operation of the Committee. Besides, the Government stated that the facility will be equipped with auditoriums with audio-visual equipment, communication and the latest technologies of information, with sources of auxiliary energy. It will also have access to modern telecommunications technology and the Internet.

A walk through condition assessment of the facilities was performed by the assessment team. The offered facility is located in central part of Ouagadougou. It is a newly built Ground + 4 building. It is located in a highly developed urban structure, as such amenities like, power supply, water supply, telecom services, drainage and very good road network are readily available and provided. It has also adequate parking space. The assessment team observed that despite its qualities, the building is may not be perfectly suitable to host the Headquarter of the Secretariat for it doesn't have sufficient compound and it is located right by the street which in turn could compromise security. It is also important to note

that the Government of Burkina Faso didn't offer a residence for the Executive Secretary of the Committee.

**Sudan:** The Government of Sudan also expressed its commitment to provide an office facility to the Secretariat of the ACERWC and an official residence for the Executive Secretary. With regard to the Office of the Secretariat, it was mentioned that the Government will provide a temporary building which will serve as the Headquarter for not more than five years pending the construction of the permanent building. Specifically, the Government confirmed that the temporary building will be delivered to the Secretariat on the first of October 2016 if the Decision is made for Sudan to host the Secretariat. The Government presents two options with regard to the temporary arrangement.

The first option on the temporary building is a new G+3 building which easily accessible from the road. The assessment team notes that the building enjoys a wider neighborhood of diplomatic community. Though originally the building was meant for residential purpose, the arrangement of the rooms can still make it convertible to office. All the necessary amenities like, power supply, water supply, telecom services, drainage are readily available and provided. The team however notes that the building does not have enough space for parking. It is also noted that the building lacks relevant plans and technical specifications, and it doesn't have maintenance record.

The second option on the temporary building is a G+2 office building with double loaded corridor arrangement in the center of town near Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a short access to the road. It enjoys its own compound and other facilities such as conference hall, store and staff rooms detached from the main building. Currently it is used as office and needs to undergo major renovation or maintenance. It is also noted that the building lacks relevant plans and technical specifications and maintenance record.

The Government stated that the new and permanent building of the Secretariat will be constructed in an area of land not less than 1000 square meters in a distinguished district. Besides, it was also indicated that the Government will provide an appropriate house for the Executive Secretary of the committee. According to the Government, several options will be provided for the house of the Executive Secretary in one of diplomatic districts.

**iv. Conducive political atmosphere and adequate logistical facilities including transportation in to and out of the Country**

**Lesotho:** Looking at the political atmosphere, the assessment team observed that the Kingdom of Lesotho is peaceful, secure and safe. In country public utilities such as local transportation, local and international schools, hotels, hospitals, conference centers, religious worship centers are available. The delegation also notes the availability of adequate and modern conference center equipped with the necessary conference facilities and technologies. The team

was told the Secretariat can use the Center for meetings and conferences as the need arise. However, the delegation notes the existence of only a limited number of airlines flying in to the Country and there are not direct flights to and from most of the Countries out of the region.

**Burkina Faso:** Burkina Faso is also observed to be a peaceful and safe country hosting a number international and regional Organization. The delegation also notes the availability of sufficient public facilities including the undergoing urban road network development. In term of infrastructure, the capital city has all the necessary and basic facilities like international schools, modern and high-tech Medical Centers as well availability various standard houses. The delegation also notes the availability of adequate and modern conference center equipped with the necessary conference facilities and technologies. The team was told the Secretariat can use the Center for meetings and conferences as the need arise. In addition, it is noted that several airlines (national, sub-regional and international) run daily Burkina Faso, including the capital Ouagadougou. There are two international airports (Ouagadougou, Bobo-Dioulasso) and a new airport is being built, located at 35 km from Ouagadougou.

**Sudan:** The Republic of Sudan is peaceful and safe. Public utilities such as local transportation, local and international schools, hotels, hospitals, religious worship centers, leisure facilities are available. The team was also taken to a Conference Centre in Khartoum, which the team was told the Secretariat can use for meetings and conferences as the need arise. The team could not see the interior of the Centre or its facilities as events were going on at different locations at the time of the visit. There are also a number of airlines flying to and from Khartoum.

