EACRN

EASTERN AFRICA CHILD RIGHTS NETWORK

3RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

IBIS HOTEL ANTANNAROVIO, MADAGASCAR

MONDAY 7TH -THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER,2016

Figure 1: Participants of the 3rd EACRN AGM Meeting, 2016.

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ACRONYMS

ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights on the Welfare of a Child
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of a Child
AGM	Annual General Meeting
APSP	African Platform for Social Protection
COTT MATRIX	Concluding Observations Trends Tracker Matrix
CRNSA	Child Rights Network of South Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EAC	East African Community
EACHRights	East African center for Human Rights
EACRN	East African Child Rights Network
KAARC	Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children
PLAN-RESA	Plan, Region of Eastern and Southern Africa
SCI-ESARO	Save the Children International - East and Southern Africa Regional Office
SOCRIF	Somali Land Child Rights Forum
UCRNN	Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

INTRODUCTION

About The Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN)

The Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN) was established in March, 2014 to coordinate efforts by National Child Rights Coalitions in Eastern Africa in advocating for child rights. Presently, the network's membership constitutes of National Child Rights coalitions from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Madagascar, Burundi, Sudan and South Sudan. Ethiopia, despite not having a national child rights coalition is a member of the network.

The network's mandate is to implement programmes that are focused on the realization of child rights as contained in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The objective EACRN is to accelerate progress in advocacy around child rights by national coalitions within a smaller context that will then be fed into the processes of the regional network. The advancement of the child rights agenda through the EACRN is to be achieved through engagement with governments, regional human rights bodies and other stakeholders working around children issues both nationally, regionally and internationally. The network seeks to achieve this through capacity building of national coalitions and promoting information sharing among network members.

Annual General Meeting

Since its establishment, the EACRN has so far held one conference and two General Assembly Meetings. The first conference was held in March 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya for purposes of establishing the network.

The first General Assembly meeting was held in October 2014 in Kigali, Rwanda to consolidate the network for effective functioning. The first general assembly was especially useful as it resulted in the adoption of key resolutions that would enhance the management of the network thus enabling it to better deliver on its mandate.

The second EACRN General Assembly meeting was held in September 2015 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting was held as per the resolutions of the first general assembly that determined that EACRN will hold annual general meetings. The second general assembly meeting was a build up to the first as the Secretariat presented the management documents, the constitution and terms of reference for the host organization. These were discussed and adopted by the assembly.

It is against this background that the 3rd General Assembly meeting was held in fulfilment of resolution Thirteen point six (13.6) of the 1st EACRN AGM.

The Annual General Assembly was a platform for;

1. *The Secretariat and Management Committee to report back to the General Assembly on how it has delivered on its mandate during the year.*
2. *The EACRN Coordinator to present an update on the findings of the capacity assessment*
3. *Discussing the process of handing over of the management committee and Secretariat since the mandate will be ending in December 2017*
4. *Discussing challenges affecting the network and how to mitigate the same*
5. *Discussing the development of the network's strategic framework*

The third EACRN Annual General Assembly Meeting was held from Monday, November 7th to Thursday, November 10th 2016 at IBIS hotel in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

The meeting brought together representatives from the following coalitions: **Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF), The Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER)** representing Uganda, **Rwanda Child Rights Coalition (Umwana Ku Isonga)**, **Burundi Child Rights Coalition**, **Madagascar CSO National Coalition**, **Child Rights Civil Society Coalition of South Sudan, Children Agenda Forum of Kenya**, **Somaliland Child Rights Forum (SOCRIF)**, and The **Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)**. International NGOs such as **Plan International (Region of Eastern and Southern Africa)** and **Save the Children International (East and South Africa Regional Office)** were also in attendance.

Objectives of The 3RD AGM

1. To enhance the democratic participation of network members in the running of the EACRN through structured evaluation and planning of network activities at the AGM.

2. To review the strategic and programmatic direction of the EACRN through presentation and discussion of the draft capacity assessment, strategic framework, advocacy and communications strategy.

3. To enhance the capacity of members on regional child rights advocacy through training on mainstreaming gender in child rights advocacy, as well as the EAC child policy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to Acknowledge Plan International -Region of Eastern and Southern Africa (PLAN-RESA) Save the Children International - East and Southern Africa Regional Office (SCI-ESARO) for their financial and technical support towards the AGM. The Secretariat is greatly indebted to the National Confederation of Plate Form of Human Rights (Madagascar) for their unwavering support in the planning and logistics for the meeting. Indeed, without their support this AGM would not have been the great success that it was. We acknowledge the members and the management committee who continue to show commitment and dedication to the network and whose participation and attendance went a long way to ensuring that the meeting was successful.

CLEOPHAS MARAGIA
EACRN COORDINATOR

DAY ONE: GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING SESSION
MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER, 2016

Opening Remarks

The Annual General meeting was officially opened on Monday, 7th of November 2016. The opening ceremony was vastly attended by the participants, representatives from the government of Madagascar, International NGO's like UNICEF and the United Nations Commission for Human Rights, Local CSOs, Children and the Media.

Mr. Rasamoely Andrianirainy from the National Confederation of Plate Form of Human Rights (Madagascar) gave the initial opening remarks. As the host, in his opening remarks he welcomed all participants to Madagascar. He mentioned that it was the first time Madagascar was hosting such an important meeting, and it was such a privilege to be granted the opportunity. The meeting being held in Madagascar was a reflection of Madagascar's commitment to enhance child rights and protect children from violence and all forms of child rights violations.

The Chairperson of the EARCN management committee**, Mr. Maximillian Ruzigana** in his opening remarks said it was a pleasure to host the meeting in Madagascar, one of the members of the network. He welcomed the participants and the guests that graced the occasion. He thanked the EACRN secretariat and the National Confederation of Plate Form of Human Rights (Madagascar) for organizing the conference. He expressed his gratitude at the commitment Madagascar has shown towards the network and towards enhancing the protection of children rights in their country and beyond. He continued to say that the meeting would offer a platform to understand the issue of child rights violation in the country. He mentioned that among other things, the network is developing an advocacy strategy to enhance child rights protection in East Africa including a strategy to end violence which has vast repercussions for children and because it is all our responsibility to fight against all forms of abuse. He continued by saying that the East African region faces different challenges including, abuse, children in conflict, street children, child trafficking, harmful cultural practices and sexual exploitation. To effectively enhance Child protection in the region there is need for all stakeholders working in the sector to combine efforts. He mentioned that the relevant Government institutions, civil society organizations, International NGO's, NGOs, among others that work in the children sector should collaborate to ensure that all children's rights are protected. He noted that since its establishment EACRN has been able to achieve effective coordination of coalitions in the Eastern Africa Region which has been very effective in

promoting child rights. It has also offered a platform for members including having representation at the Africa CSO forum and developing monitoring mechanism of the regional treaties to do with children. He concluded by saying that the AGM offers a platform to discuss all child related issues affecting the region as well as an opportunity to come up with solutions that will lead to a strong system equipped to protect children in the EAC.

Ms. Salome Hondo Tinotenda from Plan International welcomed the members to the Third Annual General Assembly. She expressed her impression at the growth the network has made since its establishment. She recognized the EACRN secretariat for playing an important role and commitment in ensuring that the network is functional and working towards achieving its utmost mandate. She recognized the participants and their commitment to the network as a whole and how it's a reflection of all members' commitment towards enhancing child rights in the East African Region. She also said that plan International continues to be committed to protecting children and their rights. Plan International recognizes the role that coalitions play in child rights advocacy and that's why they align themselves with the said National Coalitions to enhance their reach all over the world to ensure that all children enjoy their rights and live in a safe environment. She concluded by saying that she hoped that the meeting will be a platform for the coalitions to Learn from each other and find a better way of working together going forward.

Mr. Omer Kalameu from the Haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme started by welcoming the participants to Madagascar. He mentioned that the UN recognizes that CSOs are key and strategic partners for effecting change and teaming up with CSO is mandatory in achieving set goals whatever they may be. He said Madagascar was privileged for having been chosen to host the AGM and in the Month dedicated to children as the country prepared celebrations for the Universal day of Children later that month. He recognized Somali signing the UNCRC albeit recently. He said Madagascar as a country has come far. From the coup de tat in 2013 and to now being trusted to host such a meeting shows the international commitment to recognizing Madagascar which is currently enjoying democratic gains. It was a sign of peace and stability and commitment to build a protective environment for children. He concluded by saying that the UN is committed to work together and to be more effective and build a strong system that is effective in protecting children. He emphasized on the need to work together, pull resources together and collaborate. He reiterated that EACRN should not waiver, but should continue its mandate to improve the lives of children in the East African region.

Ms. **Anita Ingabire** from the **UNICEF** office in Madagascar expressed her gratitude for the AGM having been held in Madagascar. The UNICEF office in Madagascar provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers all over Madagascar. In the country, she explained that children are constantly trapped in a cycle of disadvantage, children from the poorest households, are at heightened risks of disease, hunger, street life, illiteracy and poverty based on factors entirely outside their control. They are nearly two times as likely to die before the age of 5, and in many cases, more than twice as likely to be stunted as children from the richest households. They are also far less likely to complete school, meaning that those who survive this precarious start find little opportunity to break free from their parents' poverty and to shape their own futures. This vicious cycle is not inevitable. We can choose to change it. There are proven strategies for reaching the hardest to reach and expanding opportunity. When governments adopt policies, programmes and public spending priorities that target the most deprived children, they can help transform those children's lives and their societies. But when they fail to focus on meeting the needs of the most marginalized, they risk entrenching inequities for generations to come. UNICEF enhances child protection by working together to enhance their reach to promote child rights. She concluded by commending EACRN for the good work they are doing in the East African region. She encouraged the network to continue helping shift priorities and concentrating greater effort and investment on children who face the greatest challenges, governments and development partners can make sure every child, including those born into poverty, has a fair chance to achieve her full potential and realize a future of her own making.

