

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Legal Researcher to support the activities of the ACERWC's Working Group on implementation of decisions

Appointment Period November 2024- October 2027

Legal Researcher to support the activities of the ACERWC's Working Group on implementation of decisions
Key Task: Support the activities of the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions
Duty station: Maseru-the Kingdom of Lesotho
Duration: 3 years
Date of appointment: November 2024 to 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 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.

As per Article 43 of the Charter, the ACERWC has the mandate to receive and consider State Party reports on the status of the implementation of the African Children's Charter. After considering State Party reports it issues concluding observations and recommends measures that States Parties may take to improve the implementation of their obligations under the African Children's Charter. In accordance with Article 44, the ACERWC also has the mandate to consider complaints against States Parties of alleged violations of the African Children's Charter. If the ACERWC finds a violation, it will issue recommendations for the State Party to rectify the violation. Under Article 45 of the African Children's Charter, the ACERWC may also undertake investigations in African countries, followed by recommendations to the State Party on the measures it should take in relation to the issue under investigation.

The ACERWC notes that its recommendations and decisions can only lead to enhancement of the rights and lived realities of children if States implement them. Monitoring State compliance with the decisions and recommendations of the ACERWC is key to the full realisation of children's rights.

Cognisant of the need for regular and continued monitoring of States' compliance with the decisions and recommendations of ACERWC to bring about full realization of children's rights, the ACERWC established a Working Group on Implementation of Decisions during its 35th Ordinary Session, held virtually from 31 August to 08 September 2020. The Working Group is composed of four Members of the ACERWC and four external experts.

The Working Group's activities are guided primarily by the African Children's Charter, the Resolution establishing the Working Group, and the Standard Operating Procedures for the establishment of Working Groups as Special Mechanisms within the ACERWC.

In this regard, the Institute of Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) through support of 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 the Implementation of Decisions as contained in the Resolution establishing the Working Group. Specifically, the Legal Researcher will:

- i. Draft an annual report for publication on the level of implementation of the Committee's Decisions on selected themes/decisions/countries as decided by the Working Group;
- ii. Regularly collect information from civil society actors and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), on their assessment of the level of implementation of the Committee's Decisions and recommendations, and present these to the Working Group;
- iii. Support the activities of the Working Group in disseminating the findings and recommendations of the ACERWC's study on the Implementation of Decisions;
- iv. Provide expertise and draft documents, standards, guidelines, and policy briefs as decided by the Working Group;
- v. Provide technical expertise to support the Working Group in the exercise of its responsibilities/mandate.
- vi. Draft the activity report of the Working Group;
- vii. Undertake any other tasks assigned by the 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, ideally on implementation of decisions or recommendations;
- 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 the successful candidate will commence in November 2024 and end in October 2027.

VI. Location

The Legal Researcher will be based in Maseru, Lesotho.

VII. Application

The applicant should submit:

- i. A cover letter summarizing the background of the applicant and why the applicant is interested in the position;
- ii. A Curriculum Vitae not exceeding 3 pages;
- iii. Evidence of educational background and professional experience;
- iv. 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 Implementation of Decisions**' no later than Tuesday, 8th October 2024 at 11:59 p.m. GMT.

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.