HARMONISATION
OF CHILDREN’S LAWS IN GAMBIA
HARMONISATION OF CHILDREN'S LAWS IN THE GAMBIA

COUNTRY BRIEF

Abstract

The Gambia, though one of the smallest and poorest states in Africa, has made impressive strides in the promotion and protection of children’s rights. Despite having a predominantly Muslim population, the harmonisation of Gambia’s laws dealing with children are reasonably compliant with the CRC and the ACRWC. The Children’s Act of 2005 has been quite successful in bringing together almost all formerly scattered laws dealing with children. Subsequent laws on issues concerning children have been enacted in compliance with the standards in the CRC and the ACRWC, for example, subsequent enactments have complied with the definition of the child as provided in the CRC and the ACRWC.

1. INTRODUCTION

With a population of between 1.4 and 1.5 million people,¹ the Republic of Gambia (Gambia) is one of the smallest countries in West Africa. About 50% of the total population are persons below the age of 18 years. Besides Banjul, the capital city, the Gambia is divided into five administrative regions each headed by a Regional Commissioner appointed by the president of the Republic. The regions are further sub-divided into over 40 districts each headed by a chief, while Banjul, a municipality is headed by an elected mayor.²

The Gambia is a multi-ethnic nation, the major ethnic groups being the Mandika, the Fula, Wolof, Jola and Sarahuleh, and over 90% of the population comprises of Muslims. However, the supreme law of the land is the 1997 Constitution of the Republic of the Gambia although customary law, especially Islamic law is very influential in the affairs of the nation, especially at the private level. Gambia gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1965, thus the legal system is based on English common law, with customary law and Sharia law forming a significant part of the legal system.

Although a dualist state in terms of the reception of international law into its domestic legal system, international law prevails over domestic law in cases of conflict.³ This highlights the fact that ‘the gap between domestic law and international law is bridged through judicial application of international human rights rules within the domestic sphere’.⁴ Gambia ratified the CRC on 3 August 1990, the ACRWC on 14 December 2000, and the two Optional Protocols to the CRC in 2008. The ILO Conventions 182 and 138 (regarding the Worst Forms of Child Labour and Minimum Age for Employment) have also been ratified by Gambia.

¹ Official results of the census conducted in 2003.
³ This position was tested and settled in the Gambian case of Garrison vs. the Attorney General (1992), where recourse was made to the provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights.
2. GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Section 29 of the 1997 Constitution of the Republic of the Gambia provides for the rights of children, specifically the rights to a name and nationality, protection from economic exploitation and for juvenile offenders to be kept separately from adults.

In compliance with one of the recommendations on the initial state party report of the Gambia made by the United Nations committee on the Rights of the Child (UN Committee) a review of all existing laws applicable to children was carried out resulting in the enactment of the Children’s Act of 2005. The Act repealed a number of separate laws dealing with children, such as the Children and Young Persons Act, the Adoption Act of 1992, and the Maintenance of Children’s Act 1988. It also amended some provisions in some existing laws such as the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Wills Act, among others.

3. DEFINITION OF THE CHILD

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 years in the Gambian Children’s Act, overruling the differing ages of the child previously defined in different pieces of legislation prior to the enactment of the Act.\(^5\) The Act has indeed settled the matter of definition of the child as subsequent legal enactments in the Gambia have conformed to this standard, in accordance with the CRC and the ACRWC.\(^6\)

However, the minimum age for employment for light work is 16 years although children may only be engaged in light work and are prohibited from working at night.\(^7\) Significantly, in accordance with the provision of the ACRWC, no child below the age of 18 years may be recruited into the armed forces.\(^8\)

The Children’s Act does not provide for the age for sexual consent but prohibits marriage to anyone less than 18 years and also prohibits the prostitution and seduction of children, as well as any act encouraging such.\(^9\) In terms of the 1997 Constitution, only ‘men and women of full age and capacity shall have the right to marry and found a family’.\(^10\) Full age and capacity generally refers to the age of 18 years and above, as marriage ‘shall be based on the free and full consent of the intended parties’.\(^11\) The minimum age of criminal responsibility is 12 years as per section 209 of the Children’s Act.

