AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

Drawing by Nermin from Egypt (Age 16)

CHILD FRIENDLY VERSION

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

Save the Children

AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

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PREFACE

Hi Children,

Did you know that Africa has laws that protect children? One of the most important laws was put into action in 1990 and is known as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, or the African Children's Charter.

The Charter outlines the rights and responsibilities of children in Africa. We want to make sure that you learn and understand these rights. So, we worked with children from 5 regions in Africa and adults to develop this amazing child-friendly version of the African Children's Charter.

This document is created with children and for children to help you learn about your rights and responsibilities as an African child. We hope and expect that as you learn about your rights and responsibilities, you will become active participants in Africa's development agenda.

So let us get started!

Your friends, Doris Mpoumou and Sam Norgah
May 2022

FOREWORD

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is a broad regional instrument that sets out rights for children in Africa. The Charter is an important tool for the promotion and protection of children's rights in the continent. Whilst efforts have been made by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and its partner organizations to ensure the visibility of the Charter, the Committee has noted that there is no child-friendly version of the Charter as the existing Charter uses technical language that may not be easily understood by children.

As a result, African children who are the rights holders are not necessarily aware of the rights they are entitled to. This has resulted in the limited ability of children to claim their rights and meaningfully participate in issues affecting them.

The Committee thus appreciates the initiatives that Plan International and Save the Children have engaged to produce this child-friendly version of the Charter for children in Africa. The Committee is of the view that the child-friendly version of the African Children's Charter contributes meaningfully to addressing the awareness and knowledge gap that children have on the Charter. As the Chairperson of the Committee, I believe our children in Africa will be able to read and understand what their rights are and be able to demand the effective enjoyment of their rights from the responsible authorities.

I urge the Member States and other relevant child rights actors to take a step further and ensure that the child-friendly version of the African Children's Charter is translated to local languages,

in braille and any other form suitable for the different needs of children to ensure that no child is left behind in understanding their rights.

To our dear African children, I hope you will enjoy reading this child-friendly version of the African Children's Charter and carry out the exercises provided in order to understand more about your rights and be able to bring change to your lives and the lives of other children.

HONORABLE JOSEPH NDAYISENGA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

We are happy to share the child-friendly version of the African Children's Charter with you in four parts or sections! Thanks for starting this learning adventure with us - we will be here to help you understand this guide. We hope these terms will be easier to understand as you read this child-friendly version of the African Children's Charter.

CHILDREN'S CHARTER TERMS

Advocacy: Giving a person or group of people support to have their voice or opinions heard. Advocacy can be an action where a person or organization supports or defends a cause on behalf of other people.

Charter: An official legal document created by many governments. It explains the rights and responsibilities of certain groups of people.

Child: A Child is a person below the age of 18 years.

Child abuse: Is when any person hurts or threatens to hurt a child's feelings or body. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional or when adults do not take care of children.

Child Rights: These are the laws that make sure children have their needs met, like clothes, education, food, and the care they need from adults and their government to allow them to be healthy and grow.

Civil Society: Groups or organizations that work to support the needs of people.

Community: A group of people who live in the same area. It can be made up of parents, children, teachers, local leaders like chiefs, council of elders, neighbours, Child Rights

Organizations, social workers, schools, police and many other people.

Consultation: Seeking opinions, ideas, input and recommendations from people and experts.

Discrimination: Unfair treatment of a person or a group of people based on parts of who they are, such as race, gender, age or status.

Gender: These are the social and cultural differences that are associated with being female or male. These are general beliefs and ideas in communities about the roles of boys and girls.

Government: The group of people with the authority to rule a country. The Government has the main responsibility to protect children's rights, with the help of members of the whole community.

Guardian: Someone who cares for a child when their parent is not able to.

Human Rights: Entitlement's that individuals have because they are human beings. The rights don't need to be earned. Every person is born with them, and they should never be taken away.

Policy: A set of rules or a plan which is used to guide action by the government and adults in authority.

Refugee: Is someone who has been forced to leave their country because they are being treated badly due to their race, religion or nationality or because they have different political views or belong to a particular group. Refugees sometimes leave their country to escape the war. Usually, refugees cannot return home or are afraid to do so.

Research: Studying books, stories, interviews and other sources to find out facts and give answers.

