

CHILD RIGHTS ADVOCACY

PRESENTATION TO DSD COMMUNICATORS FORUM

DATES: 09 – 10 FEBRUARY 2022

CAPE TOWN

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FUNCTIONS/PURPOSE OF THE DIRECTORATE

- ❑ The purpose of the Child Rights Advocacy is to facilitate the Child Rights Institutional strengthening in government and civil society;
- ❑ To advocate for the promotion and protection of children's rights in South Africa;
- ❑ Facilitate the implementation of the National Plan of Action for children in South Africa through capacity building and coordination of integrated action by government and civil society;
- ❑ Monitoring and Evaluation for the implementation of the NPAC and reporting on international treaties;

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- ❑ The Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child adopted Africa's Agenda for Children entitled "*The Agenda 2040 for Children*". The Agenda is aimed at "Fostering an Africa fit for Children" and anchored by nurturing and nourishing the current generation of Africa's children, Africans will promote the social and economic growth of the Continent and secure its future.

- ❑ Agenda 2040 seeks to advance the realization of Africa's Agenda 2063 through the development of policies that advances the rights to survival, protection, development and child participation as pronounced in the ACRWC.

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- ❑ The African Union makes explicit the duty of endorsing States Parties to advance Agenda 2063 through the systematic implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) to equalise and realise children's rights to develop to their full potential so as to unlock their unrealised human capital.
- ❑ The African Committee of Experts on the Rights of the Child and its United Nations counterpart has directed that States Parties must fulfil their obligations by adopting a child rights-centered system of governance.
- ❑ They have directed that States Parties must, to ensure universal realisation of rights and equalization of the development of marginalised children, adopt a national system of child rights governance that:

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- ❑ Makes the realisation of children's rights – especially those rights that will equalise their development – a national sustainable development priority;
- ❑ Creates a government-wide / state-wide duty to take all necessary legislative, administrative and budgetary steps to realise their rights;
- ❑ Ensures government-wide / state-wide accountability for the mandated action and improvement in children's outcomes; and
- ❑ Ensures ongoing monitoring and system is strengthening across planning cycles.

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- ❑ The Department of Social Development in collaboration with UNICEF, the South African Human Rights Commission and Save the Children South Africa has agreed to convene a Child Rights Governance engagement. This engagement will be conducted in the form of a Hybrid, other participants will be attending physically, and others will join virtually.
- ❑ The engagement is planned to happen before end of March 2022. Final date will be communicated to all Departments in due course.
- ❑ Due to outstanding consultations with key role players such as the Presidency, it looks like the targeted date will not be possible.

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- ❑ **Take the Child to Work (26 May 2022):** It is an annual corporate social investment event, held in **South Africa** since 2003, on last Thursday of May every year. The initiative was started by Cell C, a cellular service provider, and endorsed by the **South African** Government.
- ❑ **Global Conference on the elimination of Child Labour:** 15-20 May 2022, Durban. Child Participation is also planned: 2000 delegates physical session. 120 SA seats allocated. DSD Communications requested to assist with messaging.
- ❑ **International Children's Day:** The World Conference for the Well-being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland, proclaimed June 1 to be **International Children's Day** in 1925. It is usually marked with speeches on children's rights and wellbeing, and other events involving or dedicated to children. No plans yet available for this year. Due to Covid19, we had virtual engagements between Child Ambassadors and the Minister on different issues affecting children.

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- ❑ **Day of the African Child:** The **Day of the African Child** has been celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the OAU [Organization of African Unity](#). It honors those who participated in the [Soweto Uprising](#) in 1976 on that day. It also [raises awareness](#) of the continuing need for improvement of the education provided to African children.
- ❑ **Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament:** In 2011, the Government of South Africa, through the defunct Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities inaugurated the Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament to celebrate Madiba's birthday. As a concept and a programme, the Children's Parliament draws inspiration from a call made by the Founder of Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and former president Nelson Mandela for the establishment of a secure, safe and conducive platform to allow for children's voices to be heard.

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- ❑ **Celebration of the National Children's Day:** **Children's Day** is a day recognised to celebrate children. The day is celebrated on various calendar dates in different countries. In South Africa the day is celebrated on the first Saturday of November each year. Over the past few years the celebration was done in collaboration with the Deputy Minister's Office early or mid-December.
- ❑ **Universal Children's Day:** United Nations **Universal Children's Day** was established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20th each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- ❑ Finally, the ORC is finalizing a Child Rights Strategy which will be shared with all the participants for further refinement.

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