

# **INTERNATIONAL FAMILY LAW SYMPOSIUM IAFL WITH EALS AND CLA 2 September 2025**

## ***Session Resources Pack Session 3 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child***

*Tuesday 2 September 2025  
11:00 - 11:15*

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## **PAT MOODLEY BA LLB LLM**

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During 35 years career in law, Pat Moodley has practised as an attorney, been a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Dean of the Law Faculty at the now University of Kwa Zulu Natal and spent 27-year term with the Department of Justice.

In these 27 years, Pat:

- was the first Black State Law Advisor appointed to the SA Law Reform Commission, responsible for drafting the Child Justice Act and helped draft the Children's Act and Sexual Offences Act
- served as a Family Court Magistrate
- was appointed Provincial Head of the Department of Justice, Kwa Zulu Natal

Pat has completed a Diplomatic Training course (Washington DC); participated in the Child Law programme (London Metropolitan University); trained Judicial Officers (Namibia and Kenya). She has presented papers on Family and Child Law at conferences and is an accredited Family Law Mediator and Arbitrator.

## **TIMOTHY EKESA**

**Executive Director  
Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children**

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Mr. Timothy Ekesa is the Executive Director of Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR) – a membership body of over 250 NGOs in Kenya and a member of UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2025 – 2029). He has over 29 years' experience of working with children in Kenya having held various positions as Program Officer, Coordinator, Deputy Director and Director. As the head of KAACR – which is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN, Observer Status with ACERWC and local partner of ECPAT International, he is actively involved in local, national and international child rights lobbying and advocacy work.

He has wide experience in children and youth matters having been a panelist at the 13th session of the Human Rights Council Rights of the Child Day in 2010 in Geneva. He has participated in study of children institutions in three state of the USA (2000) under the African Child Law Initiative, study tour of Child labor free zones in Hyderabad, India (2009), the 3rd World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Adolescents in Rio Janeiro, Brazil (2008), study of role of municipalities in protecting children in Stockholm, Sweden (2007), participated in A20 Global Social Leadership Summit on Child Advocacy in Beijing, China (2019), exchange visit to Toronto, Montreal Canada (2019), Nepal (2023, exchange visit to Kathmandu, Nepal (2023), 7th China - Africa People's Forum and the 7th China Africa Young Leaders Forum, Changsha, China (2024) and Conference on Child Rights and Digital Environment, Tbilisi, Georgia (2025). He has participated in several annual UN Commission on Status of Women sessions in New York, USA among other child initiatives.

He is one of the three founder members of ChildLine Kenya – a toll-free child help line 116 (2006), Board member of Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (2020 – current), representative of East and Southern Africa Region (ESAR) on ECPAT International Board & member of ECPAT Supervisory Board (2020 – 2023), member of the National Council of Children Services (NCCS) (2015 – 2019) and member of ACK Language and Orientation Board (2017 – current).

Mr. Ekesa is a Development Worker who holds a Master's of Science Degree in Organizational Development from United States International University (USIU) – Africa, an undergraduate Degree in Communications and Community Development from Messiah College through Daystar University - Kenya, a Diploma in NGO Development and Management from Galilee College, Israel and MA International Relations & Diplomacy, IDIS, University of Nairobi (coursework).

# COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF FAMILY LAWYERS (IAFL)  
SYMPOSIUM, 2025

THE TRADEMARK HOTEL, NAIROBI

2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025

BY TIM, EKESA  
DIRECTOR KAACR & MEMBER OF UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



## Outline of Presentation

- Introduction
- UN Treaty Bodies
- Composition of CRC
- Work of the Committee
- Composition of TB committees



## Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR)

- National umbrella body for NGO's cooperation & exchange of information on children's rights in Kenya, founded on basis of UNCRC
- Membership of over 250 children agencies in Kenya
- Registered national NGO under NGO Coordination Act of 1990 in 1995
- NGO with Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of United Nations (2000)
- Observer Status with African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) – (2018)
- Member of Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (2018)
- Member of ECPAT International (2019)
- Board Member Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (2020)



## Attributes

- Founding Director of Child Line Kenya – Child Helpline 116
- Member of Executive Committee of World Leisure Commission on Children & Youth, University of Northern Iowa, USA
- Member of National Council of Children Services
- Board Member of 14 Country Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN)
- Regional representative of ECPAT International for Southern & Eastern Africa
- Member of ECPAT International Global Supervisory Board
- AGO Global Social Leadership – Child Advocacy



## UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 1965 (CERD) - 18
- International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights ICCPR), 1966 (HRC) - 18
- International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (CESCR), 1966 - 18
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979 - 23
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984 (CAT) - 10



- Committee on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (CRC) – 18

- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 2003 - 14
- Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)2006 (SPT) - 25
- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 2007 - 18
- Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), 2010  
10



## Work of UN Committee on Rights of the Child

- The Committee on the Rights of the Child is a body of experts that monitor and report on the implementation of the UNCRC since 1991
- UNCRC is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect children's rights. The CRC explains who children are, all their rights, and the responsibilities of governments



## Composition of CRC members

- CRC is composed of 18 independent experts who are persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights
- Members are elected for a term of 4 years by States parties in accordance with Article 43 of the CRC, which states "*The members of the Committee shall be elected by States parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, as well as to the principal legal systems*".
- Members serve in their personal capacity and may be re-elected if nominated.





