



**INTERNATIONAL EXPERT CONSULTATION TO ADDRESS
HARMFUL PRACTICES AGAINST CHILDREN**

13- 15 June 2012

Radisson Blu Hotel

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 13 June

- 08:00-09:00 Registration of participants
- 09:00 **Opening Remarks**
- 10:00 **Session 1 – Legal pluralism and the protection of children’s right to protection from harmful practices.**
- Country examples of the interplay between international human rights standards, national legislation and customary and religious law. Positive developments, tensions, challenges and gaps
- 11:10 Coffee & tea Break
- 11:30 **Session 2 – Legal prohibition of all harmful practices against children**
- Legal reform to prohibit harmful practices against girls and boys in penal codes, family law and other laws. Removal of justifications and exceptions, consideration of customs, traditions or religious dimensions incompatible with the CRC/CEDAW/UNVAC Study recommendations. Considerations concerning criminalization and the principle of the best interest of the child. Country experiences from different regions.
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 **General Discussion Session**
- 16:00 Coffee & tea break
- 16:30 **Session 3 – Invisible and emerging forms of violence. Gaps in data systems and identification of harmful practices, customs and traditions**
- Identification and discussion of responses to harmful practices that have not yet been adequately addressed in law and/or policy (e.g. harmful or degrading initiation rites, children accused of being witches, psychological violence against children with disability, breast ironing, harmful practices in early childhood, etc).
- 18:00 **End – Group Dinner**

Thursday 14 June

- 09:00 **Session 4 – Law reform and the process of social change. Addressing the root-causes in law and implementation, including in the context of customary law.**
- The case of early and forced marriage against girls and boys. The role of different actors including parliamentarians, community- and religious leaders, medical- and social workers, community members and children in preventing and overcoming persisting harmful beliefs and attitudes in

communities. Awareness raising and capacity building in support of this process e.g. development of guidelines and training for community justice providers

10:45 Coffee & tea break

11:15 **Session 5 – Law enforcement and the role of the judiciary**

Country experiences, including civil protection orders and court cases in the context of legal pluralism and harmful practices against girls and boys. The role of paralegal mechanisms, religious and traditional courts.

13:00 Lunch

14:30 **Session 6 – The international and regional human rights normative framework for the protection of girls and boys from harmful practices.**

General overview of harmful practices in different regions. Definitions of various harmful practices as forms of violence against children.

16:00 Coffee & tea break

16:30 **Session 7 – Protection from harmful practices through the national child protection system.**

Specific focus on access to counseling, reporting and complaints mechanisms, legal aid and support for children who are at risk of, or who are victims of harmful practices. The role of independent national human rights institutions for children's rights.

18:00 **Session 8 – Group work to identify future opportunities and suggestions to follow-up on the expert consultation at national, regional and international levels**

Participants will divide into 3 groups to cover the 3 different levels.

18:30 End

Friday 15 June

08:30 **Presentation – Lessons from the process of law reform and social mobilization in Egypt**

09:00 **Feedback from the 3 groups and discussion on the strategy for follow-up**

10:30 Coffee & tea break

11:00 **Session 9 – Conclusions from the plenary discussions and the way forward**