Respect: Thinking about someone else's feelings, wishes and rights. When you respect someone, you treat them well.

Responsibility: What people owe to children, families, communities, and countries. This involves making decisions, being trusted, and learning to take credit for one's actions—whether good or bad. These are also actions children are expected to do for their families, communities and countries.

State Parties: A country that has signed or agreed to an agreement between countries and must follow what the agreement says.

Sexual Abuse: Is when an adult or another child involves, forces, pressures or tricks a child into taking part in any kind of bad activity on their body. It can include touching, showing naked pictures or videos, bad comments about a child's body or watching a child naked.

Sexual Exploitation: Is when an adult uses their position of power or trust to take part in sexual activity on a child's body usually to profit with money.

Stereotype: A category, or a group, that we put people into based on their traits or appearance. Stereotypes can be negative because they make a guess about all the people in one group when it might not be true.

Trafficking: Buying, selling, or making money from work people are forced to do. Trafficking is often talked about with "drug trafficking" or "human trafficking". Actions involved in trafficking are often unsafe, harmful, and illegal.

PREAMBLE:
INTRODUCTION TO THE CHILD-FRIENDLY VERSION OF THE ACRWC OR AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHARTER

What is the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child?

All the countries in Africa have joined to create an organization known as the African Union. The organization's headquarters is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 1990, leaders in Africa met and agreed that there was a need to have a law specially made for African Children's rights.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC / African Children's Charter/the Charter) was developed and accepted by the African Union and since 1999 it has been put into action by Countries that have signed it.

The ACRWC helps to protect the rights and welfare of all children in Africa. It explains the rights and responsibilities of children in Africa. It provides a guide for African governments on how they should improve the lives of children in their countries.

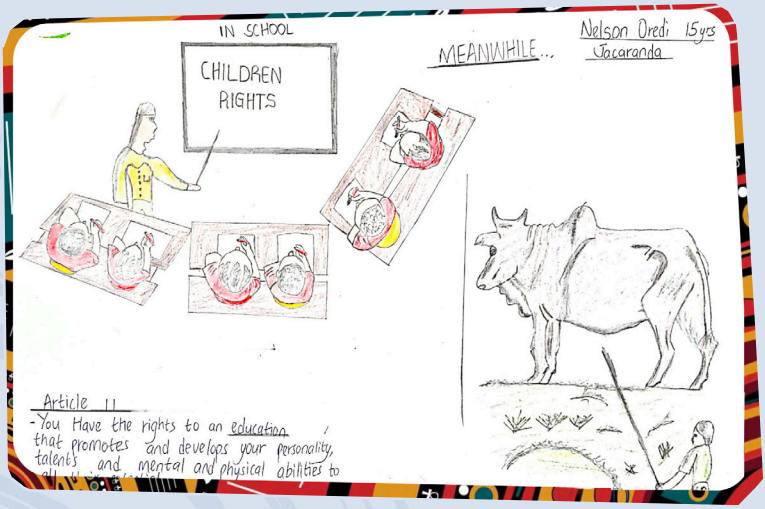
What is so important about the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) document?

It **recognizes** the need to defend and protect the rights and welfare of children in Africa since many children in Africa face challenging circumstances, such as abuse, no education, natural disasters, armed conflicts, exploitation, and hunger. It shows that our African governments have the primary responsibility to protect children's rights.

The ACRWC views children as important and unique members of African society who require a happy, loving and understanding home that helps them develop their minds, bodies, and become themselves. The ACRWC also **accepts** that children with different or extra needs should have their special needs met. No matter what!

It **recognizes** that African children should see themselves, their cultures and their communities represented in ideas and discussions about the rights and welfare of the children. It **highlights** that we all can help defend and protect the rights and welfare of children - even you! It **reflects** other important documents about the rights and welfare of children in Africa and all around the world!

Did you know: Africa is the only continent with a region-specific child rights instrument and it has been around for 30 years!



What are CHILDREN'S RIGHTS? Do you think you have RIGHTS?

Children's Rights are the laws that make sure that the needs of children are met. They seek to ensure that ALL children live, grow, learn, participate and are treated fairly. They also help make sure that all children live a happy life that allows them to achieve their dreams as best as they can.