## Current CRC members

- 🌍 **Ms. Sofie Kiladze\*\*\* C – Georgia**
- 🌍 Mr. Philip D. Jaffe\*\* VC - Switzerland
- 🌍 Ms. Mary Beloff\*\* - VC - Argentina
- 🌍 Ms. Thuwayba Al Barwani\*\* VC- Oman
- 🌍 **Mr. Cephas Lumina\*\*\* VC & Rapporteur – Zambia**
- 🌍 Ms. Suzanne Aho\*\* - Togo
- 🌍 Ms. Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi \*\* - Morocco
- 🌍 **Mr. Rinchen Chopel\*\*\* - Bhutan**
- 🌍 Ms. Rosaria Correa\*\* - Panama
- 🌍 **Mr. Timothy Ekesa\*\*\* - Kenya**
- 🌍 Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson\*\* – Iceland
- 🌍 Ms. Faith Marshall Harris\*\* - Barbados
- 🌍 **Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur\*\*\* - Ethiopia**
- 🌍 Ms. Aissatou Alassane Sidiku\*\* - Niger
- 🌍 **Ms. Mariana Ianachevici\*\*\* - Moldova**
- 🌍 **Ms. Juliana Scerri Ferrante \*\*\* – Malta**
- 🌍 **Ms. Zeinebou Taleb Moussa\*\*\* - Mauritania**
- 🌍 **Mr. Benoit van Keirsbilck\*\*\* - Belgium**

Term Expires on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2027

Term Expires on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2029\*\*



## CRC Composition 2025

🌍 From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025, the membership of the CRC Committee consists of 11 women & 7 men

🌍 2 - Asia-Pacific

🌍 2 - Eastern Europe

🌍 3 - GLULAC (Latin America & the Caribbean)

🌍 4 - WEOG

🌍 7 - Africa

## Work of the Committee on Rights of the Child

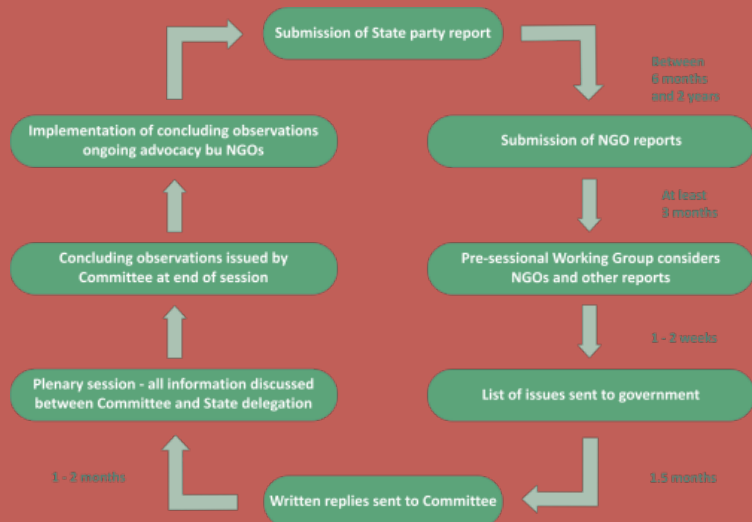
- 📋 **Monitoring State Parties' Compliance:** Reviewing reports that State parties submit periodically on how they are implementing CRC and its optional protocols to assess whether states are meeting their obligations to protect and promote children's rights.
- 📋 **Examining Country Reports:** Examining reports submitted by State parties (initial and periodic) and providing **Concluding Observations**, which include recommendations to improve situation of children in those countries.
- 📋 **Engaging with Stakeholders:** Interacting with stakeholders i.e. NGOs, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and UN agencies, to gather **additional** information on situation of children's rights in different countries.
- 📋 **General Comments:** Issue **General Comments** to clarify the provisions of the CRC and its 3 OPs, providing guidance to states on how to better implement the rights enshrined in the convention.



- 📋 **Considering Individual Complaints:** Consider complaints or communications from individuals or groups alleging violations of children's rights, provided that the State concerned has ratified the protocol.
- 📋 **Conducting Inquiries:** For States that have accepted this procedure, can carry out inquiries into grave or systematic violations of children's rights
- 📋 **Advisory Role:** Advise and cooperate with other UN bodies, such as the UN General Assembly and the OHCHR, on matters concerning children's rights
- 📋 **Promoting Awareness:** Promote understanding and awareness of children's rights globally, often collaborating with international organizations, NGOs, and experts in children's rights
- 📋 **Capacity Building:** Supports capacity-building initiatives in states to help them implement the CRC effectively, including training for government officials, legal professionals, and others involved in child protection.



## CRC Reporting Cycle



## Upcoming elections to TBs

2025 (CAT, CED, CMW)

2026 (SPT, CCPR, CESC, CEDAW, CRDP)

2027 (CAT, CED, CRC CMW)



## Gender distribution of TB members January 2025

Treaty Body	Number of members by TB	Women	%	Men	%
CERD	18	8	44%	10	56%
HRCtee	18	6	33%	12	67%
CESCR	18	8	44%	10	56%
CEDAW	23	22	96%	1	4%
CAT	10	2	20%	8	80%
CRC	18	11	61%	7	39%
CMW	14	4	29%	10	71%
SPT	25	13	52%	12	48%
CRPD	18	10	56%	8	44%
CED	10	4	40%	6	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>49%</b>



## Geographical distribution of TB members Jan 2025

Membership and ratification ratio of the treaty bodies by UNGA geographical regions

Geographical Regions by UNGA	Number of members	%	Number of ratifications*	%
African	49	28	443	29
Asia-Pacific	29	17	338	22
Eastern European	25	15	197	13
Latin American and Caribbean	31	18	270	18
Western Europe and Other	37	22	244	16
Non-member**	1	1	19	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1511</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* The number of ratifications only includes ratifications/accessions/successions to main treaties. Ratifications to OPs, declarations and acceptance of procedures have not been included. The number of ratifications may change by the end of 2025. The geographical distribution might change when SPT would have held elections in October 20

\*\* CRPD includes one member from the European Union which is considered a non-member State



# Thank you!

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#childrights, @ekesatim, @kaacr