---

\(^5\) Examples include the old Maintenance Act which defined a child as one below 21 years and the Child and young Persons Act which defined a young person as one who had attained the age of 14 years but is under the age of 17.
\(^6\) See the Trafficking in Person’s Act 2007 which also defines a child as a person below 18 years.
\(^7\) See sections 42-43 of the Children’s Act 2007 of the Gambia.
\(^8\) See Sec. 59, Children’s Act 2007.
\(^9\) See generally sections 24, 27, 29 & 30 of the Children’s Act.
\(^10\) Sec. 27(1) of the 1997 Constitution.
\(^11\) Sec. 27(2) of the 1997 Constitution.
Table showing the definition of a child in Gambia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition of a child</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of majority</td>
<td>18 (Electoral majority)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum age of employment</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum age of sexual consent</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum age of marriage</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum age of criminal responsibility</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum age of recruitment into the army</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. THE FOUR GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The best interests of the child: The best interests of the child principle is embedded in the 1997 Constitution in terms of the child’s right to a name, nationality and care by their family; that children have a right to know and be cared for by their parents, ‘subject to legislation enacted in the best interest of the child.’

Under the Children’s Act, section 3 (1) provides that ‘the best interest of the child shall be the paramount consideration by any court, institution, person or other body in determining any question concerning a child’. Section 3 (2) goes further and provides that ‘a court, institution, person or any other body shall, in determining what is the best interest of child, have regard, in particular to–

a) Any harm that the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering; 
b) The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child concerned, considered in the light of his or her age and understanding; 
c) The child’s physical, emotional and educational needs; 
d) The likely effect of any changes in the child’s circumstances; 
e) The child’s age, sex background and any other circumstances relevant in the matter; and 
f) Where relevant, the capacity of the child’s parents or guardian or any other person involved in the care of the child in meeting the child’s needs’.

This elaboration is instructive in that it helps to clarify any vagueness or ambiguity that the principle of the best interests of the child may evoke. Despite this provision however, divorce proceedings in Islamic courts do not provide for the best interest of the child as the overriding or guiding factor in determining custody of the child. Under Islamic law, a male child below the age of 7 years and a female child below the age of 9 years are almost automatically left in their mother’s custody, but upon attaining the ages of 7 and 9 respectively, custody rights are automatically transferred to the father, regardless of what might be in the best interest of the child. Thus, given that the majority of Gambians are Muslim, the principle may therefore not be practically applied in all cases affecting the child, and this calls into question the quest for harmonisation.

Non-discrimination: Section 33 of the 1997 Constitution provides for the equality of all persons before the law, and prohibits any law which is inherently discriminatory or discriminatory in its effect.

No one ‘acting by virtue of any law or in the performance of the functions of any public office or any

---

12 See section 29(1) of the 1997 Constitution. 
13 Sec. 33(1) & (2) of the 1997 Constitution.
public authority’ may treat any person (including children) in a discriminatory manner.\textsuperscript{14} The Constitution further defines ‘discrimination’ as differential on the basis of subjective factors such as status of birth, race, national origin, etc.\textsuperscript{15}

The Children’s Act however makes no specific reference to non-discrimination, but provides that ‘it shall be the duty of any person having custody of a child to protect the child from discrimination, violence, abuse and neglect’.\textsuperscript{16} The manner in which this duty of protection from discrimination is to be exercised is unclear.

However, despite the provisions of the Constitution and the Children’s Act, discrimination still exists against some children. For example, in relation to matters of inheritance the girl-child is discriminated against under Islamic law and some customary practices. Children born out of wedlock are also discriminated against as far as the right of inheritance is concerned, since Islam generally does not recognise the paternity of children born out of wedlock. Although the relevant legislations prohibit marriage for children below 18, many girls are married off between the ages of 12 and 17 under customary law.

\textbf{The right to life, survival and development:} Section 18 of the Constitution guarantees the right to life. The death penalty shall not be imposed except for offences for which it is prescribed by law.\textsuperscript{17} Although the Constitution provides for a review of the death penalty with a view towards its abolition as it stands now, young offenders may be sentenced to death if found guilty of serious crimes attracting the death penalty.

The Criminal Code further extends the right to life to the unborn child by making it an offence to abort a child where the mother faces no immediate health risk or threat to her own survival.\textsuperscript{18} Infanticide and child destruction are also prohibited and attract a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.\textsuperscript{19} Family heads, masters and other people in charge of others have a duty to provide for their children, apprentices and other dependants under the ages of 14 and 16 years.\textsuperscript{20}

In harmonising all Gambian laws on life and survival as it applies to children, the Children’s Act states that ‘every child has the right to survival and development’,\textsuperscript{21} and goes further to give a child the right to bring a claim for damages against a person for wilful, negligent or reckless acts in contravention of the child’s right to life.\textsuperscript{22}

