



ACERWC

African Committee of Experts on
the Rights and Welfare of the Child

**REMARKS BY HON. AVER GAVAR
VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD
AT THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE 79TH ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
14TH MAY 2024**

**H.E Hon. Rémy Ngoy Lumbu, Chairperson of the ACHPR,
Hon. Members of the Commission,
Representatives of the African Union Organs and Institutions,
Representatives of Member States,
Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities,
Representatives of International and Intergovernmental Organisations,
Representatives of National Human Rights Institutions,
Representatives of development partners, CSOs, and the media,
Distinguished guests,
All protocol observed,**

It is an honor and a genuine pleasure for me to be here today, representing the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on behalf of its Chairperson Hon. Wilson Almeida Adão before this esteemed assembly, and to take part in the opening of the 79TH Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to congratulate the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for organization its 79th Ordinary Session and for the tremendous work being done to ensure the implementation of the rights enshrined in the African Charter. I also commend the other African Union Organs, Regional Economic Communities, Member States, and various organisations and institutions present here today for their endless efforts in implementing the African Charter. This is speaks volumes about their commitment to ensure the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As one of the three human rights bodies in Africa, the Committee in carrying out its mandates under the Children's Charter is firmly committed to collaborate with other human rights organizations as well as other structures and organs of the African Union to enhance the children and human rights protection in Africa, as deeply rooted in the AU Shared Values, our AU Agenda 2063 and Africa's Agenda for Children 2040.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our longstanding collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, is a testament to our commitment to enhancing cooperation and synergy between our organizations. On this occasion, I strongly commend the recent signing, on 15 July 2023, of the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between our esteemed organs. It is also worth mentioning the very first joint retreat of legal experts from the Commission, the Committee and the African Court and the sharing visit by the legal researchers of Committee to the Commission. Furthermore, through our joint endeavors, several statements, and General Comments have been issued, including two Joint General Comments on ending Child Marriage and Female genital mutilation.

Moreover, on the margins of the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child was elected as the new Chairperson of the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture platform, succeeding the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the previous chair. Once again, we extend our congratulations to our predecessor, recognizing the significant role and successes achieved during their two-year tenure as Chairperson of the Platform. Looking ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to continue advancing human rights and building on the work achieved by the Commission, to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration among the platform Members and stakeholders to promoting democracy, governance, and human rights across the continent.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are all aware, the African Children's Charter closely co-exists with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. A treaty distinguishing the African human rights system as the only regional system that has a separate children's rights instrument. Since its establishment in 2001, the Committee has made notable achievements in the realisation of children's rights. These achievements should not, however, overshadow the challenges faced in the implementation of the Children's Charter similar to the challenges encountered by other bodies, including the

unwillingness of states to ratify the Charter as the charter has not achieved universal ratification, with five countries yet to ratify, reservations by some member states and the lack of knowledge of its mandate as the Committee's communication procedure remains the least underutilized among the African Union human rights bodies. These challenges, coupled with pressing continental issues such as conflicts, demographic shifts, and emerging threats like climate change and cybersecurity, which is a reminder of the imperative need to enforce the implementation of the African Children's Charter.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to call on all African Union Member States, African Union Organs, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Civil Society representatives and all stakeholders present here today to uphold children's rights as human rights and to work with the Committee to collectively dismantle barriers hindering the development and recognition of Children's rights across the continent.

To the civil society representatives and National Human Rights Institutions representatives present here today whose working with the Commission, I invite Non-Governmental Organizations and Associations to apply for observer Status as well for National Human Rights Institutions to apply for affiliate status before the Committee.

It is my hope that we will continue strengthening our collaboration with the Commission to sustain and enhance complementarity, synergy, and harmonization within the framework of the protectional and promotional mandates of our Organs.

I further reaffirm the unwavering commitment of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as Chair the African Governance Platform for the upcoming two years to collaborate with Members of the Platform and call for their support to the platform to promote more efficient and effective responses to the human rights, democratic and governance issues across the continent.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by highlighting that as the Committee, we pledge to continue ensuring the implementation of the African Children's Charter and the protection of children's rights in the continent so as to ensure that every child in Africa enjoys their rights.

**With these brief remarks, I wish the Commission a fruitful deliberations. I
thank you!**