



ACERWC

African Committee of Experts on
the Rights & Welfare of the Child

#ACERWC33

33rd ORDINARY SESSION

18th-28th March 2019
Addis - Ababa, Ethiopia



www.acerwc.africa

PROGRAMME



Day 1- Monday, 18th March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-09:00	Registration		
09:00-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation among Committee Members• appointment of rapporteurs for Applications for Observer Status received Adoption of the Agenda and the Program of Work.	ACERWC	Closed Session
10:00-11:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement by Child Focused Agencies Representative• Statement by UN Representative• Remarks by the Commissioner for Social Affairs• Opening Statement by the Chairperson of the ACERWC• Swearing in of the new Committee Member	ACERWC	Open Session
11:00-11:15	Tea/Coffee Break		
11:15-12:30	Brief Presentations by Partners	Partners	Open Session
12:30-12:45	Statement by CSO forum	CSO Forum	Open Session
12:45-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-16:30	Panel Discussion on Children affected by armed conflict	ACERWC	Open Session
16:30-16:45	Tea break		
16:45-17:15	Presentation on the AU-UNICEF Engagement Strategy	UNICEF	Open Session

Day 2
19th March, 2019

DAY OF GENERAL DISCUSSION ON ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-08:40	Presentation of the objective of the theme of the General Discussion	ACERWC	Open Session
08:40-09:10	Global Trends: The We Protect Global Alliance Global Threat Assessment <i>Discussions/ Q &A</i>	Dr. Howard Taylor: WPGA Board Member & Executive Director, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children	Open Session
09:10-09:40	Global Trends: Profile of victims and offenders on Child Abuse Images: ICARE 2018 report- ECPAT & INTERPOL – snapshot of the findings Children in a digital World- UNICEF 2017 report- snapshot of the findings <i>Discussion / Question and answer</i>	ECPAT UNICEF	Open Session
09:40-10:00	OCSE Trends in Africa – Types of OCSE manifestations specifically arising out of Africa <i>Discussion / Q & A</i>	IWF	Open Session
10:00-10:40	Responses to OCSE WPGA initiative on MNR AU Project to Strengthen regional and national capacity and action against OCSE in Africa AU cyber security and data protection convention <i>Presentations followed by discussions</i>	WPGA DSA- AUC Department of Energy and infrastructure	Open Session
10:40-11:00	Tea /Coffee Break	CSO Forum	Open Session

11:00-11:45	<p>Panel Discussion-GAPS – Responses to OCSE and sexual exploitation of children (SEC) by Experts</p> <p>Challenges of Sexual Exploitation of Children</p> <p>Review of legislation related to OCSE in Africa</p> <p>A regional approach in extraterritorial jurisdiction issues</p> <p><i>5 mins presentation</i></p>	<p>ACPF</p> <p>ECPAT</p> <p>INTERPOL</p>	Panel Session
11:45-12:15	<p>Presentation on Establishment of a Specialized Unit to Tackle OCSE</p> <p>10 min Presentation and discussion</p>	UNODC	Open Session
12:15-13:15	<p>Panel discussion :</p> <p>Presentations on Child Protection initiatives at the MS Levels</p> <p>Kenya</p> <p>South Africa</p> <p><i>7 mins presentation by each MS + discussion</i></p>	UNICEF	Open Session
13:15-14:30	Lunch		
14:30-15:00	<p>Panel discussion :</p> <p>Presentations on challenges in the implementation of the OCSE initiatives at the MS Levels</p> <p>Angola</p> <p>Senegal</p> <p>Panel Session; - 5 mins presentation by each MS followed by a discussion</p>		Panel Session
14:50-15:00	2 five (5) min films on OCSE		Open Session
15:00-16:00	Plenary deliberations/ proposals on way forward	ACERWC & ECPAT	Open Session
16:00-16:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
16:30-17:00	Adoption of the declaration	ACERWC	Open Session

Protecting Children from Abuse in the digital world



#OSCEin Africa

#DGD

#ACERWC33



Background: OSCE in the context of the ACRWC

Article 27 of the Charter specifically addresses child sexual exploitation. It states that States Parties “shall undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and shall in particular take measures to prevent:

- (a) the inducement, coercion or encouragement of a child to engage in any sexual activity;
- (b) the use of children in prostitution or other sexual practices;
- (c) the use of children in pornographic activities, performances and materials.”

At the time when the Charter was drafted, the phenomenon of Online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) was largely unknown and hence guidance to State Parties and to the Committee on this topic is limited. OCSE encompasses several distinct but related manifestations, including child sexual abuse materials, live streaming of sexual abuse, sexting, online grooming of children for sexual purposes and sexual extortion. It takes ever-evolving forms with each advance in the quality and spread of internet connectivity. Policymakers typically have a limited awareness and understanding of these forms of criminality.