As at 2010, the maternal mortality rate per 1,000 births in Gambia stood at 400, while under-five mortality rate per 1,000 births stood at 106.\textsuperscript{23} There are five mid-wives per 1,000 live births and the risk of death for pregnant women is 1 in 49.\textsuperscript{24} In order to make the available legislation effective, efforts are required to address the challenges of institutional capacity, prioritising this infant mortality

\textsuperscript{14} Sec. 33(3) of the Constitution.
\textsuperscript{15} Sec. 33(4) of the Constitution.
\textsuperscript{16} Sec. 21(2), Children’s Act.
\textsuperscript{17} Sec. 18(2) of the Constitution.
\textsuperscript{18} Sec. 140 of the Gambian Criminal Code.
\textsuperscript{19} Sec. 197 & sec. 198 of the Gambian Criminal Code.
\textsuperscript{20} See generally sections 18-20 of the Gambian Criminal Code. See also sections 155-157 which prohibit neglecting to provide welfare needs of the child such as food and the prohibition of the desertion of children below the age of 14 years, now 18 years in terms of the Children’s Act.
\textsuperscript{21} Sec. 6 of the Children’s Act.
\textsuperscript{22} Sec. 13(1) of the Children’s Act.
\textsuperscript{23} United Nations Population Fund ‘State of the World’s Midwifery’, June 2011. The aim of this report is to highlight ways in which the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved, particularly Goal 4 on the reduction of child mortality and goal 5 on the reduction of maternal death.
\textsuperscript{24} As above.
in budgetary allocations, and addressing socio-economic and socio-cultural problems of poverty and illiteracy, among others.

Respect for the views of the Child: Section 17 of the Children’s Act recognises the child’s right to express opinions on matters affecting the child and to have those views listened to and given due regard, in line with Article 12 of the CRC. The first assembly of children in the Gambia providing a platform for child participation in national affairs affecting them was held in 2003. Through this process, children were able to make critical inputs to key national documents and to interact and engage with key adult leaders of the country including members of the National Assembly. An offshoot of this forum was the adoption of a policy to establish the Children’s National Assembly of the Gambia. Three children also formed part of the Gambian delegation to the World Summit for Children.

A number of civil society organisations have been instrumental in providing fora and opportunities for child participation through the media and in schools. This is an attempt to counteract the cultural tendency of expecting passivity from children rather than active participation in matters affecting them.

5. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Section 29(1) of the Gambian Constitution provides: ‘Children shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality, and subject to legislation enacted in the best interest of children, to know and be cared for by their parents.’ Section 8 of Children’s Act also provides for the child’s right to acquire a nationality.’ The Birth, Death and Marriage Registration Act of Gambia regulates the registration of births. Additionally, the Secretary of State can in terms of the Nationality and Citizenship Act, register a minor child of any Gambian citizen upon application by a parent or guardian.

In terms of section 7 of the Children’s Act, the child ‘shall be given a name on his or her birth or on such other dates as is dictated by the culture of his or her parents or guardians’. This provision accommodates the cultural and religious factors which influence the naming of the child in terms of time period. The birth of a child is to be registered in accordance with the relevant law. The registration of births in Gambia is still quite low however due to factors such as the small number of hospital births and delays in the issuance of birth certificates. Due to factors such as poverty and non-accessibility of birth registration offices or centres, registration in the rural areas is at a much lower rate compared to registration in the urban areas.

25 UNICEF together with other NGO such as Action Aid, Worldview International Foundation and the Catholic Relief Services have been planning and implementing programmes targeted at enhancing the welfare and development of children for the enjoyment of the right to life, survival and development.
26 See also section 16 of the Children’s Act which provides for the child’s right to participate in sports and other leisure activities.
27 This was the UNICEF sponsored National Forum on Children.
28 Examples of such initiatives include the establishment of youth clubs in schools and the involvement of Gambia in the International Children’s Day of Broadcasting (ICDB). There are also a number of television and radio programmes dedicated to children to air their opinions on several matters of interest to them.
29 Sec. 4(1), Nationality and Citizenship Act of Gambia. See also section 4(2) which gives discretionary powers to the Secretary to register any minor child as a Gambian citizen. This provision may be applicable to children born to parents either or both of whom are not necessarily Gambian citizens. A birth certificate does not automatically confer nationality or citizenship in the Gambia.
30 Sec. 7(1), Children’s Act.
31 Sec. 7(2), Children’s Act.
6. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES, FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE

Section 11 of the Children’s Act guarantees the right to parental care, protection and maintenance as well as the right of the child to live with his or her parents.\textsuperscript{32} No child is to be separated from the parents unless by judicial determination based on the child’s best interests.\textsuperscript{33}