**v. Modern infrastructure, especially telecommunication facilities**

**15.** In all the three Countries, the assessment team met with National Authorities for Telecommunications and telecom companies and observed that the offering Countries benefit from appropriate and efficient telecommunications facilities and information technology services. The Member States also assured of facilities which would be made available to the Secretariat should their offer to host be accepted by the Policy Organs of the African Union.

**vi. Housing, hotel accommodation, health infrastructure and other facilities**

**Lesotho:** The assessment team notes the existence hotels, medium to high standard, and conference facilities which enables the Country host international meetings. The team has also visited residential neighbourhoods for accommodation, which are secured zones and not far from the city. A visit to the Country's biggest hospital also confirms that the Kingdom of Lesotho is in a position to meet the health needs of the Members of the ACERWC and its Secretariat as the Hospital is equipped with modern and high tech health

infrastructures. The Committee notes that the options with regard to international schools is limited in Lesotho.

**Burkina Faso:** It is noted that in Burkina Faso there are a multitude of hotel infrastructures, conference rooms which has already enabled the country to host various international and regional events. The team visited several residential neighborhoods for accommodation which are secured and located at strategic areas. It was also mentioned that there are a number of public health infrastructures and private clinics in Ouagadougou. A visit to one of the biggest hospitals also confirms that Burkina Faso is in a position to meet the health needs of the Members of the ACERWC and its Secretariat as the Hospital is equipped with modern and high tech health infrastructures. In addition, it was indicated that there are a number of international schools which could ensure quality education for the children of the Secretariat staffs of the Committee.

**Sudan:** The team was assured of affordable accommodation in Khartoum depending on the location. The team visited the Ministry of National Health and was assured of high standard health facilities available to nationals and foreigners at affordable rates. Representatives of the Ministry of National Health assured the team that Sudan does not have restrictions on foreigners, including visitors on short stay, accessing health care facilities anywhere in the country. Hotels of very high to medium and lower standards are available. In addition, it was indicated that there are a number of international schools which could ensure quality education for the children of the staff of the Committee Secretariat.

**vii. Technical Issues in terms of the Country's commitment towards the African Children's Charter**

**Lesotho:** The assessment team notes that the Kingdom of Lesotho ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 1999. Lesotho has also submitted its first Initial Report on the implementation of the Charter to the ACERWC. It was also indicated that, the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho has established a number normative and institutional frameworks with a view of protecting and promoting children's rights. These include: the National policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children 2006, Guidelines and Standards for Residential Care for Vulnerable Children 2006, National Strategic Plan on Vulnerable Children 2012-2017, the Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2011 and the Children Court.

**Burkina Faso:** Burkina Faso ratified the African Charter on the right and welfare of the child in 1992. The Initial report 1999-2005 has been prepared in April 2006 and presented at the African Committee of Experts on the rights and welfare of the child (ACERWC) on November 16th, 2009, at its 14th session. The first Periodic Report on the implementation of the African Children's Charter has also been submitted to the ACERWC. In this regard, the team notes that Burkina Faso is among the very few State Parties to the Charter which submitted its Periodic Report on the implementation of the Charter. The Government also indicated that

the 4th and 5th periodic reports combined in a single consolidated report covering the periods 2012-2017 implementation of the ACERWC are being prepared.

**Sudan:** It was noted that the Republic of Sudan ratified the African Children's Charter in 2005 and it was the only country to submit the initial report on the implementation of Charter within the prescribed timeframe. However, the team notes that Sudan placed reservation on some of the provisions of the African Children's Charter; accordingly it does not consider itself bound by Article 10 regarding the protection of privacy, Article 11 (6) regarding the education of children who become pregnant before completing their education or Article 21 (2) regarding child marriage. In this regard, the Government officials informed the delegation that process are going on to withdraw these reservations which deeply rooted in social norms of many communities in Sudan. In spite of these reservations, the teams observed that Sudan has exerted various efforts in protecting and promoting the rights of its children. These include the establishment of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), a National Strategy for abolishment of FGM/C and drafted a national strategy to abandon Child marriage under the auspices of the first lady. It was also mentioned that legislation banning FGM/C at the state level were passed in some Sudanese states such as in Red Sea, Gedaref, South Kordfan and South Darfur. It was also observed Sudan has launched a national campaign called Saleema which aims at changing the social perspective towards FGM/C practice.

### **Concluding remarks**

**16.** The Commission would like to note that this Report does not, in anyway, serve to rank the offers from the three Member States; rather, it seeks to confirm and validate important features of each offer. In this way, the purpose of this technical report is to facilitate consideration and decision by the AU Executive Council regarding which Member State should be selected to host the Secretariat of the ACERWC.