Due to a lack of reporting systems the extent of OCSE in Africa is largely unknown. However experts believe that as new technology and internet connectivity is rapidly developing in Africa, so is OCSE. A legal review conducted by ECPAT International in nine African countries, revealed serious limitations in legislative frameworks and in law enforcement infrastructure to identify and respond to OCSE. The combination of rapidly increasing connectivity, limited regulation, little awareness, and poverty together hold the potential for an explosive growth in OCSE and thus a threat to the children in this Continent. At the same time, successes that have been achieved in fighting

OCSE in some other regions might induce facilitators and perpetrators to shift to regions such as Africa if they know that there is less risk of detection, arrest, and punishment.

A legal review conducted by ECPAT International in nine African countries, revealed serious limitations in legislative frameworks and in law enforcement infrastructure to identify and respond to OCSE. The combination of rapidly increasing connectivity, limited regulation, little awareness, and poverty together hold the potential for an explosive growth in OCSE and thus a threat to the children in this Continent. At the same time, successes that have been achieved in fighting OCSE in some other regions might induce facilitators and perpetrators to shift to regions such as Africa if they know that there is less risk of detection, arrest, and punishment.

However there are efforts to tackle the vice in the Continent. OCSE was one of the issues included in the first African Forum on Cybercrime that was organized by the African Union Commission in October 2018.

Further to this, six African countries have signed the WePROTECT Global Alliance Statement of Action. The AU’s Convention on Personal Data Protection and Cybersecurity (Malabo Convention) has been signed also by eleven countries. The International Telecommunications Union, some African regulators, Facebook, UNICEF (in Madagascar, Namibia, Uganda, Kenya, and Algeria), ECPAT, and the Internet Watch Foundation have ongoing initiatives related to addressing OCSE in Africa.

In order to accelerate the ongoing efforts in addressing OCSE in Africa, African Union Commission through the Department of Social Affairs in 2018, commenced a two-year project that aims to: build evidence and understanding of OCSE in AU Member States; develop capacities to address the situation; and mobilise political commitments towards action. This activity is part of a two-year project funded by

the Government of the United Kingdom through the Commonwealth Fund, which aims at strengthening regional and national capacity and action against OCSE in Africa.

As part of this project, the ACERWC intends to have a Day of General Discussion (DGD) during its 33rd Session in March 2019 on Combatting OCSE in Africa. The DGD is a forum that will bring together relevant officials from Member States, UN agencies, experts, academic institutions and civil society organisations to deepen understanding on various issues relating to OCSE

The Day of General Discussion will support the Project that AUC and its partners have started on strengthening regional and national strategies against OCSE. Following this Discussion, the ACERWC will discuss and consider various options within its mandate by which it can strengthen its role, give opinion and provide guidance to State Parties and other Stakeholders on Ending Child Sexual Exploitation. This may include but will not be limited to a Declaration on Ending Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Africa.

Objective of the Day of the General Discussion

The objectives of the Discussion are :

- To deepen the understanding of the ACERWC, the AUC and AU Member States on Online Child Sexual Exploitation;
- To identify gaps in information on OCSE in Africa and strategies to address them;
- To assess the current situation of OCSE in Africa as it relates to the rights and welfare of children as defined in the ACRWC;
- To provide a platform for dialogue amongst participants and the exchange of knowledge, good practices and experiences related to OCSE;
- To provide substantive information that

will facilitate the Committee's dialogue with and recommendations to States parties on issues related to OCSE; and

- To provide guidance to State Parties on how to protect children from online child sexual exploitation through policies, legislation, law enforcement and programmes.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Following this Discussion, the ACERWC will discuss and consider various options within its mandate by which it can strengthen its role, give opinion and provide guidance to State Parties and other Stakeholders on Ending Child Sexual Exploitation. This may include but will not be limited to a Declaration on Ending Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Africa.

PARTICIPANTS

The DGD will have approximately 150 attendees as follows:

- ACERWC
- All participants of the 33rd Ordinary Session of ACERWC
- The delegations of the five Member States that will present reports during the Session, i.e. Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Benin and Swaziland
- Technical persons in the Government Ministeries (for Children, Justice, Health, Education, etc.) in selected Countries
- CSOs
- Ambassadors or Representatives of the Embassies of the 55 Member States of the AU
- Staff of some AUC departments
- Representative from AU Regional Economic Communities (EAC, ECOWAS, AMU/UMA, SADC, COMESA, ECCAS)
- UN Agencies
- Rapporteur

Day 3- Wednesday, 20th March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-10:30	Consideration of the State Party Report: Benin	ACERWC	Open Session
10:30-10:45	Tea/Coffee break		
10:45-12:15	Consideration of the State Party Report: Benin (Continuation.....)	ACERWC	Open Session
12:15-12:45	Elements of Concluding Observations	ACERWC	Closed Session
12:45-13:45	Lunch		
13:45-15:45	Consideration of the State Party Report: Eswatini	ACERWC	Open Session
15:45-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
16:00-17:30	Consideration of the State Party Report: Eswatini (Continuation.....)	ACERWC	Open Session
17:30-18:00	Elements of Concluding Observations	ACERWC	Closed Session
18:00-20:00	Launch of the Study on the Impact of Corruption on Children	Child Focused Agencies	Cocktail

