

## Terms of Reference

### **DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN Advisory Committee**

Defence for Children International (DCI) is one of the leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on issues related to justice for children, with a ground presence in five continents, through 47 national sections and an International Secretariat (DCI-IS). The DCI-IS is at the heart of the DCI Movement, representing national sections at the international level, developing projects and promoting children's rights across the globe. The DCI Movement has two governing bodies: the International General Assembly (IGA) and the International Executive Council (IEC)<sup>1</sup>. The IGA is DCI's highest governing body and is composed of a representative from each national section of the Movement. The IGA steers the policies, priorities and positions of DCI and elects the President and other members of the IEC, all of whom are mandated to govern the Movement in the interim between General Assemblies. The last IGA was held in March 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland and the following should take place during the second half of 2016, in Geneva.

### Purpose

The members of the Advisory Committee are renowned experts and advocates of children's rights, who provide and guide DCI with their expertise and sound knowledge. The Advisory Committee has no governing function within Defence for Children International (DCI). However, it is a crucial organ that provides strategic guidance to the International Executive Council (IEC) of Defence for Children International (IEC-DCI) and helps ensure the success of DCI's activities and programmes at the international level.

### Responsibilities

The Advisory Committee will have the main role of guiding the content and the strategic thinking of the International Executive Council (IEC) on matters related to DCI's international advocacy strategy and lobbying actions aimed at promoting and safeguarding children's rights worldwide.

As requested by the IEC, the Advisory Committee shall:

- Review and propose recommendations concerning the development of a strategic framework for DCI's advocacy strategy;
- Advise DCI on activities related to its mandate as child rights international network, with a specific focus on justice for children;
- Review and propose recommendations on institutional priorities, for current and future strategic plans.

The Advisory Committee will also act as ambassador for the organization and raise its profile wherever the occasion is opportune. In this regard, the Advisory Committee, upon the request of the IEC, shall, depending on its availability:

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<sup>1</sup> The [International Executive Council is composed of 8 members](#)

- Assist in advancing the goals and mission of DCI, as appropriate, through public speaking, professional work, and outreach to contact networks;
- Help to facilitate the dissemination of DCI's work and achievements.

### Membership terms and selection

- The Advisory Committee shall comprise three (3) to five (5) members appointed by the IEC;
- Members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for an initial term of two (2) years, and may be re-appointed for two consecutive terms;
- Advisory Committee members shall be selected to represent a range of expertise, including members from the public sector, private sector and academia. An effort shall be made to ensure that the Advisory Committee has broad professional and geographical representation. The principle of gender equity will be taken into account;
- Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve in their individual capacity and not as a representative of any organization, special interest group or constituency;
- Advisory Committee members shall be expected to sign a Confidential Disclosure Agreement;
- Advisory Committee members may not serve as paid consultants for DCI;
- Advisory Committee members shall execute their role as members voluntarily, and shall be reimbursed for travel and other related expenses.

### Meetings

- The Advisory Committee shall hold a physical meeting at least once a year, preferably at the same time of the IEC meeting in Geneva;
- Where the need for particular advice arises, individual members or an Ad-hoc Subgroup of the Advisory Committee may be consulted between meetings by the IEC;
- The Advisory Committee shall attend the International General Assembly (IGA) of DCI organized every four years.