Yes, you have rights! Children's rights are the human rights of children. Your rights include the right to food, health, education, family life, play and participation, a good standard of living, and to be protected from abuse and harm. Your rights cannot be taken away from you. While your parents or guardians should take care of you, your government is mainly responsible for protecting your rights because it signed the ACRWC.

How was the Child-Friendly Version of the African Children's Charter developed?

The child-friendly version was created for children, by children - with the help of adults! A team of researchers read about children's rights, then wrote a guide to teach and consult children about their rights. The researchers helped train community leaders from some African countries including, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe. The community leaders were trained about how to bring children together to talk about the design, the wording and

to create drawings that are about their rights. These countries were chosen because they are in different regions of the African continent, and researchers wanted the opinions of many children from Africa.

Community leaders also asked children from Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe what they thought about how their words, stories, and drawings appear in this book. The teachers asked children to share a drawing of an ACRWC Article that was important to them - some of the children's drawings are included in this book!

The children chose the concept of African fabrics and also picked the images used to describe the Articles in the ACRWC. The researchers made changes to the guide that included children's ideas, then asked the same children if they liked the final guide. Thank you to the amazing children and organizations who contributed to this child- friendly version. The consultations with children followed accepted methods of safely involving children.

RECAP:

1. Children's rights are special laws that protect ALL children and keep them safe and happy.
2. The ACRWC was accepted by African governments in 1990 and was put into action in 1999.
3. All Children in Africa have these rights. They cannot be taken away from them.
4. The governments in the countries where we live have the main responsibility to protect children's rights.
5. Children in Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe helped to come up with this child friendly document of the ACRWC.

Now that we know all children have rights, what are these rights?

Yes. The ACRWC protects our rights by rules known as Articles. We will learn more about these Articles in this section

CHAPTER ONE:
KNOWING ABOUT OUR RIGHTS

OBLIGATION OF STATES PARTIES

All countries that have signed the ACRWC must respect the rights in the ACRWC.

It is important that customs and practices in each country must not go against the rights in the African Children's Charter. The group most responsible for putting children's rights into action is the Government.

DEFINITION OF A CHILD

A child is a person below the age of 18 years.

ARTICLE 3

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Every child in Africa has these rights.

All children have these rights - no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability or whether they are rich or poor.

Girls are often treated differently from boys. Tradition and religion still affect how girls are treated differently in their family, community, and school. Are there things in your country that you think would make life harder for girls? What can be done to improve these things? Draw your thoughts!

ARTICLE 4

BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

All people should do what is best for every child.

When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. If children can say their opinions, then their opinions should be heard and taken into consideration by relevant groups or the government.

ARTICLE 5

SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

Every child has the right to live, and the government is responsible for protecting and promoting every child's rights.

The government must protect your rights and those of other children and make sure this happens by law. Children have a right to live and be in an environment where they can grow to reach their potential.

ARTICLE 6

NAME AND NATIONALITY

Every child has the right to a name and identity.

Children have the right to be named and to have a birth certificate. They have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country) in which they are born or from countries where they live.

ARTICLE 7

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Every child has the right to express their views; adults must listen to every child's views and take them seriously.

Children have the right to give their opinion and for everyone to listen to their views and take them seriously, as long as it does not break laws.

ARTICLE 8

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Every child has the right to form connections with friends and gather with others as allowed by the law.

Children including yourself have the right to talk to, play with, and be friends with whomever you want. They have the right to choose their friends and join or set up groups, as long as it is not harmful to them or others. Please remember your activities and that of other children must be peaceful and not break the rules or laws in your country.

ARTICLE 9

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

Every child has the right to choose their religion.

Children like yourself have the right to choose their own religion and beliefs. Children have the right to freedom of thought. Parents or guardians should help children decide what is right, wrong or best for them

ARTICLE 10

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Every child has the right to privacy.

Children do not have to tell everyone about themselves. They can keep their thoughts and ideas private and can have time alone. Children can have privacy as long as it does not cause anyone harm. Parents or guardians should still supervise children including yourself and help you and other children make decisions while respecting your privacy. No one (including governments) can involve themselves in your family, home, or communications unless they are invited or the law says they have to for safety reasons.

ARTICLE 11

EDUCATION

Every child has the right to an education.

