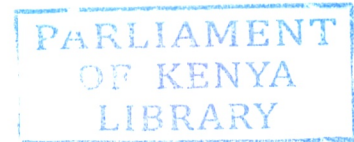


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DATE	06/10/2022
TABLED BY	Senate Majority Leader
COMMITTEE	—
CLERK AT THE TABLE	Angela Macharia

EALA/RES/4/09/2022



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY  
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDING TO THE COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS TO URGE PARTNER STATES TO STRENGTHEN FRAMEWORKS  
FOR ERADICATING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE COMMUNITY**

*(Moved under Articles 7 (2), 49(2)(d), 59(1), 120 (c) of the Treaty and Rule 26 of  
the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly)*

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**Moved by: Hon. Dr. Woda Jeremiah Odok and adopted by the August House  
on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

**WHEREAS** under Article 7 (2) of the Treaty Partner States undertook to maintain universally accepted standards of human rights which include the protection of children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;

**AND WHEREAS** the Partner States have committed under Article 120 (c) of the Treaty to closely cooperate amongst themselves in the field of social welfare with respect to the development and adoption of a common approach towards the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, who include, among others, children;

**RECALLING** the commitment of the Partner States under Articles 21 and 27 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to take all appropriate measures to eliminate harmful social and cultural practices affecting the welfare, dignity, normal growth and development of the child and to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including the inducement, coercion or encouragement of a child to engage in any sexual activity and the use of children in prostitution or other sexual practices;

**FURTHER RECALLING** the commitment of all the Partner States under Article 34 and 35 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which require parties to the Convention to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;

**RECOGNISING** that child sexual abuse represents a global human rights violation of vast proportions with severe immediate and long-term health and social consequences to the children who are victims or affected by it and who the Partner States have committed to protect;

**NOTING** the prevalence of media and other reports of several incidents of child sexual abuse among the Partner States which are reported in a variety of settings and locations including within the home or family, in schools, on the road, fields, childcare and justice institutions, online and public open spaces;

**FURTHER NOTING** that child sexual abuse takes different forms including sexual assault, indecent exposure of children in the social media, child-grooming, child sexual exploitation, including using images of children to produce child pornography and child sex tourism;

**AWARE** that sexual abuse and exploitation of children is perpetuated by several factors that include, rapid social change, the myths surrounding the cure of HIV/AIDS and other harmful traditional practices, the patriarchal nature of our societies and the societal attitudes and acceptance of physical and sexual violence against women;

**GRATEFUL** to the Partner States for adopting policies and laws to prevent and punish child sexual abuse as a criminal offense through their penal or criminal codes and under separate sexual offences laws and for putting in place post-abuse services such as medical and HIV/AIDS treatment to victims of child sexual abuse;

**CONCERNED** that despite the existing policies and legal frameworks, the number of child sexual abuse cases in the Community is on the rise and various challenges still constrain any significant action against the phenomenon, including lack of public



awareness, limited capacity of law enforcement officers to handle such sensitive and complex issues and fear of the victims to report sex abusers due to generally negative social reactions to disclosure;

**FURTHER CONCERNED** that if the Community does not enhance the legal, policy and administrative measures for protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, the adverse effects associated with this abuse such as the physical injury, death, infections and sexually transmitted diseases, neurological damage, psychopathology including depression, anxiety, eating disorder, poor self-esteem, sleep disturbances and post-traumatic stress disorder will continue to affect our children;

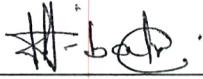
**COGNISANT** of the provisions of Article 49 (2) (d) of the Treaty, which empowers the Assembly to discuss any matter pertaining to the Community and make recommendations to the Council;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS FOLLOWS: -**

**THAT** in accordance with Article 49(2)(d) of the Treaty, the Assembly recommends to the Council of Ministers to:

- (a) Strengthen the regional policies and measures to protect children against sexual abuse and exploitation;
- (b) Direct the Secretariat to priorities and step-up efforts to sensitize the Community about the dangers of child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation;
- (c) Urge the Partner States to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers to efficiently handle cases of child sex abuse.
- (d) Urge the Partner States to enhance the provision of comprehensive psychological, medical and financial support services to victims and survivors of child sex abuse and sexual exploitation.

**CERTIFIED BY:**



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Alex Obatre  
**CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY**

21.06.2022

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**DATE**