

**AFRICAN UNION**

*African Committee of Experts on the Rights  
and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)*



**UNION AFRICAINE**

*Comité Africain d'Experts sur les Droits et le  
Bien-être de l'Enfant (CAEDBE)*

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**

*"An Africa Fit for Children"*

**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

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P. O. Box 3243 Roosevelt Street (Old Airport Area), W21K19, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Telephone: (+ 251 1) 551 3522 [Internet : http://acerwc.org](http://acerwc.org) Fax: (+ 251 1) 553 5716

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**AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD  
(ACERWC)**

**Resolution on the situations of children in the Central African Republic and Republic  
of South Sudan**

**23<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE  
CHILD (ACERWC)**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
16 April 2014**

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Committee) at its 23rd Session held from 9 – 16 April 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

**Recalling** its mandate to promote and protect the rights of children pursuant to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC);

**Further recalling** that one of the objectives of the African Union, as stipulated in Article 3(f) of its Constitutive Act, is to promote peace, security, and stability in the continent;

**Welcoming**, among others, the Decision of the African Union Assembly on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa (Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XXII)), in particular paragraphs 14-15;

**Considering** the obligation to ensure the survival, protection, and development of the child under Article 5 of the Charter;

**Bearing** in mind that the Republic of South Sudan and the Central African Republic are signatories to the Charter and are State Parties to other relevant regional and international instruments;

**Concerned** about the scale of the humanitarian challenges in the two countries, which have serious implications for the protection and well-being of children;

**Further** concerned about the number of children and civilians who have been internally displaced or have sought protection in neighbouring countries;

**Underscoring** the irreversible damages that could cause to children's development;

#### **The Committee:**

**Commends** the efforts of the Governments of South Sudan and Central African Republic the African Union, the United Nations Agencies, and the International and Non-Governmental Organizations in seeking peaceful resolutions to the conflicts and in providing humanitarian assistance, in particular to children, in the areas affected by conflict and in neighbouring countries;

**Calls on** all parties to immediately halt the violence, peacefully resolve their differences and follow through on peace agreements with children's best interests at the centre of their decisions;

**Calls on** all parties to ensure safe access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations, which would make it possible to save thousands of children who are already suffering as a result of the conflicts;

**Requests** the Governments of the Republic of South Sudan and the Central African Republic to ensure the full protection of children in their respective jurisdictions;

**Calls on** the Government of South Sudan to immediately ratify and domesticate the ACRWC;

**Decides** to undertake a mission to the Republic of South Sudan and to the Central African Republic with a view to assessing the situation of children in affected areas and supporting the efforts of the respective States.

**Adopted in Addis Ababa on 16 April 2014**