Children do not have to tell everyone about themselves. They can keep their thoughts and ideas private and can have time alone. Children can have privacy as long as it does not cause anyone harm. Parents or guardians should still supervise children including yourself and help you and other children make decisions while respecting your privacy. No one (including governments) can involve themselves in your family, home, or communications unless they are invited or the law says they have to for safety reasons.

ARTICLE 12

LEISURE, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Every child has the right to rest, play and take part in arts and cultural activities.

Children have the right to take part in activities that they enjoy. They have a right to play and rest. They can also participate in cultural activities.

What healthy activity do you love doing that makes you feel happy? How much time do you spend doing those activities? These activities include participation in culture, arts, recreation and leisure. What do you love to do in your free time?

ARTICLE 13

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Every child has the right to special education and care if they live with a disability.

Children living with a mental or physical disability, have the right to special education and physical care that meets their needs. They have the right to receive help and support to prepare them or employment, and to help them participate independently in the community.

Article 13 drawing by Bella from Cameroon (Age 17)

ARTICLE 14

HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES

Every child has the right to good physical and mental health.

Children have the right to the best possible state of physical, mental, and spiritual health. They have the right to the best health care including good nutritious food, to safe drinking water and vaccinations.

ARTICLE 15

CHILD LABOUR

Every child has the right to protection from work that is bad for their health or education.

Children have the right to protection from work that harms them, and is bad for their health and education. Where the law allows children to work, children have the right to be safe and to be paid fairly.

ARTICLE 16

PROTECTION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE AND TORTURE

Every child has the right to be safe from being hurt or mistreated.

Children have the right for their mind and body to be safe from being hurt and mistreated. No one, including people caring for children including yourself, is allowed to punish you or other children in a cruel or harmful way.

ARTICLE 17

ADMINISTRATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Every child has the right to be treated with respect when they are in trouble with the law.

If children are in trouble with the police or the law, they have the right to be treated with privacy, respect and provided with legal assistance by adults, the government or states.

What does it mean to be safe? Where do you feel safe? Write three names of people or places that make you feel safe.

ARTICLE 18

PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY

Every child's family is to be protected as their most basic need.

Children's families shall be protected as their most basic need. Children have the right to be loved, be considered as an important part of their family and be provided for by their parents or guardians whether they are together or not.

ARTICLE 19

PARENTAL CARE AND PROTECTION

Every child has the right to be raised by their parent(s) or others who love them.

Children have the right to be raised by their parents or people who love them. They have the right to special care and help if they cannot live with their parents. Children have the right to care and protection if adopted or in foster care.

ARTICLE 20

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents or guardians are responsible for caring for every child in the best way they can.

Every child should receive the best possible care from their parents and guardians.

ARTICLE 21

PROTECTION AGAINST HARMFUL SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

Every child has the right to be protected against harmful practices, including being married if they are less than 18 years old.

Children have the right to be protected against anything that harms them from social or cultural practices in their community, including protecting them from child marriage if they are less than 18 years old.

ARTICLE 22

ARMED CONFLICTS

Every child has the right to be protected from war and not be forced to participate in war.

Governments should protect every child from war and take care of children if they are affected by war. Children should not be forced to take part in war.

ARTICLE 23

REFUGEE CHILDREN

Every child has the right to be protected if they are a refugee.

Children have the right to special protection and help if they are a refugee, as well as all the rights in the ACRWC. Refugee children have the right to be reunited with their family when it is safe to do so.

ARTICLE 24

ADOPTION

Every child has the right to be cared for in a good place if they do not live with their birth parent(s).

If you or other children do not live with their birth parent(s) (have other parents or caregivers), adults including (governments or states) must do what is best for you and other children in this situation. Your living arrangements and those of other children should be looked at regularly to see if you and other children are living happy and healthy.

ARTICLE 25

SEPARATION FROM PARENTS

Every child has the right to protection and assistance to return to their family or be cared for by other adults if they do not have a family.

Children have the right to be protected by whomever they stay with. If children do not live with their parents, they have the right to be protected and assisted to be brought back together with their parents when it becomes safe to do so.

ARTICLE 26

PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Every child has the right to get help from the government if their country is in a situation where people are being treated differently due to their race or religion.