13:00 End/Lunch

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S/No	Name	Organization	Email Address
1	Marta Santos Pais	SRSR, UN ,NY	
2	Hiranthi Wijemanne	CRC Committee	hiranthiw@sltnet.lk
3	Gezahegn Kebede	Plan's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (RESA)	Gezahegn.kebede@plan-international.org
4	Julia Sloth-Nielsen	ACERWC	jsloth-nielsen@uwc.ac.za
5	David Chabalala	Department of Women, CHILORM-SA	david.chabalala@dwcpd.gov.za
7	Michael Kakatera	Malawi Human Rights Commission	mkakatera@yahoo.co.uk
8	Ngende Nathalia	Plan International	Ngende.Nathalia@plan-international.org
9	Odette Houedakor Dede'	Plan West Africa Regional Office	dede.houedakor@plan-international.org
10	Giulia Giacomuzzi	Italian dev.coop	g.giacomuzzi@itacaddis.it
12	Rasheeda Haddish	European Union	Rasheeda.Haddish@eeas.europa.eu
13	Elisabetta Borzini	Italian dev. coop	e.borzini@itacaddis.it
14	Ephrem Belay	Plan International Ethiopia	ephrem.belay@plan-international.org
15	Divya Naidoo	Save the Children	divyaN@saf.savethechildren.se
16	Stephen Hanmer	UNICEF	shanmer@unicef.org
17	Saba Lishan	African Child Policy Forum	lishan@africanchildforum.org
18	Violet Odala	African Child Policy Forum	odala@africanchildforum.org
19	Ashenafi Gizaw	Royal Norwegian Embassy	gja@mfa.no
20	Julie Stewart	SEARCWL, University of Zimbabwe	jessearcwl@gmail.com
21	Ruth Santisteban	Plan Finland	Ruth.santisteban@plan-international.org
22	Judith Mulenga	ZCEA/NGO Council for VAC	judithm@zamcivic.com.zm
23	Adam Vink	BIAAG, Plan International	adamvink@plan-international.org
24	Sara Teklemariam	Plan International	Sara.teklemariam@plan-international.org
25	Colleen Wainwright	DFID	c-wainwright@dfid.gov.uk
26	Mahlet Fitsum	Ethiopian Women Lawyer's Association (EWLA)	mahlet-fitsum@yahoo.com
27	Robert Bunbury	Canadian Embassy	robert.bunbury@international.gc.ca
28	Samrawit Assefa	International Rescue Committee	Samrawit.assefa@rescue.org
29	Chikezie Anyanwu	Plan Pan African Office (AU)	Chikezie.anyanwu@plan-international.org
30	Francoise Moudouthe	Girls not Brides	francoise.moudouthe@girlsnotbrides.org
31	Tobias Straube	GIZ AU Office	tobias.straube@giz.de
32	Katrin Freitag	GIZ AU Office	Katrin.freitag@giz.de
33	Peter Matsiko	Rwanda Embassy	Bkat2a@yahoo.com
34	Endrias Wodajo	Ministry of Culture and	wodajoendrias@yahoo.com

		Tourism	
35	Joseph Chisala	Malawi Embassy	jbchisala@hotmail.com
36	Tenaye Atefa	PADET	Tenaye.057@gmail.com
37	Prof. Fareda Banda	School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London	fb9@soas.ac.uk
38	Benyam Mezmur	Community Law Centre, University of Western Cape	benyam.mezmur@gmail.com
39	Violet Odala	ACPF	odala@africanchildforum.org
40	Anthony Mwangi	UNICEF Liaison Office to the AU and ECA	amwangi@unicef.org
41	Karin Odquist	Plan Sweden	Karin.odquist@plansverige.org
42	Wondimu Petros	World Vision Ethiopia	Wondemu-petros@wvi.org
43	Grace Atim	UN women	atim.grace@unwomen.org / openygrace@yahoo.com
44	Rosa Maria Ortiz	CIDH	ortiz.rosa.maria@gmail.com
45	Dr. Johan Strijdom	AU Commission	strijdom@africa-union.org
46	Yehualashet Mekonen	African Child Policy Forum	mekonen@africanchildforum.org
47	Melhiku Tiruneh	African Child Policy Forum	tiruneh@africanchildforum.org
48	Kiran Bhatia	UNFPA/SAIEVAC	Bhatia@unfpa.org
50	Milen Kidane	UNICEF-ESARO	mkidane@unicef.org
51	Inbal Sansani	International Rescue Committee	Inbal.sansani@rescue.org
52	Assefa Bequele	ACPF	Assefa.bequele@africanchildforum.org
53	Senait G/medhen	ANPPCAN-Ethiopia	Segm.2007@yahoo.com
54	Ambassador Antonio Luiz Cotrim	Embassy of Portugal	embportaddis@gmail.com
55	Eileen Carter	Dept of Justice, South Africa	Eisnyders@justice.gov.za
56	Dr Moushira Khattab		moushira@e-khattab.com
57	Ikponwosa Ero	Under the Same Sun	ik@theashteam.com
58	Samira Mouaci	Regional Office Eastern Africa OHCHR	smouaci@uneca.org
59	Chikwe Mbweeda	Plan Ethiopia	Chikwe.mbweeda@plan-international.org
60	Hephzibah/Hellen Tombo	Plan RESA	Hellen.tombo@plan-international.org
61	Sarah Stevenson	Plan International	Sarah.stevenson@plan-international.org
62	Fiyola Hoosen-Steele	Plan UN Office (New York)	Fiyola.hoosen-steele@plan-international.org
63	Ann-Kristin Vervik	Office of the SRSG	avervik@unicef.org