Day 4- Thursday, 21st March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-10:30	Consideration of the State Party Report: Rwanda Report	ACERWC	Open Session
10:30-10:45	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:45-12:15	Consideration of the State Party Report: Rwanda Report (Continuation.....)	ACERWC	Open Session
12:15-12:45	Elements of Concluding observations	ACERWC	Closed Session
12:45-13:45	Lunch		
13:45-15:45	Consideration of the State Party Report: Nigeria	ACERWC	Open Session
15:45-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
16:00-17:30	Consideration of the State Party Report: Nigeria Report (Continuation.....)	ACERWC	Open Session
17:30-18:00	Elements of Concluding observations	ACERWC	Closed Session

Day 5- Friday, 22nd March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-10:30	Consideration of the State Party Report: Senegal	ACERWC	Open Session
10:30-10:45	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:45-12:15	Consideration of the State Party Report: Senegal Report (Continuation.....)	ACERWC	Open Session
12:15-12:45	Elements of Concluding observations	ACERWC	Closed Session
12:45-13:45	Lunch		
13:45-14:30	Presentation of the study on harmonization of laws	ACPF/ ACERWC	Open Session
14:30-15:30	The role of Social Workers in the implementation of the Charter & overall protection of Children's Rights	Global Social service workforce Alliance (GSSWA)	Open Session
15:30-15:45	Tea/Coffee Break	15:30-15:45	Tea/Coffee Break
15:45-16:45	Consultations on the EU Support Project 2020 - 2023	Consultant	Closed Session
16:45-18:00	Presentation and discussion on the ACCP (SIDA Project)	ACCP	Closed Session

Day 6- Saturday, 22nd March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
09:00-10:30	Consideration of communication received	ACERWC	Closed Session
10:30-11:45	Presentation on Strategic Planning	ACERWC	Closed Session
11:45-12:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
12:00-13:00	Executive meeting	ACERWC	Closed Session
13:00-14:15	Lunch		

Day 7- Monday, 25th March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-9:45	Revision of working documents of ACERWC	ACERWC	Closed Session
9:45-10:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:00-11:00	Courtesy Meeting at Department of Social Affairs	ACERWC	Closed Session
11:00-12:30	Revision of working documents of ACERWC	ACERWC	Closed Session
12:30-13:30	Lunch		
13:30-14:45	Revision of working documents of ACERWC	ACERWC	Closed Session
14:45-16:00	Revision of working documents of ACERWC	ACERWC	Closed Session
16:00-16:15	Tea/Coffee Break		
16:15-17:30	Revision of working documents of ACERWC	ACERWC	Closed Session

Day 8- Tuesday, 26th March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-10:00	Discussions on the Project: Strengthening Regional and National Capacity and Action against Online Child Sexual Exploitation Project	DSA/ ACERWC	Closed Session
10:00-10:15	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:15-11:45	Discussions on ACERWC @ 30	ACERWC	Closed Session
11:45-12:30	Report on theme of DAC 2020	ACERWC	Closed Session
12:30-13:30	Lunch		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Activities 2019 • Discussions on the Letter of urgent appeals 		
15:15-16:15	Mission reports	ACERWC	Closed Session
16:15-16:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
16:30-17:00	Consideration of observer status	ACERWC	Closed Session

Day 9- Wednesday, 27th March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-10:30	Adoption of decisions	ACERWC	Closed Session
10:30-10:45	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:45-11:30	Presentation on 2018 Budget execution rate and 2019 Budget		
11:30-12:30	Internal matters	ACERWC	Closed Session
12:30-13:45	Lunch		
	PRE SESSION		
13:45-14:00	Brief Remarks by the Chairperson of the ACERWC	ACERWC	Closed Session
14:00-15:00	Presentation and discussions on the Guinea Bissau Civil Society Organizations Report	ACERWC	Closed Session
15:00-15:15	Tea/Coffee Break		
15:15-16:15	Presentation and discussions on the Guinea Bissau Civil Society Organizations Report	ACERWC	Closed Session
16:15-17:30	CSO-Elements of List of Issues	ACERWC	Closed Session

Day 10- Thursday, 28th March, 2019

Time	Activity	Responsible	
08:30-9:30	Presentation and discussions on the Mauritania Civil Society Organizations Report	ACERWC	Closed Session
9:30-9:45	Tea/Coffee break		
9:45-10:45	Presentation and discussions on the Mauritania Civil Society Organizations Report	ACERWC	Closed Session
10:45-12:30	CSO-Elements of List of Issues	ACERWC	Closed Session
12:30-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:30	Adoption of the Report of the 33rd Session and Closing	ACERWC	Open Session
15:30-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break		



www.acerwc.africa

#ACERWC33