



## Advert

A consultancy to draft the Concept Note for the Day of the African Child 2015

The ACERWC and the Day of the African Child

The ACERWC is mandated by article 42(a) of the ACRWC to promote and protect the rights enshrined in the Charter. In this regard, the ACERWC has taken the lead role in the celebration of the Day of the African Child, established by the then Organization of African Unity in commemoration of the uprising by school children in apartheid South Africa, resulting in the shooting of innocent children. The ACERWC sets a theme each year for the celebrations, focusing attention on an issue affecting children for which AU member states have committed themselves to address. The theme is elaborated in a Concept Note shared with all AU Member States, Civil Society Organisations and Child-focused Organisations to guide the celebrations for the Day and follow-on steps to ensure that the selected thematic focus is sustained through and by future action.

Inspired by a Day of General Discussion on the issue of child marriage during the 23<sup>rd</sup> ordinary session of the ACERWC in April 2014, the ACERWC decided that the theme for the Day of the African Child for 2015 will focus on the elimination of child marriage in Africa.

To enable the ACERWC fulfil its mandate effectively, the ACERWC, the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission (DSA- AUC) and a consortium of five child-focused organisations commenced the African Children's Charter Project (ACCP) in 2010 to support the ACERWC in implementing its work plan. The Day of the African Child is one of the activities listed in the work plan. In this regard, the ACERWC with the support of the ACCP thereby calls for this Consultancy to produce a draft for adoption by the ACERWC. The lead partner for this activity will be the Community Law Centre of the University of Western Cape.

#### Objective of the Consultancy:

The primary objective of this consultancy is to draft the Concept Note for the celebration of the 2015 Day of the African Child on the theme,

#### **'25 Years after the Adoption of the African Children's Charter: Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage in Africa'**

#### Specific Objectives:

The draft Concept Note will be expected to meet the following objectives:

- Set out the situational context of child marriage in Africa;
- Highlight the challenges in ensuring that child marriage is eliminated from Africa;
- Note the importance of articles 2 and 21 of the ACRWC and other relevant African human rights instruments in safeguarding girls and boys in Africa from child marriage;
- Emphasize the importance of allowing and enabling children to grow, develop and mature properly during the period of childhood;
- Highlight examples of best practice in the elimination of child marriage in Africa;
- Make recommendations for a holistic and integrated approach to eliminating child marriage in Africa;

- Make recommendations on some strategic ways in which the Day of the African Child on the specified theme can be celebrated; and
- Develop a monitoring framework for the celebration of the Day for the use of AU member states to assist the ACERWC in monitoring national progress of the Day of the African Child 2015 on the theme, **'25 Years after the Adoption of the African Children's Charter: Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage in Africa'**.

#### Expected Outcome:

The Consultant will be expected to submit a Draft Concept Note including a Monitoring Framework on the theme for the 2015 Day of the African Child for consideration and adoption by the ACERWC.

#### Scope of Work:

The Consultant will be at liberty to consult members of the ACERWC, the Secretariat of the ACERWC and the DSA-AUC for relevant information and policy directives on the elimination of child marriage as well as approaches to developing and implementing child-friendly policies on the subject. The Consultant may also consult child-focused organisations and other human rights organisations whose expertise, input and contribution will be necessary for the completion of the task. The Consultant may also rely on the Charter and other relevant African human rights instruments and AU policy documents, declarations and resolutions. The Consultant may also adopt any other appropriate methodology for collecting information to assist in drafting the Concept Note.

#### Time Frame:

The Consultant will be expected to complete the task within ten (10) working days commencing on 17th June 2014 and ending on 30th June 2014. Any work carried out on week-ends and public holidays within the stipulated time-frame are not factored into the calculation of remuneration for the Consultancy.

#### Working environment:

The Consultant will work from his/her duty station. For the purposes of the reporting framework, email communication will be considered official communication.

Transmission of the document and draft to the Chairperson of the ACERWC through the Secretariat as well as progress report will be done via E-mail.

The Committee will make their comments and inputs on the draft Concept Note within a period of 10 days. These comments will be forwarded to the Consultant by the Secretariat of the Committee as soon as received.

Comments and inputs from Partners will be forwarded to the Secretariat which will be submitted to the Committee for consideration and eventually forwarded to the Consultant.

The Consultant will thereafter have five (5) working days within which to incorporate the comments. Final documents will be submitted to the Chairperson of the ACERWC and the Community Law

Centre in hard copy under cover of a signed letter. Accordingly, they will reply in writing with a signed letter in hard copy acknowledging the receipt of the document. The electronic version of the final document will be forwarded to the Secretariat of the ACERWC.

Reporting lines:

The Consultant will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the Secretary of the ACERWC. However during the course of work, the Consultant will be expected to liaise and consult directly with the Community Law Centre for financial matters.

Qualifications and Experience:

The Consultant must possess the following qualifications, expertise and experience:

- A Post Graduate degree in social science, human rights law, children's rights or other related discipline;
- Experience in working in social and cultural rights context;
- Experience in conducting multi-disciplinary and multi-country research;
- Experience and/or research in working with or on inter-governmental bodies and treaty-bodies;
- Excellent drafting and communications skills are a must;
- Extensive knowledge and experience of the African Union, the African human rights system, and in particular, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child are essential;
- Proven track record of professional delivery on tasks, ensuring high quality of work with agreed deadlines; and
- Knowledge of French is desirable.

Remuneration:

The Consultant will be paid a total amount of US\$5000 (five thousand United States Dollars, broken down as follows:

- US\$500 per day x 10days = US\$5000.

The payment schedule will be as follows:

- 30% upon signing of contract; and
- 70% upon submission of a final acceptable draft

Documentation:

The title rights, copyrights and all other rights of whatever nature in any materials used or generated under the provisions of this Consultancy will exclusively be vested with the Secretariat of the ACERWC.

Application process:

The following should be included in the application:

- A cover letter
- A brief curriculum vitae
- A two-page proposal on how the Consultant intends to carry out the tasks under the Consultancy
- A minimum of three (3) contactable referees

A complete application should be submitted no later than Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 1600 hours [South African time (GMT +2)] to:

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and a final decision reached no later than Tuesday, 10th June 2014.