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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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**REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT MISSIONS UNDERTAKEN TO
COUNTRIES THAT HAVE OFFERED TO HOST THE SECRETARIAT OF
THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND
WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)**

RANKING OF THE OFFERS MADE BY MEMBER STATES

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. Pursuant to the Decision of the Executive Council 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 Committee outside the headquarters and registered the offer made by Burkina Faso to host the Secretariat.
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 After submitting the official offer, the Botswana and Kenya have withdrawn their offers.
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, the AUC 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 was submitted for consideration by the Executive Council at its 29th Ordinary Session in Kigali, Rwanda, where the Council suggested that the Assessment Team ranks the Countries which that have offered to host the Secretariat.
5. Hence, the suggested ranking of the offering Countries is hereby submitted for consideration by the Executive Council.

		Lesotho		Burkina Faso		Sudan	
1	Ratification of the General Conventions (10%-Substantive requirement)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		10%	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.	10%	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.	10%	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.
2	Diplomatic immunity and privileges (10%-Substantive Requirement)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		10%	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.	10%	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.	10%	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.

3	Tax and custom exemptions (10%-Substantive requirement)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		10%	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. The Team received a Note Verbal from the Embassy (LAA/AU/43/Note/247/2016) which explains that AU can be included by interpretation.	10%	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.	10%	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.
4	Office facilities (10%-Substantive requirement)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		10%	Pledges to provide an equipped and furnished temporary building pending the construction of the permanent facility. The Team visited the proposed premises and found out that it meets the requirements.	8%	Pledges to provide an equipped and furnished building. The Team Visited the proposed premises and found out that though the building meets the requirements, the location is not convenient in terms of security; and the ownership of the building also belongs to a private individual.	10%	Pledges to provide an equipped and furnished temporary building for five years pending the construction of the permanent facility. The Team visited the proposed Premises and found out that it meets the requirements.

5	Adequate logistical facilities including transportation in to and out of the Country (10%-Substantive requirements)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		8%	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.	10%	Public utilities such as local transportation, local and international schools, hotels, religious worship centers are available. Several airlines run daily Burkina Faso.	10%	Public utilities such as local transportation, local and international schools, hotels, religious worship centers are available. Several airlines run daily to Sudan.
6	Modern Infrastructure, especially telecommunication facilities (10%-Substantive requirements)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		10%	Appropriate and efficient telecommunications facilities and IT services exist.	10%	Appropriate and efficient telecommunications facilities and IT services exist.	10%	Appropriate and efficient telecommunications facilities and IT services exist.
7	Health facilities (10%-Substantive requirement)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		10%	Adequate, modern and equipped medical facilities exist.	10%	Adequate, modern and equipped medical facilities exist	10%	Adequate, modern and equipped medical facilities exist

8	Requirement of entry visas (10%-Substantive requirement)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		5%	Entry visas required to all persons including those who are travelling with AU Official travel documents.	10%	Entry visas are not required to persons travelling for official business with AU official travel documents	5%	Entry visas required to all persons including those who are travelling with AU Official travel documents.
9	Direct financial and additional support to the ACERWC (5%-additional requirement)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		3%	Pledges to provide an official car for the Executive Secretary and a utility car for the Secretariat, suitable transportation to Members of the Committee during sessions, and preference will be given to the Committee's activities in terms of providing venues for meetings and session security service for the office premises and the residence of the Head of the Secretariat	1.5%	Pledges to cover the cost of the two annual sessions of the ACERWC and to put graciously a luxury conference room for the sessions of the Committee at the disposal of the ACERWC	5%	Pledges to cover for air tickets for maximum of ten committee members when they travel to Sudan for the first time, three new modern cars, Salary for seven professional and three admin local staffs, and conference venue for Committee meetings, security service for the office premises and the residence of the Head of the Secretariat
10	Banking sector and financial transfers (10%-Substantive requirement)	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
		10%	Various Commercial banks exist and no challenge observed with regard to international money transfers.	10%	Various Commercial banks exist and no challenge observed with regard to international money transfers.	7%	Various Commercial banks exist however it was noted that there are challenges on international money transfers

11		Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks	Score	Justification/Remarks
	Residence to the Head of the Secretariat (5%-Additional Requirement)	5%	Pledges to provide an appropriate and furnished official residence to the Executive Secretary of the Committee.	0%	Not offered	5%	Pledges to provide an appropriate and furnished official residence to the Executive Secretary of the Committee.
Total		91%		89.5%		92%	

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