Key Note Addresses

By Evelyne RATSIMBARISON from THE MINISTÈRE DE LA POPULATION

She started by expressing her gratitude to the EACRN for selecting Madagascar to host the AGM. She was honored to be granted a platform to speak on the milestones the country has achieved as well as the challenges children are curbed with all over the country. As a signatory of the Convention on the Rights of Children, Madagascar has shown a commitment to respecting child rights. The legal system includes legislation on adoption, marriage, people trafficking, sex tourism and birth registration. Yet despite the existence of these laws, public knowledge and understanding is lacking; their enforcement is often weak; and reform is needed to improve their integration with international and regional conventions on child rights.

For a large number of Malagasy children, life is defined by work, and nearly a third of children aged between five and 14 are involved in economic activities. The problem is more acute in rural areas where children work with their families in agriculture and fishing. For girls, threats to their well-being are even more acute, and the commercial sexual exploitation of girls is a serious problem: a significant number of female sex workers are children. Those who solicit them include foreign tourists and workers, as well as Malagasy men. In mining areas and tourist hotspots, where girls are especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation, any increase in child labor is a major concern.

The government of Madagascar understands that the survival, protection and development of Children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress. There is political will and an effort to prioritize and allocate resources to the development and implementation of appropriate policies that will ensure that children's rights are protected and enhances countrywide. The country has a long way to go but it is committed. However, it will require all the support it can get from INGOs, NGOs, CSOs and networks like the EACRN to ensure that children are protected from sexual exploitation, from child labor, from child marriage among other things.

She concluded by expressing interest to learn more about the network. She welcomed everyone to Madagascar again and wished them well in the rest of the Agenda for the AGM.

The coordinator of EACRN, **Mr. Cleophas Maragia** in his opening remarks Welcomed the participants and the guests. He thanked the National Confederation of Plate Form of Human Rights for their support in mobilization and organizing for the conference. Without their support it's hard to say how successful the organizing team would have been considering they were miles away from Madagascar. He said that children as the beneficiaries of all efforts and advocacy work by all members present, are the reason of the meeting. He gave the children present an opportunity to tell the adults what they want, because if children don't speak their voices will not be heard. He proceeded to say that based on previous Assemblies, the third AGM was a record turnout. He expressed his gratitude to the members for continued commitment to the network and the children they work for.

The network has grown tremendously since its establishment. We have defined the network, and have developed and adopted management documents that guide the operation of the network. However, due to the progress made, the 3rd AGM will be a platform for discussing where EACRN as a network is headed. He informed the members that a draft strategic plan and advocacy and communication strategy was ready, that will guide EACRN work in the next 5 years. He urged the participants to try to learn from each other and learn a few words in a different language.

ALSO DURING THE OPENING SESSION OF THE AGM……

The three children who attended the opening ceremony were given a chance to talk or ask questions. They were excited to know that as children they have rights. They wanted to know what those rights were. They also asked whether education in other countries is as bad as it is in Madagascar.

They urged the adults present to help in the opening of better and more schools for them and to ensure that street children who are many in the country have a safe place to be placed in.

Children who attended the opening session of the AGM

DAY TWO:
TUESDAY, 8ᵀᴴ NOVEMBER, 2016

Adoption of the Agenda

Day two of AGM began with the adoption of the agenda. The following adjustments were made to the Programme:

   I.   Enough time should be reserved for members to participate in the discussions about the agenda and work of the network going forward.
  II.   The AGM should be held separately from the other business of the meeting such as the strategic plan and the advocacy plan. A day should be dedicated to discuss the networks internal challenges.
 III.   It was agreed that discussions on the strategic plan, advocacy strategy, EAC Child Policy, CRC Reporting Guidelines/ Monitoring child rights, and gender training) should be covered in the first two days, the third day should be dedicated to the networks internal challenges and milestones which was referred as the "the real AGM".
  IV.   It was explained that the logic of having the introduction and reporting at the beginning of the meeting was to update those who were not present in the last AGM, and it was procedural to ensure that everyone was on the same level
   V.   The Agenda was also proposed to include Coalition updates. This will enhance understanding of members on what various coalitions have been doing and the challenges they have been encountering.
  VI.   It was also agreed that it is important to have a parking bay to write issues that have not been discusses that will be discussed in the A.O.B.
 VII.   It was clarified that the following concepts are crucial and needed to happen during the AGM meeting.
         a) Progress Report from the chair of the Management Committee
         b) Financial report from the secretariat
         c) Upcoming Elections of the Management committee and the change of secretariat.
         d) Discussions on the draft strategic framework, Advocacy and communication strategy for the network and
         e) Capacity assessment report

With the above adjustments being incorporated into the agenda, the adoption was proposed by Jennifer Kaberi from the Child Agenda Forum- Kenya and seconded by Sabas Masawe from Tanzania Child Rights Forum- Tanzania.

Network's Progress Reports

The Chairman's Report

Mr. Maximilien Ruzigana the current Chairperson of the EACRN Management Committee started by recognizing the members of the management committee which are as follows:

    i. Sudan Child Rights Coalition
    ii. Child Rights Civil Society Coalition of South Sudan
    iii. Child Rights Forum (TCRF) Tanzania
    iv. Rwanda Child Rights Coalition (Umwana Ku Isonga)
    v. Burundi Child Rights Coalition

The chair then recognized that the second General Assembly which was held in Tanzania provided a platform for the revision of the vision and mission of the network, and as a result it was agreed the EACRN vision and mission shall be:

VISION:

"An Eastern Africa region where children enjoy their rights to survival, development, protection and participation." And

MISSION:

"To enhance the capacities of national coalitions and promote evidence based advocacy on child rights within the Eastern Africa region."

The chairperson also highlighted some of the networks achievements in the previous year including;

    i. Developing a statement to the African Union on the status of children in situations of armed conflict in the region, specifically South Sudan and Burundi.
    ii. Participation of the EACRN in the Africa CSO forum on the African Charter on the Rights Welfare of the Child.
    iii. Collaboration between the ECARN and CRNSA in child rights advocacy at the AU.
    iv. A management committee meeting of the EACRN was held in May, 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya. The mandate of the committee as constituted per the constitution is for two more years, and it is recommended that the committee meets at least twice a year. The chair also noted that all the management documents for the EACRN can be found on the EACRN website at www.eacrn.net

Progress Report from the Secretariat

Mr. Maragia the coordinator of the EACRN started by saying the last AGM had 5 broad areas categorized as follows:

i. Category 1: EACRN Management
ii. Category 2: Management Documents
iii. Category 3: Hosting of The EACRN
iv. Category 4: EACRN Capacity Assessment
v. Category 5: Communication and Reporting

It was reported that that the EACRN constitution, Rules of procedure guidelines and the fundraising strategy were adopted after the amendments were made. The constitution, rules of procedure and terms of reference for hosting organization were finalized and the English versions are available. He said that in the region there are 4 working languages (English, French, Swahili and Arabic) and that the secretariat has translated the major documents into French and working to translate them into Arabic and Swahili. The participants were informed that the secretariat had developed a five-year strategic plan including a fundraising strategy. The strategic plan was slated to be discussed by the members in the AGM and it was hoped that the consultation will be comprehensive because the strategic plan will guide the work of the network for the next five years.

The advocacy and communication strategy will also be presented during the AGM for feedback and contribution by members. All the management documents have been translated into French as agreed in the 2nd AGM. The drafts have been shared with all stakeholders for input and the final versions will be printed after the AGM.

It was reported that the mandate of secretariat was extended by two years during the September 2015 AGM in Tanzania, and the EACRN shall operate under the legal cover of the hosting organization.

It was also reported that the capacity assessment of national child rights coalitions was initially delayed due to late disbursement of funds by the donor and also because of the security situation. The capacity assessment has so far been held in Madagascar, Burundi, and Tanzania. The assessment will continue in Sudan, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda and finalize in Kenya by the end of March 2017. A joint report would then be made available for all members.

It was reported that various coalitions have given reports on the various developments in their country coalitions. The last time this was done was in the management committee meeting in Nairobi. However, there is need to standardize the reporting format to ensure that all reports are uniform. A template will be discussed and shared during the 3rd AGM.

Financial Report

It was reported that the network has received 3 grants in the 2016 – 2017 financial year namely:

i. The CSO Effectiveness- PLAN RESA- **USD. 40,000**
ii. The Pan African State Accountability Project (PASAP) – PLAN PAO **USD. 69,000**
iii. Save the children – ESARO- **USD. 59,000**

It was reported that the secretariat had consolidated all the budgets and presented them as a work plan, illustrating the timing for various activities funded by various donors. There are some activities that were not implemented on time during the year for various reasons and hence moved to 2017 or re allocated. The activities are;

i. Follow up workshops funds reallocated to the AGM
ii. The support to the Rwanda Coalition to develop an ACRWC advocacy tool which was moved to 2017.
iii. Some activities being done in partnership with CRNSA under the CSO effectiveness project.

It was reported that because of the resolution to have 2 representatives from each coalition present in the AGM, the costs for the meeting went up significantly. This led to the reallocation of funds from activities which could not be done in 2016 due to time constraints.

It was reported that the CSO effectiveness and the Save the Children grants were for one year while PASAP is a three-year project and currently in the second year. A five-year proposal was submitted to save the children and response is being waited.

Independent auditors will be contracted to audit the EACRN financial reports. The financial audit report will be circulated to the members through the chair by April 2017.

The Adoption of the report was proposed by Sabas Masawe and seconded by Afaf Elfadi

Plenary: Selected Responses from the Q&A Session

Q. **Does the secretariat hosting expire?**

A. *The initial committee was elected for a term of six months and general assembly was to be called within 6 months after the Kigali meeting. During the 2ND EACRN AGM in Dar salaam, it was agreed that the mandate for the management committee and the secretariat be extended by two years to September 2017. This is dependent on among other factors, a national child rights coalition applying and meeting the networks criteria to host the EACRN.*

Q. **Is the transition of the management of the EACRN provided in the constitution?**

A. *The handing over process was agreed upon and included in the constitution. It provides for election of the members of the management committee, and the criteria for the hosting of the EACRN. It was agreed that it is important to start discussing about transition as provided for in the constitution, and members were urged to consider a credible organization to host the network.*

Q. **I had expected to hear about the challenges facing EACRN**

A. *It was agreed that standardization of the reporting format is important and the secretariat was requested to develop a tool that will capture important and critical information and circulate among members as soon as possible.*
It was agreed there is need to discuss about the membership of EACRN to be able to know who the members of the network are. It was agreed that it was important the participation of Uganda and Kenya be discussed. It was clarified that the Ugandan child rights coalition is not interested in being part of the EACRN, and an alternative coalition would be incorporated into the EACRN to represent Uganda subject to ratification by the general assembly. It was also clarified that Akilimali Abubakar is still the chair of the Burundi coalition despite him not being physically present in the country.

