



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2ND EAC CHILD RIGHTS
CONFERENCE**

**THEME: “COORDINATED AND SUSTAINED INVESTMENT IN
CHILDREN**

Presented on

26TH AUGUST 2016

DESMOND TUTU CONFERENCE CENTRE

Nairobi, Kenya

The EAC is grateful to the Partner States, the Children, and the Inter Agency Working Group composed of: Save the Children, World Vision, Plan International, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation, Africa Child Policy Forum, RIATT-ESA, and the Africa Platform for Social Protection, Development Partners (UNICEF and GIZ) for making the 2nd EAC Child Rights Conference successful through their technical and financial support. Special thanks go to the State Department of East African Community Integration and State Department for Social Protection, Republic of Kenya, for

taking a leading role in the overall coordination and organization of the Conference.

1.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE

The overall objective of the Conference was to review progress and reaffirm the strong commitment of the region in promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of all children.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Investing in Children

- i. EAC to develop a plan of action to guide the implementation of the EAC Child Policy at national level.
- ii. A regional Child Rights Law be enacted by the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) to ensure equal treatment for all children in the region.
- iii. Partner States to establish Children Platforms at national level

(b) Status of Investment in Child Rights in EAC

A. National Level Strategies

- i. Put in place mechanism to promote child participation in policy planning and budgeting;
- ii. Partner States to allocate adequate resources and monitor effective utilization of resources allocated to children;

- iii. Partner States to harmonize their efforts in increasing allocation of resources under their annual budgets on children related programmes; in healthcare, education, social protection, provision of food and participation;
- iv. Partner States to put in place mechanisms to ensure accountability for results through resource tracking of the allocated budget;
- v. Partner States to allocate resources to facilitate the implementation of the EAC Child Policy

(c) Children in Conflict and Emergencies

- i. Partner States to review national policies to ensure that children in conflicts are well protected by the laws;
- ii. Invest and strengthen Early Warning Systems;
- iii. Generate and present evidence in a manner that supports better and sustainable use of resources e.g. refugee responses initiatives;
- iv. Undertake sensitization and awareness programs on children in conflict and emergency situations;
- v. Invest in disaster risk reduction measures through building capacity of the community and local people;
- vi. Sensitize children on the ills of conflict and importance of peace building and package interventions that can support peace building and address issues of conflict in schools.

(d) Ending Violence against Children

- i. Partner States should make birth registration compulsory and free of charge;
- ii. Partner State should promote the use of Child Online Protection (COP) to monitor violence against children in emergencies and radicalization;
- iii. Partner States need to share and replicate good practices on child support systems such as the Republic Rwanda Police One Stop Centre for support to child abuse cases;
- iv. Establish forums/networks for parents to discuss strategies to prevent or eliminate all forms of child abuse.

(e) Integrated approach to the implementation of child rights

- i. EAC Partner States need to define social protection in a manner that addresses not just social assistance (cash transfers) but also to include social security, social services and care;
- ii. EAC to develop a regional minimum package of services for vulnerable children – children and youth exposed to multiple vulnerabilities (poverty, disease, violence, conflict, early marriage and pregnancy, HIV, unemployment;
- iii. Social protection interventions, policies and programmes in all Partner States should be HIV inclusive; and social protection services must be flexible, age appropriate and context specific;

- iv. Social protection programmes should enhance system strengthening and should address preventive and promotive elements;
- v. Transition and graduation in social protection and in HIV & AIDS services should be done in a way that does not undo the benefits.

(f) Resourcing Child Rights Implementation

At the National Level

- i. Partner States should institute mechanisms to monitor components of children budgets in other Ministries, assess progress and ensure accountability;
- ii. Mainstream Children affairs in all sectors to ensure effective implementation strong coordination at national level;
- iii. Partner States to develop program based budgeting to inform resourcing and monitor investment in children;

At the Regional Level

- iv. EAC to develop a minimum standard package for Partner States on resourcing for Child Rights and should be anchored in national laws and adequately financed;
- v. EAC to develop a Score Card for Partner States to monitor progress on mainstreaming of children issues in programmes, projects, and activities;
- vi. EAC to develop a harmonized reporting instrument with time frames for all Partner States for increased Children coordination mechanisms

2.0 CHILDREN RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The EAC Child Policy should be translated into different languages- Kiswahili, French, Braille, video and sign language and written in child friendly version;
- ii. Partner States should appoint a Child representative to take lead on the implementation of the Policy;
- iii. The Policy should be distributed through schools to the children in EAC region;
- iv. Partner States and the EAC Secretariat to organize national and regional forums to disseminate and familiarize the children on the Policy;
- v. Partner States to ensure that children compete in Drama and Music Festivals up to the regional levels;
- vi. Partner States and EAC to introduce exchange programmes for children in the region;
- vii. Partner States should protect children being conscripted into armed conflicts.

3.0 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. EAC to expedite the establishment of the EAC Children Council;
- ii. Partner States to establish Children's Assembly at National level and work together towards establishing a Regional Children's Assembly;

- iii. Partner States to put in place measures to safeguard child-focused public expenditures in times of crises, including mobilizing international collaborations;
- iv. Development Partners and International Finance Institutions to support well-coordinated and multi-sectoral responses that prioritize and adequately meet children's needs in all sectors, including child-sensitive social protection programmes for populations in crisis-prone areas; child-centred Disaster Risk Response and policies; food and non-food items, health and education in emergency situations.
- v. Development Partners and Child Rights Agencies to support research and national data collection efforts to facilitate understanding of common issues which affect children to inform policy and collective measures;
- vi. The next EAC Child Rights Conference should ensure participation of all shades of children including those with disabilities.

Adopted this day 26th August 2016