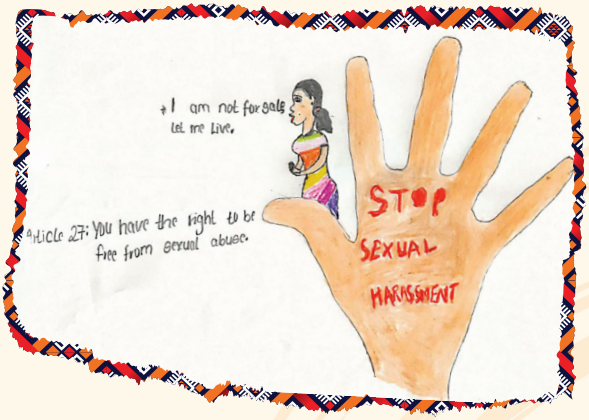
If you or other children are in a situation of discrimination (people being treated differently due to their race or religion), every child has the right to get help from their government.

ARTICLE 27

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Every child has the right to be free from sexual abuse.

Children have the right to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Children should be protected from anyone who asks a child to do something with their body that they do not agree with, or that makes them feel unsafe. For example, when an adult is doing something to a child or a child's body they should be asking another adult to do - like trying to touch them where their undergarments are or asking them to be naked in a photo or online/ internet. Children should also be protected from bad acts in exchange for something like money, gifts, somewhere to sleep.



Article 27 drawing by Cathrine from Kenya (Age 14)

ARTICLE 28

DRUG ABUSE

Every child has the right to protection from harmful drugs and the drug trade.

Governments should protect all children from having to take part in making, selling, moving or using drugs.

Adults make their own decisions and sometimes those decisions are not the best or healthiest choice for their bodies. When we take care of our bodies and make healthy choices, we have more energy to play with friends! If someone you don't know tries to give you something, walk away and tell a safe adult.

ARTICLE 29

SALE, TRAFFICKING AND ABDUCTION

Every child has the right to be protected from kidnapping and traffiacking.

Children should not be taken away by anyone using force or against what the child wants. Governments should protect you from being taken by any person, including parents or people who care for you. Children should not be used to beg for food, money or any other thing.

ARTICLE 30

CHILDREN OF IMPRISONED MOTHERS

Pregnant women and mothers with young children have the right to special protection if they are in trouble with the law.

The government should give special protection to pregnant mothers and mothers with young children who are in trouble with the law or are in prison.

ARTICLE 31

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHILD

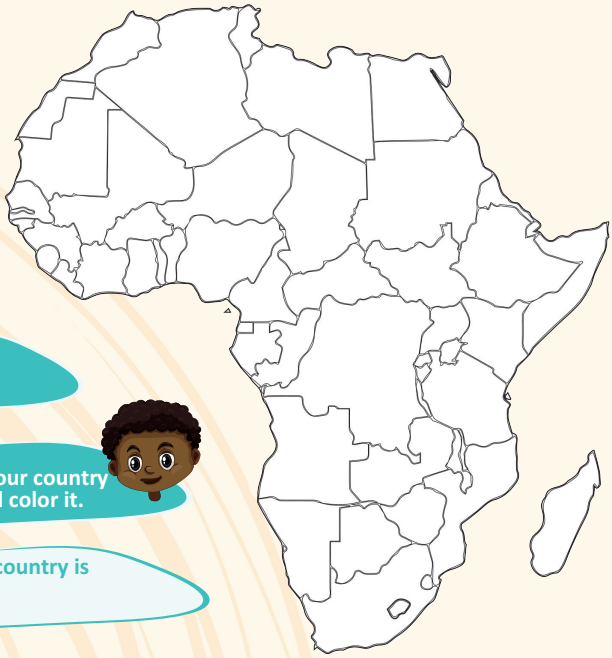
Every child has the responsibility to help their family, respect their parents, serve their country well, support their African culture, and contribute to their country's development.

Children have the responsibilities to be respectful and kind to their parents, other children and members of the community. They should be good citizens that can contribute to making their countries a good place to live.