Q. **The budget projection is past 2017, what will happen after expiring of the mandate.**

A. *Consideration of the effects of changing the EACRN hosting organization will also include analyzing the impact that would have on projects that are already existing and run beyond 2017. The management committee will consider this issue in the next meeting and report back to the general assembly before the next meeting.*

Q. **It will be good to include all treaty reports and not limit to the AU and UNCRC and UPR**

A. *It was clarified that EACRN operates in the framework of partners who have a special focus on child rights within the UNCRC and ACERWC, hence emphasis on those two treaty bodies. It was however clarified that members take part in various other human rights treaty mechanisms and this will be reported to ensure that all the work being undertaken by the EACTRN members is well documented*

Q. **The financial report is not comprehensive because there is no expenditure report to show deficit and excess.**

A. *It was clarified that EACHRights and the EACRN are non-profit making organizations, and as such, have no surplus in their allocated funds. The secretariat will also present a comprehensive financial statement for consideration by the general assembly.*

Q. **Why was the capacity assessment not done in South Sudan?**

A. *The planned capacity assessment was not done on time in South Sudan as there were security issues, but this will be done in 2017.*

Q. **There is a communication breakdown**

A. *There is need for effective communication and the secretariat should explore other ways of communication*

Q. **Somaliland was not highlighted in the capacity assessment.**

A. *Somali land was not highlighted in the capacity assessment because they were not members yet of the EACRN*

Q. **Is the budget for EACH Rights or EACRN?**

A. *It was clarified that the EACRN account is independent from the EACHRights*

Coalition's Progress Reports

Burundi Child Rights Coalition

The Burundi child Rights Coalition was established in 2013. It's composed of organizations working around issues of promotion and protection of human rights in general and child rights in particular. The coalition currently has 15 member organizations. The coalition has established a national network (provincial and local committee) to promote the survival and development of the child. These committees operate in local communities. It has also partnered with government, national, regional and international organizations to promote advocacy on the rights of the child.

The coalition is currently facing challenges due to political unrest in Burundi. However, it has been involved in implementing various activities which include but are not limited to:

- Organized celebrations for the International day against drugs
- Linking sports and life skills for children below 16years
- Sunday meals, a feeding project for street connected children, which doubles as a foster care.
- They also reported that they have developed a draft strategic plan and are developing the CRC report

National Confederation of Plate Form of Human Rights (Madagascar)

The coalition was established through an initiative by UNICEF Madagascar in 2011. The coalition was registered in 2016. In 2012, and with the initiative and support of UNICEF-Madagascar, the coalition established local monitoring committees to advocate for state implementation of concluding observations and recommendations of the CRC in six provincial capitals involving CSOs and other partners (media, religious leaders and traditional leaders). However, these committees are non-operational due to lack of resources.

It has presence in 22 regions of Madagascar. The network has been able to hold 8 regional meeting to popularize the work of the network. The network has an action plan and internal regulations guidelines. The network was involved in developing an alternative report to ACERWC and UNCRC. It has also been involved in the conducting research on violence against children issues and developing strategies to curb child rights violations in the country.

Rwanda Child Rights Coalition (*Umwana Ku Isonga*),

The Rwanda Child Rights Coalition was established on the 11th of November 2010.The aim of the network is networking and alliance building with other coalitions in promotion of child

rights. It's composed of both national and international organizations operating in the area of child rights. The network undertakes advocacy around the implementation of the UNCRC and ACRWC child rights instruments in order to improve the situation of the rights of a child in Rwanda. The network was registered in 2010 with support from Plan and Save the children. The network has only 2 staff members.

The network has been involved in a number of activities including: being involved in the developing of shadow reports to the UNCRC and the ACRWC. The network also submitted a special report to UPR with specific issues on children. Out of the 50 published recommendations 12 were related to children and 4 of them were recommendations by the coalition. The forum is currently working on a strategy to stop sexual abuse and child labor in tea plantations in Rwanda.

Somaliland Civil Society Network

The network was established in 2012 and registered in 2013. It is made up of 25 members of CSO from different sectors. The aim of the network is to promote child rights and it works in 5 pillars namely: Coordination, Information sharing, Advocacy and research. The network is involved in drafting policies in the local level. The network ratified information sharing protocol between members. They are currently advocating sexual offences bill, the FGM bill and special needs and consideration and allocation of funds in education. The network is currently involved in developing a child rights policy for Somaliland.

Child Rights Civil Society Coalition-South Sudan

It was established in 2012 and registered in 2014. The Coalition provides a coordinated platform for CSOs action and plays a central role in key child rights developments at the National level in South Sudan. The current membership is 32 civil society organizations. The network is supported by save the children on investing in children and engaging with the Government. The network's current activities include:

- Developing the National Plan of Action for South Sudan
- Build the capacity of members on UNCRC reporting

The forum was developing an alternative report to the UPR. However, they were not able to submit because of the suspension of South Sudan by UPR due to conflict in the country.

Sudan Child Rights Forum

The coalition was established to develop the Sudan 2nd alternative report to the UNCRC committee. It has 59 members. The Child Rights Institute (CRI) which is the organization that hosts the coalition is responsible for organizing and hosting regular forums for the

members to reflect their work, share their experiences, raise and discuss issues of concern related to children rights in Sudan. The Forum advocates for the promotion and realization of child rights in Sudan.

The coalition has supported the government to implement the concluding observations of the UNCRC government report. It also prepared and presented the ACRWC alternative report. Evidently, the coalition has managed to establish good dialogue with government and that has resulted in Training of the government on how to report on the ACRWC and has also Supported the government in terms of technical capacity.

Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF)

It was established in 2008 and registered in 2010. The network has 200 members in the main land Tanzania. The forum held its AGM in June 2016 and extended the mandate of the current leadership for another year. The network enjoys a good relationship with the department of children services and they are currently planning several activities together and they have an MoU with Government. The network was involved in preparing an alternative report to the UNCRC and ACWRC. Tanzania is an End Violence Against Children (EVAC) pathfinder country and the network was actively involved in reviewing and rewriting the Tanzanian VAC report and EVAC Tanzania strategy.

A Presentation of the Draft Strategic Plan

By: Abraham Ochieng: EACRN Secretariat

The members were introduced to the EARCN draft strategic plan 2017-2022. The strategic plan is meant to offer guidance on how the networks goals will be achieved. It has 5 thematic areas with key outcome in each of the themes as tabulated below:

Table 1: Outline of the strategic Plan as per the five Thematic areas with clearly outlined outcomes and Key expected Results

Thematic Areas	Outcome	Key Results	
Thematic Area 1: Capacity Building and Strengthening	Outcome 1: National Child Rights Coalitions Eastern Africa strengthened and supported to effectively promote and protect child rights	1.1.	Vibrant national child rights coalitions with sound corporate governance systems operational in Eastern Africa
		1.2.	Increased sharing of experiences at national, regional and international levels by EACRN partners
		1.3.	Increased resource base (human and financial) of national child rights coalitions in Eastern Africa
		1.4.	Knowledge and skills in international and regional child rights instruments among national child rights coalitions and member states improved
		1.5.	National child rights coalitions effectively engaging with human rights mechanisms at country level and at regional level through EACRN
Thematic Area 2: Research, Lobbying and Advocacy	Outcome 2: Improved social, economic and policy environment for the promotion, protection and fulfillment of child rights in Eastern Africa	2.1.	Gaps and challenges on child rights identified, documented and remedial strategies and interventions developed and implemented by EACRN members and their respective state parties
		2.2	EACRN Advocacy Strategy developed and adopted
		2.3	International and regional child rights protocols domesticated and commitments observed by all member states
		2.4	Implementation of the EAC Child Policy
		2.5	Increased resource allocation by member states for child focused national and local budget votes
		2.6	Improved documentation of 'best practices' and knowledge management by EACRN members
Thematic Area 3: Communication and Information Dissemination	Outcome 3: Mechanisms for effective and timely communication of the regional network's programs and activities established and maintained	3.1	EACRN communication and information dissemination strategy developed
		3.2	Key communication and information dissemination technologies in place
		3.3	Increased sharing of experiences at national, regional and international level by EACRN members.
		3.4	A continuous and systematic mechanism of collecting, collation dissemination of child rights information in place.

Thematic Areas	Outcome	Key Results	
Thematic Area 4: Child Rights Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	Outcome 4: States parties in Eastern Africa are compliant to national, regional and international child rights instruments	4.1	Continuous and systematic mechanism for child rights monitoring established
		4.2	Member states produce periodic status reports on child rights
		4.3	State parties meet their reporting and accountability requirements to international and regional bodies on child rights
		4.4	Readily available and up to date information on the state of child rights in Eastern African countries
		4.5	A reporting matrix indicating the reporting timelines developed
Thematic Area 5: Organizational Development	Outcome 5: An effective regional child rights network for Eastern Africa is established	5.1	Joint programs with AU and other regional child rights stakeholders established
		5.2	Observer status to treaty bodies like the ACERWC and the UNCRC obtained
		5.3	MOUs signed with all the members of EACRN for effective participation
		5.4	EACRN Secretariat fully established and operational

EACRN Strategic
Plan_Final Draft.doc

(***Double click the icon to open the Draft Strategic Plan***)

After the overview of the strategic plan was presented, the members were divided into two groups; 1. French speaking and 2. English speaking. The groups were tasked with an assignment to interrogate the strategic plan and give feedback. The feedback from the groups is presented below:

1. Thematic area 1 Research, Lobby and Advocacy should be paraphrased to read Research and Knowledge management, Policy and Advocacy. The reasoning behind the paraphrasing is because lobby is not donor friendly.
2. The members were also of the view that the applying for observer status is not a viable option for the network considering its not registered as an organization.
3. They however asked for more time to look at the document and consult with national teams and provide more feedback on the same.

