



## **Frontiers of Resistance - championing children's rights across ESA (FoRCESA) Community of Practice**

### **Draft Terms of Reference**

#### **Introduction**

Save the Children ESA has partnered with MIET Africa to advocate for evidence-based strengthening of education systems in the region through 21<sup>st</sup> century learning so that children's citizenship rights are exercised in and through education.

#### **Background**

Children have an internationally and regionally recognised right to participate in all decisions that affect them. The enjoyment of this right in turn depends on the protection and realisation of a full suite of children's civil and political rights, including the rights to be heard, access to information, freedom of expression, freedom of association and to express one's opinion freely. In addition, children have a right to a basic education that supports fulfilment of their rights, and which supports the development of their skills, capacities, knowledge and competencies to exercise their rights - now, and in the future as engaged citizens.

This creates a duty on the custodians of education systems to mainstream children's participatory rights in at least two respects:

1. Through institutional and educational governance arrangements that enable children to meaningfully participate in decisions regarding their education and the use of education resources; and
2. Through the provision of education based on a curriculum that supports the development and nurturing of their knowledge, skills and capacities to enable them to be engaged 21<sup>st</sup> century citizens.

In short it requires the development of education systems that are inclusive, democratic, and child-sensitive. This in turn requires that multiple role players be given the space to contribute to the transformation of education systems – and not just traditional role players in education, but also children, NGOs, those responsible for establishing and maintaining democratic principles and practise, and many more. They must all have a voice in shaping an appropriate, lawful and effective education system that provides 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

To facilitate the required levels of inclusion, dialogue and discussion, as well as cross-sectoral learning, a foundational building block of the project will be a community of practice (COP).

## **Objectives of the CoP**

- To provide a forum for the cooperation of activities where 21<sup>st</sup> century learning adds value to existing initiatives;
- To identify linkages and opportunities for collaborative strategic projects and to coordinate the delivery of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning projects
- To interrogate the viability of, and identify and capitalise on opportunities within the concept of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning as an effective vehicle for strengthening democratic and inclusive, child-sensitive governance of education systems
- To co-develop an evidence-based and consulted regional Children's Participation Framework for guiding and harmonizing the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning as a vehicle for facilitating child participation in and through education
- To harness CSTL as a vehicle for strengthening education systems to achieve the stated child participation aims through the application of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning principles and practices

## **Specific Terms of Reference**

The Community of Practice will:-

- a) Provide a platform for ensuring a diversity of role players and sharing of experiences and best practices
- b) Engage experts to co-construct a children's participation framework for the education systems
- c) Identify other key partners to be a part of the Community of Practice

## **Membership**

The members of the Community of Practice will include representatives from:

- Education sector ( MoEs)
- UN Partners
- Children's participation experts and advocates
- Child rights networks
- Human rights institutions responsible for monitoring education of children's rights and democratic practices, such as Human Rights Commissions and Electoral Commissions
- Other

## **Meetings**

In 2018, there will be one face-to-face meeting (14 June) and two e-meetings, facilitated by MIET AFRICA. The two e-meetings will be convened either via skype or telephone. The proposed months for the two e-meetings are August and October 2018.

MIET AFRICA will chair the meetings and will be responsible for facilitating discussion and ensuring that communication is appropriate and respectful. MIET AFRICA will draft and circulate the agenda timeously for CoP meetings.