

AFRICAN UNION

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

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"An Africa Fit for Children"

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*Comité Africain d'Experts sur les Droits et le
Bien-être de l'Enfant (CAEDBE)*

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PRESS RELEASE

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Appointment of the Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage

Addis Ababa, 10 October 2014. –Following the Decision of the AU Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec. 843 (XXV)) in June 2014, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), at its first Extra Ordinary Session on 10 October 2014, unanimously appointed Dr Fatima Delladj-Sebaa as the Special Rapporteur on Child Marriage.

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur was formed taking note of the gravity of the problem of child marriage in Africa. Statistics shows that in developing countries one in three girls is married before they are 18 years age. Hence, the Special Rapporteur will conduct fact finding missions on alleged violations, seek cooperation with States Parties, and develops constructive dialogue with Governments, CSOs and other actors. The Special Rapporteur will submit annual reports to the ACERWC and will work closely with the Department of Social Affairs who is the lead department coordinating the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa.

Dr Fatima Delladj-Sebaa has been member of the ACERWC since July 2010 and is currently the 1st Vice President of the Committee. She is a practicing Clinical Psychologist specializing in the development of children and adolescents and she has extensive research experience regarding child and adolescent psychology. She has worked as an Expert and Consultant for various organisations including UNIFEM, UNICEF, the Social and Economic Council and the National Organisation for the Fight against Drugs and Drug-addiction in Algeria.

The ACERWC congratulates Dr Fatima Delladj-Sebaa on her appointment and will support her to fulfill her mandate to the fullest. For further information, please contact:

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