Advocacy and Communication Strategy

By John Njoka-Consultant

The secretariat reported that a consultant had been hired to develop the advocacy and communication strategy for the network. The consultant presented The Draft Advocacy and communications strategy to gather input from members before the draft was finalized.

The Advocacy and communication strategy is outlined into the following sections:

Background to EACRN

This section provides an overview of the network. It highlights the historical background of its formation and summarizes its key thematic areas and work in the region.

Purpose of the advocacy and communication strategy

The consultant highlighted that Advocacy is about influencing (child rights work) and is the core to EACRN. The strategy therefore needs to be focused when engaging regional and national mechanisms. Advocacy has to be targeted and measured for clear impact to be realized which will be defined by the advocacy strategy.

Process & organization of the strategy

The Process began with a desk review. Consultations were then made with national coalitions, partners (SC, Plan, etc.) and Secretariat. A tool containing a set of questions sent and filled (4 NCs + partners). The strategy would then be Presented during the 3rd General Assembly. The strategy is organized in terms of background, EACRN core areas, advocacy objectives and activities, targets and allies, communication protocol, indicators of success, and funding.

Key areas of focus

i.   Capacity Building and Strengthening

ii. Research, Lobbying and Advocacy

iii. Communication and Information Dissemination

iv. Child Rights Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

v. Organizational Development

Main advocacy objectives and activities

Objectives	Key Activities
Objective 1: Civil society in the region is strengthened and free to monitor child rights	Mapping of ratification and reporting status for commitments under ACRWC, etc. (CHR-UPR reports)
	National coalitions take part in reporting mechanisms…engage RECs & AU/ACERWC & allies
	National coalitions and EACRN speak against restrictive and oppressive CP laws, policies & practices to regional mechanisms and states/governments
	Capacity building for advocacy incl. tools development., etc.
Objective 2: Governments in EA region increase child focused budgets to x% of GDP by 2030	EACRN to lobby regional bodies (e.g. RECs) for child policy implementation including budget increases
	National coalitions to participate in budget hearings for national level budget changes
	Tracking of CRs budget spending and accountability
	There is cross-learning across the region on what works on child focused budgeting
Objective 3: Evidence is generated and shared on current and emerging child rights issues (child marriages, CAAC, sexual abuse, cyber abuse, etc.)	Define regional research agenda annually
	Undertake cost effective research in liaison with academia, policymakers, donors/INGOs: action research
	Disseminate research findings in different fora
	Publish an annual EACRN newsletter (4-pager)

Targets and allies

Targets	Allies
Regional mechanisms: EAC, SADC, League of Arab States, AU organs starting with the ACERWC to other CRs/HRs mechanisms, IGAD, COMESA, EASF	EA civil society (beyond child rights)
National governments in EA (work by national coalitions mainly)	Other regional networks, e.g. CSO and NGO Forums, EACSOF (works around EAC), PAN, AMC
National CSOs at various levels	Media – including social media
Human rights institutions: NHRIs and regional association	Private sector actors
Academia	Development partners & donors
Media	Human rights institutions (NHRIs)
Artists	Litigation institutions e.g. IHRDA
	Regional partnerships, e.g. on VAC and on child protection systems
	Others: academia, artists

Communication protocol

Barriers to Effective Communication	Addressing The Barriers
Inconsistent communication from national coalitions	Have more than one focal point per national coalition.
Limited means of communication: email mainly but more mechanisms are needed	Increase the communication means…both EACRN management committee and members Develop common advocacy messages
Ineffectiveness of national coalitions	Closer follow up of national coalitions
Weak communication with NCs	-Improve and document communication -NCs to give annual reports a month before the AGM…. standardization/format needed -Share AGM documents 7 days' prior
Language barrier	Ensure translations for all communications
Restrictive environments	Innovate on how to engage the state – learn from cases like in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya

Indicators of success

These will be determined when the objectives have been approved and finalized.

Funding issues

An estimate of the resource requirements to fund the Advocacy and communications strategy will be made. The Strategy will identify who is funding what areas of advocacy including both traditional and non-traditional partners & donors: to also include national mechanisms and private sector. Fundraising mechanisms will be proposed: proposals, fundraising events (e.g. sports), technical support (e.g. for capacity building). There is need to consider Joint fundraising between EACRN and national coalitions & INGOs.

The feedback on the Advocacy and Communication strategy

- ➢ It was noted that it is important when advocating for budgeting for children, it is important to consider the different children. The participants were also informed the percentages are not working for child friendly budgets, thus it is important to get specific issues per person (Child) in budget advocacy such as: Health, Education and Social Protection.
- ➢ The participants were urged to work with local organization because they lose by not working with these organizations. The coalitions can leverage from other organization to fundraise and to advocate for children matters.
- ➢ The members were urged to look at what others have done such as CHR-URP and the Pretoria report on human rights system in Africa.
- ➢ The members were of the view that the use of lobby is not donor friendly and hence the word should be deleted from the advocacy strategy.
- ➢ It was noted that there is a challenge with Communication, exchange or sending of information. Members wanted to know if it was possible for EACRN to create a google group where information is sent to everyone at the same time. The secretariat was also requested to get an EACRN official emails so there can be a separation between EACH Rights and EACRN.
- ➢ The members were of the view that the Newsletter should be quarterly but not annually and in at least 2 languages French and English. This will ensure that members are updated on the networks progress and activities.
- ➢ It was suggested that Advocacy should be strategic and core, instead of being a theme in the strategic plan. This is because advocacy is needed in all parts of the framework.
- ➢ The members requested the need to Align the plan to the Regional Economic Communities policies on children i.e. the Arab League, Southern African Development Community and East African Community.
- ➢ It was also suggested the advocacy plan should be aligned to national, regional and global advocacy agenda such as the Agenda 2040, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Africa 2063 plan.
- ➢ It was suggested that an annual report on the state of East Africa children should be published with support from other Civil Society Organizations.
- ➢ It was also suggested it is important for EACRN to link with other regional coalition for best practice learning.

EACRN Advocacy and Communication (Double Click on the Icon to open the document)

DAY THREE
9th November,2016

Report on Ongoing Coalitions' Capacity Assessment

BY: CLEOPHAS MARAGIA- EACRN COORDINATOR

The coordinator gave a summary of the ongoing capacity assessment of the network coalition members. The coordinator emphasized that the assessment is not to identify the problems and faults of the coalitions but rather to determine their capacity to carry out child rights advocacy. One of the objectives in the EACRN work plan is to Support the EACRN members to have the capacity to carry out research on cross border issues relevant for their regions and develop advocacy tasks involving children and youth. The coordinator has therefore begun undertaking capacity assessment of the member coalitions on research, advocacy, human rights, child rights programming, and coordination. The capacity of national child rights coalitions in the target countries will be mapped, gaps identified and documented and action plans to address those gaps developed.

The capacity assessment will focus on the following themes and sub-themes;

i.   **Internal Organization**
   a.   Vision, Values & Identity
   b.   Mission and Strategy
   c.   Governance
   d.   Human Resources
   e.   Finance & Administrative Management
   f.   Reflection, knowledge and learning
ii. **External Relations**
   a.   How does the coalition link with other stakeholders?
iii. **Programme Activity**
   a.   Design & Consultation
   b.   Implementation
   c.   Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)
   d.   Resourcing and Reporting
   e.   Impact

In each session, 6-10 representatives will spend a day going through the data collection tool with the Regional Coordinator, discussing each field and giving feedback. It is anticipated that at the minimum, the following representatives of the national coalitions will be present;

   i.   The chairperson.
   ii.   The secretary.
   iii. The treasurer/finance representative.
   iv.   At least four representatives from member coalitions.

v.   There shall be equitable representation in terms of gender to the fullest extent possible.

Three countries have completed the capacity assessment exercise

i.   Madagascar
ii.   Burundi
iii.   Tanzania

Lessons Learnt from the already concluded Capacity Assessment

i.   Timing of the assessment is important to ensure full participation from other members of the coalition.
ii.   The resources allocated for the process are limited and hence there need to be considerate on the cost implication of holding the activity.
iii.   Language barrier challenges especially in French speaking countries.
iv.   Logistical challenges

It was clarified that after the assessment is complete, a report on the state of the coalitions in the network will be developed and disseminated adequately. The report will be used for capacity building through leveraging on the strengths of the different members; it will be used for tracking changes in the coalition and it will also be used for fund raising.

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT OF EA(

Coalition Capacity Assessment tool.xls   (Double Click on the Icons to open the documents)

Highlights of The Training On Gender

By Salome Hondo Tinotenda- Plan International

The aim of the training was to build the capacity of EACRN members on human rights advocacy for gender equity. The training covered the following concepts:

i.   An overview of the Human Rights Based Approach
ii.   Why should Child Rights organisations be committed to promoting Gender Equality?
iii.   Treaty Reporting cycle
iv.   Key Learning points

During the beginning of the training, the participants watched a video clip that challenged their views on gender roles, and a discussion was held on whether the roles inherent or learned.

Human Rights Based Approach: An Overview

A Human rights based approach is a deliberate and mindful move away from development assistance based on peoples' needs. It's a move towards developing the capacity of communities and individuals to realize their rights. It's a commitment to strengthen the ability of States to fulfil their obligations as duty-bearers and increase the opportunities for constructive dialogues with rights-holders. The Human Rights based approach should be the basis for our work as child rights organisations.

The participants were then able to participate in a power walk around the conference room where they were able to identify how power emphasizes the inequalities among women, for example a 15-year-old girl faces more inequalities than a 35-year-old woman who faces inequalities with a man of the same age. Participants were challenged to look at facts and data before concluding notions like boys are being left behind.

Why should Child Rights organisations be committed to promoting Gender Equality?

