

Terms of Reference for the Development of a guidance on reporting to ACERWC on Child Rights and the Environment Climate

1. Background:

Many of the humanitarian crises in Africa are partly linked to Global climatic and environmental crises. As ACERWC noted in its recent report, children in Africa are growing up in contexts where the effects of climate change hit the hardest¹. Environmental degradation including climate change has adverse effects on their education, health, the right to food and nutrition. The crises also contribute to tensions between communities, often driving violent conflict. Climate change emergency, pervasive pollution, and fast collapsing biodiversity are child rights challenges reinforcing political and economic instability, growing inequality, and declining food and water security. Every year, it is reported that no less than 1.5 million children under the age of 5 years die because of air and water pollution, exposure to toxic substances, and other types of environmental hazards. Environmental and climate crises undermine the rights of children that are protected by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

Since its establishment on September 8, 2022, the ACRWC child rights and climate change Working Group has been urging States to establish child-sensitive monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms based on disaggregated data and child-sensitive targets, and report on the progress made towards integrating child-sensitive approaches into their climate actions². State's obligations to integrate a child rights-based approach into climate change action is well elaborated in Resolution # 18 of ACERWC WG on Children's Rights and Climate Change.

The UNCRC General Comment 26 on child rights and the environment with special focus on climate change, adopted by the UN committee on the rights of the Child in 2023, places the rights of children at the heart of the climate and environmental change agenda and provides further guidance to States on how to realize children's rights while protecting the environment. It notes that States must ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment to protect and fulfil children's rights. The obligation to respect children's rights requires States to refrain from violating them by causing environmental harm.³ How the AU institutions and governments respond to these crises through laws, policies, budgets, and procedures is therefore an important area for child rights monitoring and reporting.

2. Why the guidance is required

There are emerging practices in few African countries where climate and environment are integrated in civil society complementary report to ACRWC. A case to the point is the recent complementary report of child rights CSOs in Cote d'Ivoire. While such practices are encouraging, environment including climate change are still not adequately captured in civil society and children's alternative reports partly due to lack of guidance and capacity. The development of a guidance was raised already in 2022 by CSOs in Ivory Coast and the request has been reiterated in December 2024 during a peer exchange session on the integration of environment and climate in the reporting process of the ACRWC. The guidance will therefore address the demand from CSOs for such a tool to guide how to

¹ <https://www.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2025-02/SB60%20Submission%20ACERWC%20%281%29.pdf>

² <https://www.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2022-10/Resolution-No-182022-on-Integrating-a-Child-Rights-Based-Approach-to-Climate-Change-Responses.pdf>

³ UNCRC General Comment # 29 Para 68.

report to the ACERWC on child rights and the environment. The guidance will be informed by and complement, as far as to the role CSOs is concerned, the foundational works produced by the ACERWC, including resolution #18 of 2022, as well as UNCRRC General Comment #26. It will also get inspiration from the recent [Commentary of the ACERWC \(2024\)](#). It will furthermore be developed using the consultative methodology of the [How to Child Rights series](#)(HTCR).

3. The objectives of the assignment

The main objective of this initiative is to develop a practical guidance for CSOs on reporting to ACERWC on child rights and the environment. The following are the specific objectives of the assignment

- Mapping of existing practices of the inclusion of climate and environment in CSO and children's alternative reports to the ACRWC and the UNCRRC
- Map existing resources available, to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity
- Develop a CSO guidance , in consultation with a wide range of actors, using the [the How to Child rights Series](#) methodology.

4. Key deliverables

- An inception report of the assignment
- A mapping of existing practices and resources/publications
- A guidance for CSO to integrate environment and climate change in CSO complementary reports
- The guidance will be translated into French and if funding allows, also Arabic and Portuguese
- Validation workshop with brief report
- A PPT presentation of the guidance

5. Framework and scope

The guidance will be informed by the ACRWC and Pan African frameworks, UNCRRC, General Comment #26, and Global and Pan African child rights and human rights instruments. The targets of the guidance are civil society actors that plan to engage in the ACRWC reporting mechanism. The guidance will highlight the content and the process that need to be considered in the following phases of the reporting:

- a) **Phase 1- Preparations:** Including awareness raising of review process and discussion of child rights issues with stakeholders
- b) **Phase 2- Draft and submission of the supplementary report:** Collecting data with children and creating a child informed supplement to the state report
- c) **Phase 3 - Influencing reviewing of state reports:** Working with children and civil society to raise key issues ahead of the review of the state report, and
- d) **Phase 4 - follow up advocacy and monitoring:** Integration of the recommendations into national advocacy and supporting children's engagement

6. Methods

Guided by the frameworks described under section 5 of this TOR, the service provider will identify good practices from the mapping of existing practices. The following outline the process of the preparation of the guidance.

- a) Set up a core team
- b) Mapping and description of good practices in the integration of climate and environment in CSO and children's alternative reports
- c) Setting criteria and selection of good practices to prepare generic guidance
- d) Prepare draft generic guidance
- e) Review by peers – Climate Change CSO and the Climate and Child rights technical working group member, Plan International
- f) Presentation of the guidance in the Pan African CSO Platform (October 2025)
- g) Finalize and deliver the guidance
- h) Translation of the guidance into French Methodology to be used: [the How to Child rights Series](#) (HTCR) methodology.

7. Management of the assignment

The guidance will be prepared by a service provider. There will be a reference group comprising:

- a) Save the Children, with the support of SCS
- b) The legal researcher of the ACERWC
- c) Plan International and
- d) Climate change CSO for example PACJA and others
- e) ACERWC WG on Child Rights and Climate Change
CR Connect and its Working Group on Child Rights and the Environment-

The following supports will be provided to the consultant by Save the Children team.

- Setting up a core team and a list of potential contacts for reviewing the document
- Collecting internal documents for desk review
- Connection to ACCP consortium members, CSOs, ACERWC etc.
- Briefing about How to Child Rights methodology
- Reviewing the drafts
- coordinating collection of feedback from CSOs, Committee and other entities
- launching of the guidance
- Coordinating with translators, designers and interpreters (where relevant)

8. Workflow and timeframe

Sno	Activity	Timeframe	Lead
1	Discussion on the TOR and finalization of the same	February 20	Solomon, Hussein, Laure
2	Establishment of a Core Team (Save) + advisory team (ACCP)	March 5	Solomon, Hussein, Laure
3	Recruitment of consultant	1 st April	Hussein supported by the procurement unit
4	The development of the guide starts	14 th April	Service provider
5	The guidance (draft) delivered	May 15	Service provider

6	Review of the guidance finalized	May 25	The core and reference teams
7	Validation of the guidance	May 27	Solomon and Hussein
8	Translation of the guidance into French	September 30	Hussein
9	The launch of the guidance	Sept /October	The Core team

(Dates are subject to change depending on the duration of the recruitment process)

9. Method of Application:

Interested applicants are invited to send their technical and financial proposals(inclusive of all applicable taxes) to : esarpu.bid@savethechildren.org on or before **28th March 2025**

Please find the accompanying Save the Children Expression of Interest (EOI) template for proposal submission.

For questions or clarifications please contact: esaro.procurement@savethechildren.org with Euniejoy.Nyawira@savethechildren.org in copy