



MEDIA ADVISORY

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

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

- What** Discussion on Article XXI of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child that states “Protection against Harmful Social and Cultural Practices”.
- When:** 26 March 2012 at 9:00am
- Where:** African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Who:** Organized by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), on behalf of the German Government and Plan International.
- Objectives:** The General Objective of the meeting is to raise awareness on the obligations of the state parties to protect children against harmful social and cultural practices through the implementation of Article 21 of the Charter.
- The discussion will focus on the following specific objectives:
- Assess the state of harmful traditional practices (HTPs) on the continent, highlighting issues such as countries with high prevalence, context in which HTP occurs, etc...
 - Identify challenges faced by state parties in preventing or minimising HTP;
 - Sharing practices and experiences on HTP and children and document good practice and progress made;
 - Make recommendation on a strategy for the implementation of Article 21 of the Charter.
- Expected Outcomes:** The ACERWC is expected to discuss and consider various options regarding the implementation of issues pertaining to harmful practices in line with the charter.
- Participants:** Participants of the discussion will include: Members of the

ACERWC, AU organs, experts from member states, parliamentarians, representatives of international organizations, UN agencies, civil society organizations and individuals amongst others

Background: The implementation and monitoring of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) is supervised by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) established in 2001. Among the ACERWC mandates is the interpretation of the provisions of the Charter and setting rules, principles and standards governing children's rights and welfare in Africa through general comments, resolutions and declarations.

To this end the ACERWC, with support from GIZ, on behalf of the German Government and Plan International, intends to have two days discussion during its 19th Session in March 2012 on Article 21 of the Charter on "Protection against Harmful Social and Cultural Practices". This discussion is a follow up of the African Union Commission's (AUC) Pan-African Conference on Celebrating Courage and Overcoming Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) in Africa held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 5 to 7 October 2011.

Journalists are invited to cover the opening session of the ACERWC discussion on Monday 26 March 2012 at 9h00, at the AU Commission.

Interview requests should be addressed to Mr. Molalet Tsedeke, Directorate of Information and Communication, Tel.0911-630-631; e-mail: molalett@africa-union.org

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