Gender inequality creates barriers to child rights. Gender inequality perpetuates poverty, discrimination and exclusion across generations; it sustains harmful practices that violate the rights of girls and boys; it inhibits the meaningful participation of girls and women; and it limits the capacity of parents to protect their children.

Promoting gender equality contributes to greater access to rights for all girls and boys. Gender equality is an essential for rights holders, particularly women and girls, to actively engage in claiming their rights.
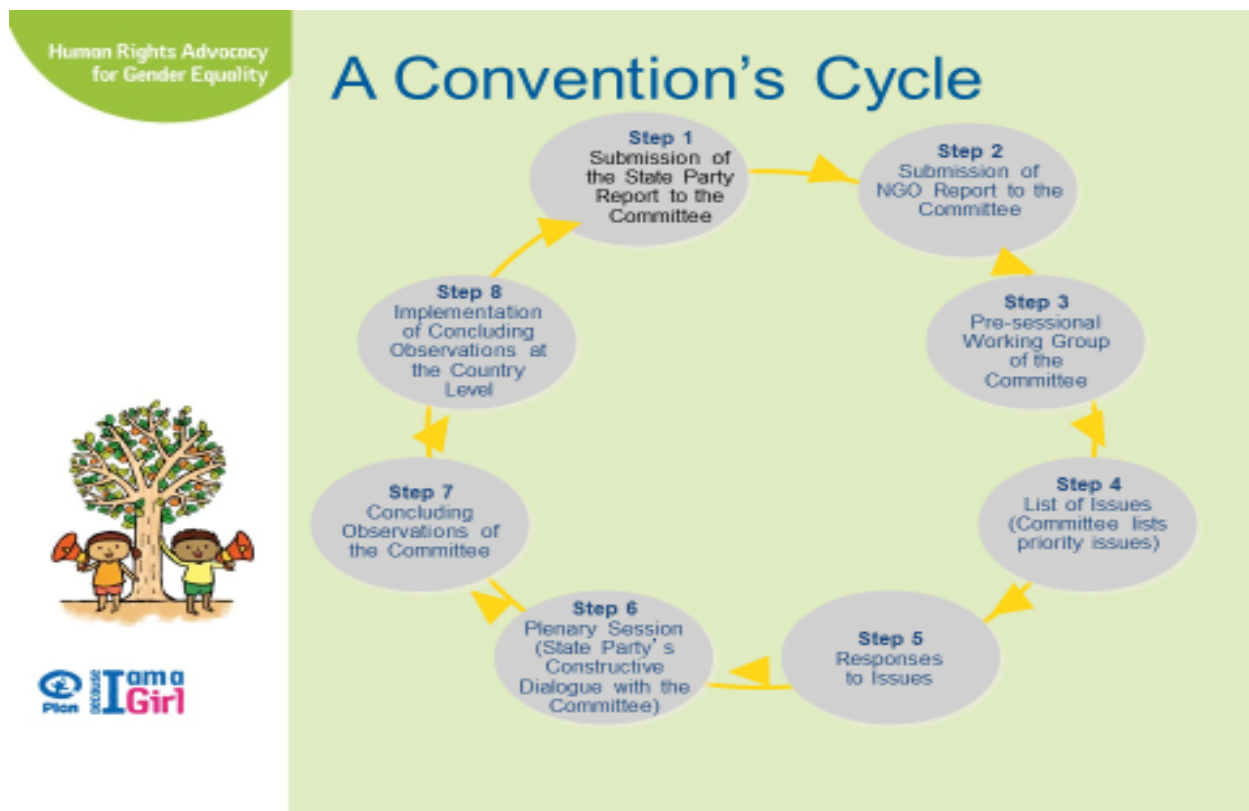
Treaty Reporting Cycle

All international human rights treaties provide for a monitoring body. A Monitoring Body is a group of independent experts elected by States Parties for a period of time. Their mandate is to monitor implementation of a treaty and recommend actions for improvement. They can also be mandated to receive individual complaints for violations of rights under a treaty. Examples include: *CRC Committee, ACERWC.*

Periodic reporting is part of the legal obligations that States sign into when ratifying a Convention. States are required to provide updated information on how they are implementing their obligations under the Treaty. **States reports are periodic**, and due approximately every 4-5 years, depending on the treaty. They form the basis for the review that a Committee undertakes in order to make recommendations on how a country can improve the realisation of rights.

A State's report might not provide complete information, or may not highlight pressing concerns and obstacles that impede the realization of the Convention. NGOs can complement State's reports by providing information that Committees would otherwise not have access to. NGO reports should be autonomous and independent. Their purpose is not to contradict the State report, but to complement the information. These reports are known as "shadow" or "alternative" reports.

The outcome of a State review process is a document in which a Committee provides specific recommendations to States on how they can better realize the provisions of the treaty. The State is then bound to implement these recommendations and provide information on how this was done in their next report.

NGOs are key for implementation: By keeping an autonomous, independent perspective, they can engage in advocacy to ensure governments are fulfilling their obligations, and participate in the monitoring, reporting and follow up to recommendations. The following figure explains the reporting cycle.

Gender in CRC - EACRN.ppt   (Double Click on the Icon to open the Document)

Key Learning Points

➢ Expectations about what it means to be a boy or girl shape our lives
➢ Our ideas of gender affect how we relate to others in our personal and professional lives
➢ Gender stereotypes affect the realization of rights. They can lock boys and girls into behaviors that prevent them from developing their full potential
➢ We can all change gender inequality by becoming aware of how we contribute to it, by raising awareness about how it affects our lives and by adopting gender equitable attitudes and behaviors
➢ States are accountable for promoting, fulfilling and protecting everyone's human rights. These rights are recognised by international and regional human rights treaties, such as the CRC, the CEDAW and the African Charter of Human and People's Rights. All the treaties have a mechanism for monitoring and reporting, which tracks how well they are living up to their obligations towards their people.
➢ NGOs, like Plan, have a key role in monitoring and influencing how human rights are being realised in their countries. There are formal and informal opportunities for NGOs to provide UN bodies with reliable, independent information to complement the information provided by States.
➢ Civil society organisations can bring attention and raise specific concern around gender-based barriers to rights at different moments of the human rights cycle.
➢ When engaging with girls, boys, youth and women, NGOs should partner with them in the most participatory manner. Tokenism needs to be avoided at all times.
➢ The role of CSOs is not limited to reporting. It is crucial for NGOs to have a clear strategy for engaging in all stages, including the follow up stage.
➢ NGOs can influence decision-making processes at the international and national levels. They can breathe life into human rights treaties by bringing their practical experience, credibility and expertise about the realisation of the human rights of girls, women, boys and men

Monitoring Child Rights Implementation

By Mary Mshai- EACRN Secretariat

The session aimed at introducing the members to the monitoring tools available for monitoring the implementation of different treaties. As mentioned above in the reporting cycle, after the various committees have finalized reviewing the state parties they publish recommendations for which the government is obligated to implement. The objectives and importance of monitoring child rights implementation were highlighted as follows:

  i. To assess the status of realization of children rights in Eastern Africa
 ii. To seek to systematically track progress in realizing children rights
iii. To measure the government's and other stakeholder's commitment to international and constitutional obligations thus ensure accountability
 iv. Allows discussion thus a platform for exchange ideas and best practices thus build knowledge and foster collaborations
  v. To spur change and actions

To enhance effective implementation of various recommendations published by various treaties, EACRN has developed two main tools to help track progress of the implementation and to ensure that no specific issue is abandoned in the implementation process. The tools developed by EACRN are:

  i. The Concluding Observations Trends Tracker (COTT) Matrix and
 ii. The Advocacy tool

COTT Matrix

The COTT matrix is a unique tool that provides an analysis of recommendations relating to child rights by various human rights instruments. It includes three conventions namely; Universal Periodic Review, African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the United Nation for the Convention of Right of the Child (UNCRC). The tool allows you to identify repeat issues raised by the human rights instruments.

The tool can be accessed from the EACRN website at http://cott.eacrn.net/

Advocacy Tool

The advocacy tool is a unique tool that was developed for detailing advocacy issues on child rights that were raised by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). The purpose of the tool is to enhance the process of monitoring advocacy efforts being made towards realization of the recommendations by the ACERWC.

The members agreed that the tools will support their efforts in reporting for the different treaties. They however said that the challenges faced in reporting is that some CSO don't have the knowhow on reporting, the reporting process is long and costly and hence some CSOs are not willing to engage. Members were encouraged on the importance of sharing of roles and ensuring that they have all the information.

It was emphasized that reporting is not the end of the process, and there is need influencing for CSOs recommendations to be included in the concluding observation, dissemination of the concluding observation in user friendly versions and building the capacity of CSOs to be able to follow up and developing action plans for the implementation of the concluding observations and Monitoring the implementation of the concluding observation.

The tool can be accessed from the EACRN website at http://advocacy.eacrn.net/

Monitoring Child
Rights Implementati   (Double Click on the Icon to open the document)

East African Community Child Policy

By Margaret Wawira- EACRN Secretariat

Introduction

The session aimed at disseminating the EAC Child Policy launched in September, 2016. It presented an overview of the policy and challenged members to start thinking on how the policy fits into their advocacy efforts. Ms. Margret Wawira, began the session with an introduction of the purpose of the EAC child policy. She said that the EAC Treaty (Article 120 (c)) calls upon Partner States to develop and adopt a common approach towards marginalized groups including children. So this harmonized policy document provides a framework and suggests a regional approach to realizing a vision where children's rights and wellbeing are guaranteed. The process of developing the EAC child policy began in 2013 which is after recognizing that children constitute the biggest population group in the region.

Vision, Mission and Objectives

The Vision of the policy is "*An East African Community where child rights and wellbeing are guaranteed*". While the mission is *"To promote the realization of child rights to survival, development, protection and participation through a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach".* EAC core values of professionalism, teamwork, transparency, unity in diversity, accountability and allegiance to EAC ideals.

