African Union | Comité Africain d'Experts sur les Droits et le Bien-être de l'Enfant
Comité Africano dos Direitos e Bem-Estar da Crianças
لجنة الخبراء الإفريقية المعنية بحقوق الطفل ورفاهه
ACERWC
African Committee of Experts on the Rights & Welfare of the Child

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DATABASE ON NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

Background

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Committee) is a treaty body established to protect and promote children's rights in the African region, and to monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Charter). In carrying out its mandate, the Committee is permitted by Rule 83 of its Revised Rules of Procedure and article 42 of the Charter to cooperate with institutions that are concerned with children's rights, and to grant affiliate status to National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

Throughout the years, the Committee has increasingly collaborated with NHRIs through various avenues, mainly by adopting the Guidelines on Granting Affiliate Status to NHRIs. The aim of the Guidelines was to formalise the Committee's relationship with NHRIs, and to enhance the full realisation of the Charter at country level. However, only a limited number of NHRIs applied for Affiliate Status, and not much progress was noted in NHRIs' engagement with the activities of the Committee.

This prompted the Committee to commission a study on Mapping the Structures and Functions of National Human Rights Institutions in Africa on Child Rights (NHRI study), with an aim of understanding the NHRI landscape as concerns children's rights, and to also assess the extent of NHRIs' knowledge of the Charter and the Work of the Committee. Having identified challenges with incorporating child rights structures into the functioning of NHRIs, the study recommended that State Parties should establish NHRIs with structures and capacity for child rights issues, and that NHRIs should engage with children, the Committee, and other stakeholders in protecting and promoting children's rights.

Following the publishing of the study, the Committee would like to develop a database on NHRIs on the African continent, which will enhance knowledge on the work that NHRIs are doing concerning child rights, and on the collaborative work that the Committee undertakes with NHRIs. In this regard, the Committee is partnering with the African Child

Policy Forum (ACPF), under the African Children's Charter Project (ACCP), to recruit a consultant who will be creating the above-mentioned database.

Objectives

The main objectives of the development of the database include:

- To provide general and streamlined information regarding NHRIs and their child rights structures,
- To improve visibility of the Committee's collaboration work with NHRIs, and
- To enable systematic tracking of the realisation of the recommendations of the NHRI study.

Scope

The consultancy is to create a database and interactive data visualisation that can be accessed on the Committee's website both in English and French. The database should contain overview information including the number of NHRIs in the region, and the number of NHRIs which have Affiliate Status before the Committee, and those that have child rights structures.

Additionally, the database is designed to provide NHRI-specific information including:

- The contact and website information of each NHRI,
- Affiliate Status of the NHRI,
- The type of child rights structure within the NHRI and the source of its mandate,
- The level of child rights expertise within the structure,
- The process of allocation of resources to the structure,
- Extent of the structure's collaboration with children and other domestic child rights actors, and
- The engagement of the structure with the Committee, the Charter, and Agenda 2040.

The database is designed to enable easy access to information about NHRIs, and it targets stakeholders including children, State Parties, civil society organisations, and researchers working on children's rights. The database will also assist the Committee to identify NHRIs that have limited child rights capacity, enabling targeted interventions and assistance.

Methodology

The consultant will be expected to undertake the project in collaboration with the Committee, and to collect data for the database. primarily from the NHRI study and from other secondary sources. The development of the database and visualisation will be supervised by the Secretariat of the Committee.

Deliverables

The following are the main deliverables of the consultancy:

- A proposal document detailing the database infrastructure, design, features and functions, and post-launch support and maintenance provided,
- Initial prototype of the database and visualisation for review by the Secretariat,
- Finalised preview of the database and visualisation, incorporating inputs from the Secretariat, prior to launching,
- Conduct performance, security, and usability testing of the final product, and provide quality assurance,
- Conduct stress-testing of the final product to ensure that it can handle high data loads,
- Design a maintenance plan of the final product, including periodic updates and security testing.

Required qualifications and experience:

The appointed consultant must meet the following requirements:

- Advanced university degree in computer science, information technology, software engineering, and related fields,
- At least 5 years of experience in developing databases or other technological solutions related to human rights, children's rights or related fields,
- Proven skills in data collection and analysis, web development, and database management,
- Knowledge of API development,
- Demonstrated knowledge on the work of the Committee, and on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,
- Experience working with the African Union or other international organisations, and especially with treaty body mechanisms.

Timeline

The consultancy will begin in December 2024 and run until October 2025.

Reporting lines

While the contract will be entered into by the consultant and ACPF, the consultant will report to the Secretariat of the Committee regarding the contents of the assignment.

Application

The Committee invites consultants to express their interest in developing the NHRI database. Interested candidates must show in their application that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience.

The application should consist of the following:

- A curriculum vitae not exceeding three pages,
- A cover letter summarising the background of the applicant and describing why they are interested in applying for the opportunity,
- Three contactable referees,
- A technical proposal on:
  o Understanding and interpretation of the TOR,
  o Work plan, and
  o Time and activity schedule
- Evidence of educational background and professional experience.
- Financial proposal in US$

Application deadline

Qualified candidates should send their applications to jobs@africanchildforum.org The deadline for submission is **22 November 2024** no later than 23:59 hours South African Time. Late applications will not be considered.