

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Legal Researcher to support the activities of the ACERWC's Working Group on Children with Disabilities

Appointment Period November 2024 - October 2027

Legal Researcher to support the activities of the ACERWC's Working Group on Children with Disabilities
Key Task: Support the activities of the ACERWC's Working Group on children with disabilities
Duty station: Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho
Duration: 3 years
Date of appointment: November 2024 - October 2027

I. Background

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/Committee) is a human rights organ of the AU with the mandate to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children in Africa. The Committee was established by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), by virtue of Article 32 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (African Children's Charter) to monitor the implementation of the Charter.

The ACERWC identified the theme 'The Rights of Children with Disabilities: The Duty to Protect, Respect, Promote and Fulfill' for the Commemoration of the 22nd Day of the African Child in 2012. Following from the 2012 theme for the Day of the African Child on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee has undertaken various activities with a view to enhancing its monitoring role in ensuring the rights of children with disabilities in Africa. In 2013, the Committee adopted a strategy on protecting and promoting the rights of children with disabilities in Africa.

Cognizant of the above, the Committee decided to establish a Working Group on Children with Disabilities to regularly monitor the situation of children with disabilities in Africa and to ensure appropriate measures to protect and promote their rights are implemented in all Member States of the African Union.

The aim of the Working Group is to respond to the challenges that children with disabilities are facing in the continent and to thereby ensure that children with disabilities can fully enjoy their rights as enshrined in the African Children's Charter and other human rights instruments.

The Working Group undertakes its activities guided primarily by the African Children's Charter, the Resolution establishing the Working Group, and the

Standard of Operating Procedures for the establishment of Working Groups as Special Mechanisms within the ACERWC.

The Institute of Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), through the SIDA-funded Africa Children's Charter Project (ACCP), is collaborating with the ACERWC to hire a qualified Legal Researcher to assist the Working Group.

II. Main duties and responsibilities of the Legal Researcher

The Legal researcher will support the activities of the Working Group on Children with Disabilities. Specifically, the officer will undertake the following activities:

- Prepare and coordinate the meetings of the Working Group.
- Draft briefings on the situation of children with disabilities in Africa and present these to the Working Group;
- Regularly monitor and produce reports on the situation of children with disabilities in all African countries and provide recommendations to enhance the protection of children with disabilities in Africa;
- Develop a dissemination strategy for the report on the continental study on children with disabilities in Africa;
- Coordinate the various activities of the Working Group aimed at raising awareness and galvanizing action on the issues related to children with disabilities in Africa among African Union Organs, Regional Economic Communities, National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organizations, Child and Youth Led Organizations and other relevant stakeholders;
- Support the mandate of the Working Group to seek, receive, examine and act upon information from Member States, National Human Rights Institutions, relevant intergovernmental organisations, business enterprises, international and regional mechanisms, United Nations Agencies, civil society organisations, children and other stakeholders;
- Draft ACERWC documents (including Concluding Observations and Recommendations among others) concerning children with disabilities in Africa.
- Produce regular annual reports on the activities of the Working Group and;
- Undertake any other tasks assigned by the ACERWC Executive Secretary.

III. Qualifications

- i. Minimum of an advanced university degree in law, human rights, children's rights/welfare, or other related disciplines;
- ii. A minimum of five years working experience in the area of child protection in the African context;
- iii. Demonstrated knowledge of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the work of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

- iv. Experience in national or international organizations working on matters of children's rights and the rights of children with disability;
- v. Excellent research and analytical skills;
- vi. Excellent and proven report writing skills.

IV. Reporting lines

The Officer will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the Executive Secretary of ACERWC.

V. Duration and attendance

The appointment of successful candidate will commence in November 2024 and end in October 2027.

VI. Location

The selected Officer will be based at the Secretariat of the ACERWC in Maseru, Lesotho.

VII. Application

Applicants should submit:

- A cover letter summarizing the background of the applicant and why the applicant is interested in the position;
- Curriculum Vitae not exceeding 3 pages;
- Evidence of educational background and professional experience;
- Names and contacts of three references.

XV. Application deadline

Application should be submitted to acerwcresearcher@ihrda.org with the subject line '**Legal Researcher to support the activities of the ACERWCs Working Group on Children with Disabilities**' no later than Tuesday, 8th October 2024 at 11:59 p.m. GMT.

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.