The General Objective of the EAC policy is "*To provide a functional regional framework to facilitate the development, coordination and strengthening of national efforts geared towards the realization of children's wellbeing".* While the Specific Objectives are as follows:

i. To enhance regional harmonization and effective implementation of national legislations, policies and action plans related to children
ii. To promote prioritization in planning, resource allocation and capacity development for child rights at Partner States level
iii. To strengthen evidence based planning and decision making through research, innovation and knowledge management

iv. To foster meaningful child participation in decision making on matters affecting them

Guiding Principles

    i.   Best Interests of the child
    ii.   Non-Discrimination
    iii.   Child Participation
    iv.   Survival and Optimum Development

Priority Areas and Policy Statements

The Policy is guided by the CRC and ACRWC principles on the rights of the child noting that these principles are mutually reinforcing. The policy has 10 priority areas and policy statements which were highlighted as tabulated below:

EAC Child Policy Priority Areas and Policy Statements

Priority Areas	Policy Statement
A Regional approach to ratification, domestication and implementation of international instruments	Necessary so as to ensure that all children in the region enjoy the same rights and protection under the law. Strategy is to: i. Develop an advocacy strategy for ratification and domestication of all pending Child Rights international instruments by Partner States. ii. Urge Partner States to develop implementation plans for the Child Rights international instruments. iii. Put in place a monitoring mechanism to track the ratification, domestication and implementation of all Child Rights international instruments.
Harmonization of national laws and policies to the African Charter and the UNCRC and other key international Child Rights instruments	All EAC Partners States have ratified the ACRWC, CRPD and the UNCRC. However, in practice the pace of implementation of these instruments is slow and national laws sometimes contradict articles of the ACRWC and the UNCRC. Strategy is to: i. Harmonize the minimum ages of marriage, sexual consent, conscription into armed forces in line with the definition of the Child which is any person below the age of 18 years (as provided by the UNCRC and the ACRWC). ii. Define and harmonize the minimum age for criminal responsibility and employment across policies and legislations in Partner States iii. c) Develop and implement a regional framework for the harmonization of Child Rights related policies and legislations including Child justice
The right to citizenship and identity	Necessary to ensure that Partner States of the EAC are at different levels in terms of enforcing universal birth and death registration systems. Strategy is to: i. Strengthen the Birth and Death Registration Systems in all Partner States ii. Ensure that each child has a nationality.
Addressing cross border Child Rights violations	These include child trafficking, child sacrifice, the use of children in smuggling especially in cross border towns, child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children and Female Genital Mutilation. The strategies include:

	i. Put in place and strengthen a collaborative framework and administrative mechanisms that prevent and respond to cross border child rights violations ii. Strengthen collaboration between development partners, UN agencies, Partners States and the EAC Secretariat to address cross border Child Rights violations iii. Strengthen the investigative capacities of cross border immigration and law enforcement agencies to be more responsive and vigilant to child rights violations. iv. Put in place a Juvenile justice system at the regional level v. Repatriation of Child support and other forms of Child maintenance
Strengthening of national child protection systems and community mechanisms within the EAC region	Strategy is to: i. Develop a regional framework for assessing the status of Child Protection Systems in the Partner States ii. Promote the development and implementation of family strengthening and protection policies in Partner States iii. Support the promotion of role of parents as the primary care givers in the Partner States iv. Establish alternative family based care systems and expansion of kinship, foster care and other family reintegration services v. Strengthen community and national mechanisms for child protection vi. Develop standards on Child Protection Service Delivery vii. Ensure convergence of national development plans and programmes aimed at the preventing, responding and progressive elimination of all forms of Child Rights violations
An integrated approach to providing quality education, health and social protection to children	Child rights issues cut across various social sectors such as education, health and social protection. Strategies are to: i. Develop and implement minimum regional standards for children in Education, Health and Social Protection ii. Improve access to and utilization of quality health care services, education, social protection and other social services iii. Strengthen the integrated/Inclusive management of health, education and social protection services

Child protection in conflict and emergency situations	Children in EAC Partner states have not only been targeted and exposed to extreme violent actions but they have also been conscripted and forced to commit atrocities. Strategies are to: i. Strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict in collaboration with the African Union Commission. ii. Improve the regional disaster preparedness plans and disaster risk reduction to include children iii. Establish a Regional Child Emergency Fund iv. Enhance meaningful child participation initiatives in peace building at national and regional level v. Establish and implement mechanisms to address the protection of Children from all forms of exploitation and extremism.
Resourcing of Child Welfare Services and Institutions.	Ministries and Institutions responsible for child welfare in Partner States are inadequately resourced. Strategies are to: i. Strengthen human and financial resources at the EAC Secretariat to monitor and coordinate Child Rights in the region ii. Promote evidence based research, information sharing and advocacy to key decision makers at national and regional level to influence investment in children for economic development iii. Prioritize Child Rights issues in national and regional plans, budgets, projects and programmes.
Regional mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of child rights	i. Develop and implement a regional Monitoring and Evaluation System on Child Rights including tools to monitor compliance and enforcement ii. Strengthen linkages between the AU Committee of Experts and the EAC to monitor and report progress on Child Rights iii. Document and share best practices among Partner States and in collaboration with the Civil Society, Private Sector, development partners and other stakeholders for learning purposes
Child Participation	i. Empower Children with life and leadership competencies that promote self-expression. ii. Supporting children to establish their own organizations, networks, councils, exchange programmes and associations by providing them with

	information on their rights, facilitating their attendance in local, national, regional and global policy making forums iii. Develop and implement age and disability appropriate child participation framework for the region iv. Ensure that children participate in the development and monitoring of policies, legislations, and related regulatory frameworks and programmes that relate to them.

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities in the EAC child policy are divided into the following categories:

i. Role of the EAC Secretariat
ii. Role of EAC Partner States
iii. Role of UN Agencies, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations
iv. Children, Families and Communities, Faith based organizations and Private Sector

The network and the member coalitions fall under category iii and are elaborated below.

The primary role of UN Agencies, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations is to offer technical and financial support to Partner States in the course of implementation of the Policy. They shall:

i. Promote education on children rights;
ii. Promote the dissemination and awareness around children rights and the implementation of the Policy
iii. Promote advocacy initiatives and forums aimed at advancing the rights of the child;
iv. Support research activities, data collection and collation on aspects of children rights;
v. Support initiatives aimed at harmonizing relevant policies and legislation affecting children; and
vi. Promote the participation of local communities in processes related to the Policy.
vii. Facilitate children's roles in following up the implementation of the Policy
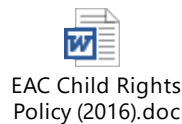
Financing the policy

The EAC and Partner States shall finance the Policy in line with existing regional and national modalities. The EAC Secretariat, Partner States and other role players shall, in this regard:

    i. Develop a work plan and integrate it in the Annual EAC budget process
   ii. Budget lines with specific percentages should be reflected within Government Ministries, the EAC and other relevant bodies and institutions
  iii. Partners States to provide funding for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the policy
  iv. Promote Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in the area of child rights
   v. Collaborate with key stakeholders to implement the Policy at National and Regional Levels

Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting

Monitoring of the policy will be done as highlighted below.

    i. Map out existing structures that will monitor implementation of the policy at the National Level
   ii. Develop and implement a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Policy
  iii. Develop and implement a Regional Management Information System (MIS) on the situation of children
  iv. Establish a functional knowledge - sharing, learning and accountability mechanism
   v. Conduct Review after 5 Years

EAC Child
Policy.pptm

EAC Child Rights
Policy (2016).doc

DAY FOUR: PRACTICAL ACTIONS MOVING FORWARD

The day began by a revision of the day's agenda to conform to rules of procedure of an Annual General Meeting.

Agenda

  i.   Adoption of presented documents
  ii.   Representation to the CSO forum
  iii. Kenya Uganda and Somali land coalitions
  iv.   Countries without coalitions
  v.   A.O.B
  vi.   Management Committee meeting

The Chair started by saying that each country should be represented by the national coalition and each country has only one vote. The only countries allowed to vote are Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan and South Sudan, Madagascar, Save the Children and Plan International. Kenya, Uganda and Somaliland were excluded from voting because they had not been officially admitted as members.

Agenda 1: Adoption of presented documents

1.1 The Management Documents

It was agreed that the management documents that had been translated in French needed to be reviewed before approval to ensure that the French used in the documents was proper French which could be understood by the Francophone speaking countries. It was agreed that the Francophone members should go through the document and give feedback within 21 days after the AGM. They were however cautioned not to make any technical changes but to focus on grammatical facts.

The secretariat will engage with Plan International to find out if they can provide technical support to have a specialist review the documents to ensure that they are in line with internal standards and in proper French.

It was resolved that the final draft documents in French will be circulated online for validation and adoption before printing. However, it was agreed that in the meantime the English document is still the only legal document recognized by members of the EACRN.

1.2. The Strategic framework

Due to the fact the groups had not completed the tasks assigned to them of reviewing the strategic plan and supplying feedback, it was agreed that the national coalitions should consult and comprehensively review the document. Members agreed to supply feedback and relevant recommendations to the secretariat within 7 days after the AGM. The recommendations and the feedback received from members would then be incorporated in

the draft which will be circulated by the secretariat within 7 days of receiving feedback. This will then form the basis for the finalization of the strategic plan. It was anticipated that the Strategic plan will be finalized within 21 days after the AGM and would be circulated and disseminated for adoption which shall be done online.

1.3. Advocacy and Communication Strategy

It was reported that not all countries had sent in their filled questionnaires which had been sent out by the consultant for data collection before the development of the Advocacy and communication strategy. They were urged to fill them out and send their responses to the consultant before the end of the AGM.

It was agreed that the Consultant would share the draft strategy by 14th November, 2016 with the secretariat for circulation, after which members will have 7 days to send in feedback. The secretariat would then have 7 days to incorporate the feedback and the final draft will be ready 21 days from 14th November, 2016. It will then be validated and disseminated for adoption which shall be done online.