REFLECTION

Did any of the Articles we've read so far surprise you?
What did you learn? What places do you think your rights are respected? What places do you think your rights could be respected more? Think about a specific rights issue that affects your life now.
In 3-4 sentences, write a goal you have and how you can know you've been successful in achieving it.
Here's an example: I care about children being safe from harm. I will help myself and other children be safe. I will do this by teaching myself and two friends about what the laws on sexual abuse are in my country, and where to report such crimes.

ACTIVITY:
AFRICAN COUNTRIES GAME



Which country do you live in?

Great, now find your country on the map and color it.

My country is

Now that you have identified and coloured your country answer the following questions:

1. When did your country ratify/sign the ACRWC?
2. The _____ has the main responsibility to promote and protect children's rights.
3. Please match the article number with the correct right. e.g. **Article 2:** Definition of the Child (Correct)

   Article 25: Right to Name and Nationality

   Article 22: Leisure, Recreation and Cultural Activities

   Article 6: Protection from Armed Conflicts

   Article 12: Separation from Parents

RECAP

1. The ACRWC includes 31 Articles that provide for children's rights and responsibilities.

2. Examples of Children's rights include:

- Right to a name and nationality
- Right to education
- Right to protection from Child Labour
- Right to be protected from sexual exploitation
- Right to adequate food
- Right to housing

CHAPTER TWO:
ABOUT THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

There is a group of people responsible for checking whether our governments are respecting our rights.

They are called the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) or The Committee. In the ACRWC, Articles 32 to 41 describe how the Committee is established. After that, Articles 42 to 45 explain the main responsibilities of the Committee.

The Committee was established in 2001. It is made up of 11 important people from different African countries. They help governments to follow the laws that protect children.

The African Children's Committee also prepares documents with information about how governments can better protect and undertake their responsibilities towards children. These documents are called "General Comments".

The Committee also listens to our governments when they give a report on how the country is respecting children's rights. This report is called a "State Party Report". After listening to the report from our governments, the Committee writes a short letter with some suggestions on how to improve our rights. This letter from the Committee is called the "Concluding Observations". When your rights have been violated in a country, children and other organisations working with children can also submit a complaint. This complaint is called a "Communication."

Article 32

THE COMMITTEE

An African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) was created as part of the African Union to help with promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of children living in Africa.

In your own words, why does Africa have its own Charter of Rights for Children?

Article 33

COMPOSITION

The ACERWC has 11 members from different African countries who are qualified to have their role.

Article 34

ELECTION

The names of interested members are put forward by countries that have signed the Charter. The ACERWC Members are selected by voting by Presidents (or Prime Ministers) of all African countries.

Article 35

CANDIDATES

Each country that signed the Charter can put forward two names for this role. Only one of the names can be from their country.

Ask an adult to help you research who the current ACERWC members are. Are there any from your country?
Write three names and their titles below.

Article 36

PUT NAMES FORWARD

The names of interested members are put forward by countries that have signed the Charter. The ACERWC Members are selected by voting by Presidents (or Prime Ministers) of all African countries.

Article 37

TERM OF OFFICE

Each person on the ACERWC can only be a member for 5 years.

Article 38

BUREAU

There are special rules for the meetings of ACERWC Members and it is important that most members attend and vote on important ideas. The meetings are in the languages of the African Union such as French, English, Portuguese, Arabic and Swahili.

Article 39

VACANCY

There are special rules to replace a member if an ACERWC member cannot finish their 5-year term.

Article 40

SECRETARIAT

The Secretary-General makes the decision for the roles of each member including the person to have the leadership position of secretary.

Article 41

PRIVILEGES & IMMUNITIES

All of the members of the ACERWC have special rights to help them do the best job possible.

CHAPTER THREE:
MANDATE & PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

Article 42

MANDATE

The ACERWC has the following responsibilities:

1. To let people know about the rights of children and protect these rights;
    - Gather and write down information about the different issues and situations related to child rights and advise governments;
    - Create rules and important ways to protect rights and care of children in Africa;
    - Work with other African, international and regional organizations that also work on letting people know about the rights of children and how to protect the rights;
2. To watch and make sure that African countries are protecting the rights in the Charter;
3. To help with understanding of the rights in the Charter when a government or organization asks;
4. Take part in other activities, often part of official organizations or the United Nations.

Article 43

REPORTING PROCEDURE

Each country that has signed the Charter shall report on how it is respecting the rights of children in their country. The report includes information on what the country is doing and the difficulties it is facing to protect children in the country.