Where a child is separated from one of the parents, he or she has a right to maintain personal relations and contact with the parent(s) regularly.\textsuperscript{34} The child also has a right to maintenance by the parents or guardians according to their means.\textsuperscript{35} These provisions encapsulate what amounts to parental responsibilities and the child’s right to a family or family environment.\textsuperscript{36}

With regards to alternative care, Gambia has not yet acceded to the 1993 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoptions. However, Part IX of the Children’s Act, 2005 provides the necessary framework for the regulation of adoptions, both domestic and international. The process is regulated by the Children’s Court subject to the provisions of the Adoption Act. But no process has yet been put in place to regulate informal adoptions practised widely within the extended family system, which in many cases conflict with the best interests of the child. Nonetheless, the extended family system remains the most effective source of support for most orphans rather than institutional care. The Department of Social Welfare and the SOS Children’s Village provide institutional support for orphans and abandoned children. Given the traditional role of the extended family in taking care of children deprived of a family environment, the Children’s Act makes provision for the care and protection of children generally, but not specific to children deprived of a family environment.\textsuperscript{37}

7. HEALTH AND DISABILITY

The child’s right to basic health services is guaranteed under the 1997 Constitution of Gambia. The responsibility for securing this right lies with the Department of State for Health and Social Welfare. The functions of the department include, among others, service provision, regulation, resource mobilisation, and health policy planning and implementation. Based on this, there is a recently drafted health master plan 2007-2020 which outlines government’s long-term goal to provide universally accepted health services to Gambians.

Every Gambian child has the right to health to be secured by ‘every government, parent, guardian, institution, service, agency, organization or body responsible for the care of a child.’\textsuperscript{38} Progress has however been slow as evidenced by the mortality rates already highlighted. Section 19 of the Children’s Act also prohibits the subjection of children to practices that are prejudicial to their health.

The major childhood diseases responsible for the death of over 60% of children include malaria and diarrhoea while major challenges to the realisation of children’s right to health include insufficient human, material and financial resources and the stigma attached to certain health problems such as HIV/AIDS.

\textsuperscript{32} Sec. 11(1), Children’s Act.  
\textsuperscript{33} Sec. 11(2), Children’s Act.  
\textsuperscript{34} Sec. 11(3), Children’s Act.  
\textsuperscript{35} Sec. 11(4), Children’s Act.  
\textsuperscript{36} See also sections 20-21 of the Children’s Act that spell out the duties of parents to the child within the family environment. These include the provision of an adequate diet, immunization, education and guidance as well as clothing and shelter.  
\textsuperscript{37} See Part VII of the Children’s Act.  
\textsuperscript{38} Sec. 9(1) & (2), Children’s Act.
The Gambian Constitution recognises the right of persons with disabilities to respect and human dignity. Securing respect and dignity for persons with disabilities requires special health and social interventions which take into account the condition of these persons.

**8. EDUCATION**

‘Every child has a right to free and compulsory basic education’, and ‘every parent or guardian shall ensure that his or her child or ward attends and completes basic education.’ The 1997 Constitution provides for the right of all persons to ‘equal educational opportunities and facilities’. While basic education shall be ‘free, compulsory and made available to all’, secondary education (including vocational and technical education) shall progressively be made ‘generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means’, and ‘functional literacy shall be encouraged or intensified as far as possible.

The Department of State for Education is primarily responsible for the delivery of education services in Gambia. Its functions are carried out in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare, which administers sponsorship schemes for children in need of special protection, the Department of State for Youth and Sports, the NGO community and religious missions which provide vocational education, among others. The lack of adequate infrastructure and resources has however hampered the implementation of the right to education, and about 20% of school-age children attend Koranic schools.

The key institution for vocational/technical education is the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI), which provides two-year programs in mechanical, electrical and construction engineering, computer technology and commercial subjects to about 1,200 full-time and part-time students. The Banjul Skills Centre, with the capacity for 200 students, prepares Grade 9 graduates for entry into GTTI. There are over 30 other training institutions in the Gambia which are privately funded.

In terms of the Education For All campaign (EFA) under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Gambia launched the ‘Big Bang Education Campaign’ in 2002, with a focus on eliminating discrimination against the girl-child in accessing education and achieving gender parity in school attendance, among others. The campaign also focused on the rural areas. The campaign has been very successful in meeting its target, and provides a model that can be borrowed by other African countries.