## SUMMARY FACTS OFFERED BY THE THREE COUNTRIES

Type of offer/criteria	Lesotho	Burkina Faso	Sudan
Ratification of the General Conventions	Acceded to the General Convention on the privileges and immunities of the OAU, ratified the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of 18 April 1961 and the Vienna Convention on consular relations.	Ratified the General Convention on the privileges and immunities of the OAU, the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of 18 April 1961 and the Vienna Convention on consular relations.	Ratified the General Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the OAU acceded to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations on
Diplomatic immunity and privileges	Pledges to provide diplomatic immunity and privileges to the Members of the Committee, Secretariat staffs, and to persons attending the Committee sessions during the time of the business.	Pledges to provide diplomatic immunity and privileges to the members of the Committee, Secretariat staffs, and to persons attending the Committee business	Pledges to provide diplomatic immunity and privileges to the members of the Committee, Secretariat staffs, and to persons attending the Committee business
Tax and custom exemptions	Pledges to provide tax exemptions. However concern was raised on the fact that the African Union is not listed as an organization entitled to enjoy diplomatic privileges under the Value Added Tax No. 9 of 2001 of Lesotho	Exemptions on all direct taxes and assimilated on the wages paid, as well as all direct taxes on income received from abroad as part of its official activities, and exemptions on any tax on the imported goods and services directly or on purchases of goods made in the local market, no exemption of taxes and duties on fuel, lubricants, air vehicles and spare parts.	Pledges for customs and tax exemption for the committee and the staff of ACERWC secretariat and their families, the head and members of the committee.

Office facilities	Pledges to provide an equipped and furnished temporary building pending the construction of the permanent facility.	Pledges to provide an equipped and furnished building	Pledges to provide an equipped and furnished temporary building for five years pending the construction of the permanent facility.
Adequate logistical facilities including transportation in to and out of the Country	Public utilities such as local transportation, local and limited international schools, hotels, religious worship centers are available. However, limited number of airlines flying in to the Country and there are not direct flights to and from most of the Countries out of the region.	Public utilities such as local transportation, local and international schools, hotels, religious worship centers are available. Several airlines (national, sub-regional and international) run daily Burkina Faso, including the capital Ouagadougou.	Public utilities such as local transportation, local and international schools, hotels, religious worship centers are available. Several airlines run daily
Modern Infrastructure, especially telecommunication facilities	Appropriate and efficient telecommunications facilities and IT services exist.	Appropriate and efficient telecommunications facilities and IT services exist.	Appropriate and efficient telecommunications facilities and IT services exist.
Health facilities	Adequate, modern and equipped medical facilities exist	Adequate, modern and equipped medical facilities exist	Adequate, modern and equipped medical facilities exist
Requirement of entry visas	Entry visas required to all persons including those who are travelling with AU Official travel documents.	Entry visas are not required to persons travelling for official business with AU official travel documents	Entry visas required to all persons including those who are travelling with AU Official travel documents.
Direct financial and additional support to the	Pledges to provide an official car for the Executive Secretary and a utility car for the Secretariat, suitable transportation to	Pledges to cover the cost of the two annual sessions of the ACERWC and to put graciously a	Pledges to cover for air tickets for maximum of ten committee members when

ACERWC	Members of the Committee during sessions, and preference will be given to the Committee's activities in terms of providing venues for meetings and sessions. Security to the premises of the offices and the residence of the executive secretary	luxury conference room for the sessions of the Committee at the disposal of the ACERWC	they travel to Sudan for the first time, three new modern cars, seven professional and three admin local staffs, and conference venue for Committee meetings, 24 hours security service for the office premises and the residence of the Head of the Secretariat
Banking sector and financial transfers	Various Commercial banks exist and no challenge observed with regard to international money transfers.	Various Commercial banks exist and no challenge observed with regard to international money transfers.	Various Commercial banks exist however it was noted that there are challenges on international money transfers due to the US sanction on Sudan.
Residence to the Executive Secretary	Pledges to provide an appropriate and furnished official residence to the Executive Secretary of the Committee.	Not offered	Pledges to provide an appropriate and furnished official residence to the Executive Secretary of the Committee.

2016

# Report on the activities of the African committee of experts on the rights and welfare of the child (ACERWC)

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