Article 44

COMMUNICATIONS

When the rights of children in the African Children's Charter are not respected by the government, the ACERWC may receive a complaint from any person (including a child), group, or organization. The complaint is called a "Communication". A Communication can be submitted to the ACERWC if the government has not been successful in improving children's rights listed in the complaint. The Communication submitted to the ACERWC must include your name and address, and will not be shared with anyone outside of the ACERWC.

The ACERWC will look into whether your rights have not been respected (violated) by the government. If the ACERWC finds out your rights have been violated, they will write a report and ask the government to make sure that your rights are being respected. The report is called a "Decision".

Article 45

INVESTIGATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

The ACERWC may look into the protection of children's rights. It may ask any country that has signed the Charter for information on how it is respecting children's rights. The ACERWC has to look into issues and matters that are important to the Charter, write reports about their work and share the reports with the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and all of the people.

ACTIVITY:

1. The African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) was established in 2011
   - **TRUE**
   - **FALSE**
2. The Committee is made up of _____ Members from different_____ countries
3. The name of the letter written by the Committee after listening to the African government that has submitted a State Party report is called _____
   a. Suggestions
   b. Advice
   c. Note of appeal
   d. Concluding Observations
   e. None of the above
4. The term of office of the Committee is _____ years:
   a. 5 years
   b. 10 years
   c. 12 years
   d. None of the above
5. The Committee is chosen through an election by other African governments:
   - **TRUE**
   - **FALSE**

Answers:

1. False – the committee was established in 2001
2. Eleven; African
3. Concluding Observations
4. 5 years
5. True

RECAP

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)

The Committee was established in 2001. The main goal of the Committee is to work towards making Africa a continent that is fit for children by ensuring that their rights are protected and respected.

It does this by collecting information, explaining the meaning of the Charter, following up governments to see whether they are using the Charter properly, give recommendations to governments, take action on complaints about violations of children's rights, and investigate measures used by countries.

CHAPTER FOUR:
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 46

SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

The Committee will make sure the Children's Charter is comparable to laws for children elsewhere in the world and shows respect for African culture and value.

Article 47

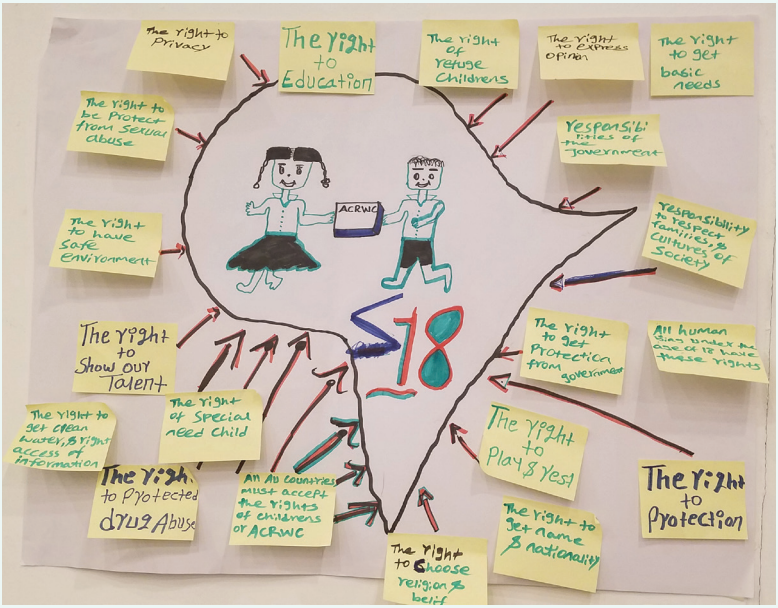
SIGNATURE, RATIFICATION OR ADHERENCE

All Member States or countries in the Organization of African Unity are invited to sign the Children's Charter. The Charter requires at least 15 countries to sign.

Article 48

AMENDMENT & REVISION OF THE CHARTER

Member States can send a letter to the Organization of African Unity to ask for changes to the Children's Charter. Before there is a change in the Children's Charter, the majority of the Member States must agree to the changes.



Drawing by Girls from Save the Children Ethiopia (Ages 14-17)

NOTES

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