An area of concern in the Gambia with regards to children’s right to education is the informal school system for Muslim children, as the advancement made in educating children has not significantly impacted on that system. Teachings are based on the Holy Quran, and attempts to mainstream this system into the formal educational system have not been very successful. In addition, many of the children under the system often end up working or begging on the streets for their teachers or masters.

---

40 Sec. 18(1), Children’s Act.
41 Sec. 18(2), Children’s Act.
42 Sec. 30, 1997 Constitution.
43 Sec. 30(a)-(d), 1997 Constitution.
44 Bureau of International Labor Affairs (2002).
45 See Gambia Technical Training Institute at <http://www.gtti.gm/about.php>
47 As above.
9. VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

Section 21 of the Constitution prohibits torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In addition, section 19 of the Children’s Act also prohibits the subjection of any child to any social and cultural practise that affects the welfare, dignity, normal growth and development of the child, particularly those that are discriminatory against the child or prejudicial to the child’s health. The Children’s Act provides that parents have the duty to ‘ensure that domestic discipline is administered with humanity and in a manner consistent with the inherent dignity of the child’, corporal punishment is generally not considered to be illegal and is widely imposed. Cases of violence stemming from corporal punishment and other acts largely go unreported due to a long established culture of silence and even shielding the perpetrator. However, with regards to corporal punishment in schools, the Department of State for Basic and Secondary Education developed and distributed guidelines for maintaining discipline in schools without using corporal punishment, and in 2006 UNICEF and the government of Gambia produced a guide for teachers, ‘Promoting Alternative Discipline’.

For children in conflict with the law, the Constitution expressly prohibits keeping children and adult offenders together. A significant achievement of the Children’s Act is the establishment of a children’s court to deal with criminal matters affecting children separate from the mainstream justice system. The Tourism Offences Act of 2003 deals with sexual exploitation and criminalizes sexual offences of tourism against children as well as trafficking in children. This Act was subsequently followed by the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Act. Sex tourism has been on the rise in Gambia due to the increase in its profile as a tourist destination. Section 31 of the Children’s Act prohibits the procurement of a child for prostitution, pornography, drug trafficking and use in armed conflict. Section 32 further prohibits foreign travel which promotes child prostitution and section 33 prohibits unlawful detention with intent to defile. Section 34 prohibits the procuring of a child by threats or fraud or through administration of drugs while section 37 prohibits the buying or selling of children for immoral purposes. The Act also prohibits trafficking in children in section 39.

With regards to protection of children from exploitative labour, the Labour Act of 2007 prohibits children from working in public or private agriculture industries or non-industrial undertakings except for vocational, technical school or other training institutions that are approved and supervised by public authorities. It also prohibits children from working in hazardous conditions harmful to their health, safety, education, morals or development. The Department of Labour under the Department of State for Trade, Industry and Employment is responsible for implementing provisions on the worst forms of child labour. Employers are required to keep a register of all children in their employ detailing their date of birth or age, and all employees are given employee labour cards that include their age. These cards are registered with the labour commission, which is authorized to enforce child labour laws. Penalties for child labour violations range from a fine to imprisonment for up to five years.

Special protection measures are in place for refugee children in terms of the Refugee Act of 2008.

48 Sec. 22(c), Children’s Act.
49 Sec. 29(3), 1997 Constitution.
50 Sec. 88, Children’s Act.
10. TABLES SHOWING RATIFICATION OF RELEVANT TREATIES, STATUS OF REPORTING TO THE COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIP THEREOF

1. Ratification of Child Related Instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty</th>
<th>Date of Ratification (or signature if not ratified)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional Protocol on the Involvement of the Child in Armed Conflict (OPAC), 2000</td>
<td>Signature, 21/12/2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OPCP), 2011</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 2006</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 182 on Worst forms of Child Labour, 1999</td>
<td>Ratification, 3/7/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hague Convention on International Child Abduction, 1980</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hague Convention on Inter country Adoption, 1993</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hague Convention on Parental Responsibility and Protection of Children, 1996</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hague Convention on Child Support and other Forms of Family Maintenance, 2007</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Table of the reporting status to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial Report</th>
<th>Second and third</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACERWC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Committee</td>
<td>20 Nov 1999</td>
<td>20 Nov. 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Shadow reports submitted to the UN Committee and to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child - The Gambia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (shadow reports on the CRC,OPSC,OPAC)</th>
<th>African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Time of report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Association of NGOs (TANGO) the Gambia</td>
<td>January 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Membership to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACERWC</th>
<th>UN Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Useful links to background documents used