Agenda 2: Representation to the Africa CSO forum

The members were informed that the Africa CSO forum is constituted of Regional networks. The CSO forum works closely with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the child (ACERWC) and ensures the civil society voices are heard. Members were informed that during the last CSO forum that took place in Banjul, a new committee was elected after the previous committee resigned. The new committee comprises of:

- ➢ Chair- Professor Salat from Egypt
- ➢ Vice- Maximillian Ruzigana from EACRN
- ➢ Child Rights Network of Southern Africa
- ➢ Western Africa Network
- ➢ Central Africa Network

The chair reported to the members that the Banjul meeting had several challenges which included his legitimacy to represent the EACRN. His position as the vice chair was challenged because it had not been agreed upon by the members beforehand that he would represent the network. The members were asked what they thought about the chair representing the network in the Africa CSO forum.

It was resolved that the chairperson of the EACRN Management Committee will and should represent the network in any external positions in accordance to the constitution. The Chairperson's representation as Vice-Chair of the Africa CSO forum was therefore approved.

Agenda 3: Kenya Uganda and Somaliland coalitions

1.1 Somaliland

It was reported that Somaliland has expressed interest in joining the coalition. The members agreed and approved for Somaliland to join the EACRN represented by the Somali Land Child Rights Forum (SOCRIF). The secretariat was tasked to provide the necessary support to

Somali Land Child Rights Forum (SOCRIF) to ensure smooth transition into membership of the EACRN network.

1.2 Kenya and Uganda

It was reported that Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children (KAARC) was part of the initial EACRN meeting, however they stopped participating in the network activities altogether.

The Ugandan coalition Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) was also part of the initial EACRN meeting. However, they have stated that they are no longer willing to be part of the EACRN network.

It was agreed that there is need for Save the Children and Plan International to have a meeting with the coalitions to resolve the issues and ensure the decision made by the two coalitions is clear.

Members were informed that EACHRights was picked as the secretariat because it was a regional organization even though it was not a coalition. It was picked because it was the one that organized the initial meeting that formed the basis for the formation of the EACRN network.

It was resolved that the issue of Kenya and Uganda cannot be discussed forever. It is important for EACRN to be open to other membership of individual organizations and not limited to coalitions. It was proposed that the network should not allow individuals to hijack the children agenda in Africa. It was also agreed that there is chance for working with individual member organization where there is no coalition.

The management committee was tasked to meet with the coalitions that are not willing to be part of EACRN. However, if they refuse the organization present should be supported to start another coalition.

It was resolved that ISER from Uganda and Children Agenda Forum from Kenya will represent the Kenya and Uganda for a period of one year (renewable) until the issue has been resolved.

Agenda 4: Countries without coalitions

It was reported out of the 16 countries listed by the AU to belong to the Eastern African Region 7 of them don't have coalitions'. Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

It was agreed there is need to fundraise to establish Child Rights networks in countries where there are no networks. The funding will cover establishing cost and capacity building cost. It was suggested that neighboring countries can work together to establish coalitions. Madagascar was requested to reach out to Mauritius and Seychelles and explore the possibility of establishing a coalition

It was agreed that the network should work with individual organizations working in the children sector in the countries where there are no National Coalitions which will eventually for a basis for the establishment of a coalition.

It was however noted that some countries such as Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia are not able to organize and form coalitions because of political reasons. So in this case it would be wise to work with Individual organizations.

Agenda: Any Other Business

I. It was suggested that it was important to act on the decisions made in the AGM meeting and the decisions should not just be resolutions on paper.
II. It was recommended that in future meetings, instead of EACRN paying for dinner, in the future the money should be given to members. However, EACRN clarified that this will depend on the partner's policy and hence it is not guaranteed.
III. The secretariat was tasked to explore other forms of communications such as google groups and WhatsApp group.
IV. It was noted that the EACRN website is rarely updated, hence members were requested to provide content for the EACRN website to make it updated and vibrant and ensure country representation.

AGM RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION ONE (1): MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS

    i.   The final management documents translated in French will be circulated online for validation and adoption. However, it was agreed that in the meantime the English document is still the only legal document recognized by members of the EACRN.

    ii.   The Strategic framework will be adopted online after members have provided their input and it has been incorporated in the final strategic plan.

    iii.   The final draft of the Advocacy and Communication strategy will be validated and adopted online.

RESOLUTION TWO (2): REPRESENTATION TO THE AFRICA CSO FORUM

    i.   The chairperson of the EACRN Management Committee Mr. Maximilien Ruzigana will represent the network in any external positions in accordance to the constitution. The Chairperson was given the mandate to represent the network as the Vice chair of the Africa CSO forum.

RESOLUTION THREE (3): ADMISSION OF MORE MEMBERS INTO THE NETWORK

    i.   Somaliland was officially admitted as a member of EACRN represented by Somali Land Child Rights Forum (SOCRIF).

    ii.   ISER from Uganda and Children Agenda Forum from Kenya will represent the countries for a period of one-year (renewable) until the issue with KAARC and Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) has been resolved.

    iii.   The Management Committee in Partnership with Plan International and Save the Children shall follow up with KAARC and UCRNN to ensure that their decision to no longer be part of the networks is final.

    iv.   It was agreed the network should fundraise to assist in the establishment of Child Rights networks in countries where there are no networks.

    v.   The network should be open to working with Individual organizations in countries where there are no networks available.

RESOLUTION FOUR (4): NETWORK TRANSITION FROM THE CURRENT SECRETARIAT & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

    i.   The hosting agreement of the current secretariat expires in 2017. It is paramount to develop a transition plan from the current host to the next host to ensure a smooth transition when the time for handing over comes.

    ii.   The current term for the Management committee ends in 2017. The next management Committee will be elected during the 4th AGM.

RESOLUTION FIVE (5): EACRN FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORTS

  i.   Financial Audit Reports for 2016 will be shared with members through the chairperson by April 2016.

RESOLUTION SIX (6): EACRN MEMBERS CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

  i.   The capacity Assessment for the remaining countries shall be completed by March 2017.

RESOLUTION SEVEN (7): EACN BANNERS

  i.   The Secretariat Should Re-print the EACRN Banners to ensure that they incorporate all member countries.

RESOLUTION EIGHT (8): EACRN EMAILS

  i.   The secretariat should facilitate the formation of EACRN emails which shall be used for communication of EACRN related matters.

RESOLUTION NINE (9): THE NEXT AGM

  i.   The next Annual General Meeting will be held in Southern Sudan at a date to be communicated later.

Closing Remarks

Plan, Region for Eastern and Southern Africa (PLAN-RESA)

Mrs. Margaret Kabue from PLAN-RESA thanked everyone for attending and participating in the 3rd EACRN AGM. She felt the AGM had been a huge success and thanked the organizers for having done such a commendable job. She said she was particularly pleased with how despite the disagreements and debates the participants eventually came up with solutions. She further stated that she was pleased to witness that the network is doing very well despite the fact that it's still relatively young. The members were urged to continue fundraising as national coalitions but can find ways of incorporating joint regional activities. The members were also urged to consider the policies of donors before spending on anything to ensure accountability and transparency.

Save the Children Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (SCI-ESARO)

Ms. Daisy Maima from Save the children also thanked the members for having been active participants throughout the meeting. She urged the members to keep in mind the reason behind the establishment of the network. The network should purpose to concentrate on finding solutions to challenges facing children in the East African region. The members were urged to take the capacity assessment seriously. She also finished by urging coalitions that believe they have the capacity to host the secretariat to ensure that they apply to host when the ToR is sent out in 2017.

South Sudan Child Rights Coalition

South Sudan gave the closing remarks on behalf of the members. Mr. Paulino Akuei indicated that the meeting had been a success and had acted as a platform for resolving most of the concerns that had been rising up. He also said South Sudan was humbled for having been chosen to host the next Annual General Meeting and said that they were looking forward to welcoming all the participants to their country. They commended the secretariat for having managed to successfully hold the meeting in Madagascar despite the many constrains and the increase in costs. He concluded by thanking the Madagascar coalition for the hospitality and hoped to learn from them on how to hold a successful AGM.

Madagascar Child Rights Coalition

Madagascar concluded by saying they were honored to have hosted the AGM. They however urged the rest of the members to look past the challenges and look at the end goal which is ensuring and enhancing improved lives of children in Eastern Africa.

The EACRN Chair

The chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and actively participating in the AGM. He mentioned that he was glad that the issue of Kenya and Uganda had finally been discussed at length and there was finally a chance to conclude the issue and move forward.

He reiterated the importance of forgetting about the politics and focusing on the work of improving the livelihood of children.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Programme

Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN)
Annual General Assembly Meeting
Monday 7th to Thursday 10th, November 2016
Antananarivo, Madagascar

Day 1: Monday, November 7, 2016

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
2.00pm – 2.30pm	Registration of participants	● Margaret Wawira
2.30pm – 2.45pm	Introductions	● Meeting Facilitator
2.45pm – 3.00pm	Welcome remarks	● Madagascar Coalition ● EACRN Chairperson ● Save the Children ● Plan International
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Introduction to the meeting	● EACRN Coordinator
3.30pm – 4.00pm	**Group Photo & Tea Break**	
4.00pm – 4.30pm	Overview of resolutions from the 2nd EACRN General Assembly Meeting	● EACRN Chairperson
4.30pm – 5.00pm	Report on progress on resolutions made and challenges	● EACRN Coordinator
5.00pm – 5.30pm	Coalition presentations and Plenary discussions	● Meeting Facilitator ● All Participants
5.30 pm	**End of Day 1**	

Day 2: Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
8.30am - 9.00am	Recap of day one	● Meeting Facilitator
9.00am - 10.00am	Advocacy and Communication Strategy	● Consultant

10.00am - 10.30am	Tea Break	
10.30am - 11.30am	Plenary Discussions on the Advocacy and Communication Strategy	● Meeting Facilitator
11.30am - 12.30pm	Capacity assessment reports (presentation and plenary discussion)	● EACRN Coordinator
12.30pm - 1.00pm	Presentation of the Draft EACRN Strategic Framework	● Abraham Ochieng'
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Lunch Break	
2.00pm - 3.30pm	Group Discussions on the Draft Strategic Framework	● All Participants
3.30pm - 4.30pm	Group Presentations on the Draft Strategic Framework	● All Participants
4.30pm	Tea Break	

Day 3: Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
8.30am - 9.00am	Recap of day two	● Meeting Facilitator
9.00am-10.00am	Training on Gender	● Tino (Plan RESA)
10.00am - 10.30am	**Tea Break**	
10.30am - 1.00pm	Training on Gender	● Tino (Plan RESA)
1.00pm - 2.00pm	**Lunch Break**	
2.00pm - 4.30pm	CRC Reporting Guidelines/ Monitoring child rights implementation (COTT matrix, Advocacy Tools)	Mary Mshai
4.30pm	**Tea Break**	

Day 4: Thursday, November 10, 2016

Time	Activity	Person Responsible
8.30am - 9.00am	Recap of day three	● Meeting Facilitator
9.00am - 9.30am	Presentation on the EAC Child Policy	● Margaret Wawira ● Daisy Maima

9.30am - 10.00am	Plenary Discussions on practical ways to engage the EAC on the Child Policy	● Margaret Wawira ● Daisy Maima
10.00am – 10.30am	**Social Media:** Using social media to advocate for Child Rights in Eastern Africa	● Margaret Wawira
10.30am - 11.00am	**Tea Break**	
11.30am - 11.45am	**Adoption:** ● Strategic Framework ● Advocacy and Communication Strategy ● Translated Documents	● Meeting Facilitator
11.45am - 12.00pm	Election of rep to CSO forum	● EACRN Coordinator
12.00pm - 12.30pm	Coalitions in countries that don't have coalitions	● EACRN Coordinator
12.30pm - 1.00pm	Kenya and Uganda representation in EACRN	● EACRN Coordinator
1.00pm - 2.00pm	**Lunch Break**	
2.00pm - 2.45pm	**Closing Ceremony**	
3.00pm - 4.00pm	**Management Committee meeting**	
	Group dinner	

Appendix 2: Concept Note

Concept Note

3rd Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN)
Annual General Assembly Meeting

Dates: Monday, November 7th to Thursday, November 10th 2016

Venue: Antananarivo, Madagascar

1. **About the Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN)**

The Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN) was established in March, 2014 to coordinate efforts by National Child Rights Coalitions in Eastern Africa in advocating for child rights. Presently, the network's membership constitutes of National Child Rights coalitions from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Madagascar, Burundi, Sudan and South Sudan. Ethiopia, despite not having a national child rights coalition is a member of the network.

The network's mandate is to implement programmes that are focused on the realization of child rights as contained in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The objective EACRN is to accelerate progress in advocacy around child rights by national coalitions within a smaller context that will then be fed into the processes of the Eastern Africa Regional Network. The advancement of the child rights agenda through the EACRN is to be achieved through engagement with governments, regional human rights bodies and other stakeholders working around children issues both nationally, regionally and internationally. The network seeks to achieve this through capacity building of national coalitions and promoting information sharing among network members.

2. **The Third EACRN General Assembly Meeting**

Since its establishment, the EACRN has so far held one conference and two General Assembly Meetings. The first conference was held in March 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya for purposes of establishing the network.

The first General Assembly meeting was held in October 2014 in Kigali, Rwanda to consolidate the network for effective functioning. The first general assembly was especially useful as it resulted in the adoption of key resolutions that would enhance the management of the network thus enabling it to better deliver on its mandate. Among the resolutions arrived at were: i) the management structure of the network which would comprise of a Secretariat, General Assembly and Management Committee, ii) Setting up of the management committee iii) resolution on the organization hosting the secretariat among others. These management bodies were tasked with several roles. The Secretariat and Management committee was tasked with the development of management documents such as the EACRN Constitution, Rules of procedure, Fundraising strategy, Terms of Reference for the hosting Organization and design of the network strategic framework. Also agreed at the second EACRN conference was that the constitution of the network should provide for the holding of annual General Assembly meetings to take stock of the progress made by the network.

The second EACRN General Assembly meeting was held in September 2015 in Dar es Salaam. The meeting was held as per the resolutions of the first general assembly that determined that EACRN will hold annual general meetings. The second general assembly meeting was a build up to the first as the Secretariat presented the management documents, the constitution and terms of reference for the host organization. These were discussed and adopted by the assembly. The report for the second general assembly is attached for reference.

It is against this background that the 3ʳᵈ General Assembly meeting is being organized. The 3ʳᵈ Annual General Assembly Meeting (AGM) will be held in fulfilment of resolution Thirteen point six (13.6) of the 1ˢᵗ EACRN AGM. The 3ʳᵈ EACRN General Assembly Meeting will therefore be a platform for;

i.   The Secretariat and Management Committee to report back to the General Assembly on how it has delivered on its mandate during the year.
ii.   The EACRN Coordinator to present an update on the findings of the capacity assessment
iii. Discussing the process of handing over of the management committee and Secretariat since the mandate will be ending in December 2017
iv.   Discussion on challenges affecting the network and how to mitigate the same
v.   Discussion on the development of the network's strategic framework

The meeting will also incorporate a training. The training will be conducted in view of the fact that the objective of the EACRN is to accelerate child rights advocacy. In this regard, CSOs capacity strengthening in advocacy is paramount in realizing this goal.

3.   Objectives of the 3ʳᵈ EACRN General Assembly Meeting

In light of the above discussed, the objectives of second EACRN General Assembly meeting will be:

i.   To enhance the democratic participation of network members in the running of the EACRN through structured evaluation and planning of network activities at the AGM.
ii.   To review the strategic and programmatic direction of the EACRN through presentation and discussion of the draft capacity assessment, strategic framework, advocacy and communications strategy.
iii. To enhance the capacity of members on regional child rights advocacy through training on mainstreaming gender in child rights advocacy, as well as the EAC child policy.

4.   Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes from the third EACRN General Assembly will be;

i.   Enhanced democratic participation of network members in the EACRN.
ii.   Enhanced understanding, and participation in formulation of the EACRN strategic framework, advocacy and communications strategy as well as capacity enhancement plans for member coalitions.
iii. Enhanced knowledge and understanding on the importance of mainstreaming gender in child rights advocacy.
iv.   Enhanced interaction amongst EACRN members for shared learning and peer mentorship.

5.   Proposed meeting dates and venue

The proposed dates of the third EACRN Annual General Assembly Meeting are **Monday, November 7th to Thursday, November 10th 2016**. The meeting will be held in Antananarivo, Madagascar at a venue to be confirmed at a later date.

6.   Participants

The meeting will bring together representatives from the following coalitions: Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF), Uganda National Child Rights NGO Coalition (UCRNN), Rwanda Child Rights Coalition (*Umwana Ku Isonga*), Burundi Child Rights Coalition, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA), Madagascar Child Rights Coalition, Child Rights Civil Society Coalition-South Sudan, Children Agenda Forum in Kenya, The Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR), Somaliland Child Rights Forum (SOCRIF).

The Regional partner to the network, Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) will also be present.

International NGOs such as Plan International (Region of Eastern and Southern Africa) and Save the Children International (East and South Africa Regional Office) will be present at the meeting.

7.   Methodology

Annual General Assembly meeting discussions will be moderated by the meeting facilitator. The training on child rights advocacy will be facilitated by an expert in child rights through lectures, discussions and group work.

Appendix 3: List of Participants

Third Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN) Annual General Assembly

Meeting

Dates: 6th -11th November, 2016

Venue: Antananarivo, Madagascar

Participants Registration Sheet

	Coalition/Organization	Representative	Email Address
1.	East African Centre for Human Rights (Secretariat)	Cleophas Maragia	Cleophas@eachrights.or.ke
2.		Abraham Ochieng'	abraham@eachrights.or.ke
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4.		Mary Mshai	mshai@eachrights.or.ke
5.	Tanzania Child Rights Forum	Ladislaus Suitbert Musiba	ladimusiba@gmail.com
6.		Sabas Masawe	sabasmasawe@gmail.com
7.	Child Rights Civil Society Coalition-South Sudan	Natale Ngong Lual	natalengong2015@gmail.com
8.		Akuei Athian	babathiandit@yahoo.co.uk
9.	Sudan Child Rights Forum	Afaf Elfadl	ajoudcent@yahoo.com
10.		Khalafala Ismail Mohomad	Sabah.tfola@gmail.com
11.	Rwanda Child Rights Coalition - Umwana Kuisonga	Maximilien Ruzigana	ruzigana@hotmail.com
12.		Sekenyange Jean Leonard	sekenyangeleo@yahoo.fr
13.	Burundi Child Rights Coalition	Mireille Munezero	Mumiche26@gmail.com
14.		Franck Bujeje	bujefra@gmail.com
15.	African Platform for Social Protection (APSP)	Helen Mudora	hmudora@africapsp.org
16.		RAHARINANDRASANA Hajatiana	bmr.cuua@gmail.com

	Coalition/Organization	Representative	Email Address
17.	Plan International	Margaret Kabue	Margaret.kabue@plan-international.org
18.		Salome Hondo Tinotenda	Tinotenda.hondo@plan-international.org
19.	Save the Children	Daisy Maima	Daisy.maima@savethechildren.org
20.	Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ISER)	Angella Nobwowe	nobwowe@gmail.com
21.	National Confederation of Plate Form of Human Rights (Madagascar)	Rasamoely Andrianirainy	andry_setra@yahoo.fr
22.		RAOELINARIVO Yvan Russel	rivotanteliko@yahoo.fr
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24.		ZAFITSARA Maria	maria.zafitsara@yahoo.fr
25.		RALIMANANA Juliette Farah	juliettefarah08@gmail.com
26.		RAVELOJAONA Gilbert	ravelojaona.gilbert@gmail.com
27.	Somali Land Child Rights Forum (SOCRIF)	Keni Abdi	Qani_87@yahoo.com
28.	Children Agenda Forum	Jennifer Kaberi	info@childrenagendaforum.org jenny.kaberi@gmail.com
29.	Child Rights Network for South Africa (CRNSA)	Desmond Nyuma Mhango	Nyumad07@gmail.com
30.	Facilitator/Rapporteur	John Njoka	muriminjoka70@gmail.com
31.	Ministère de la population	Evelyne RATSIMBARISON	defmppspf@gmail.com
32.	UNICEF - Madagascar	Anita INGABIRE	azaoelism@unicef.org
33.	Haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme	Omer KALAMEU	