



ACERWC



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP



EU-AU Joint Statement on Day of the African Child

Today, 16 June 2017, the AU and EU mark together the Day of the African Child. This year's focus is on accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030.

Promotion and protection of the rights of the child is a priority of the EU's and AU's human rights policy. We reaffirm that children's rights are indivisible, universal and inalienable. Children, especially when given equal opportunities and protected from violence, have the potential to be the greatest agents of change and contributors to sustainable development in their communities and in their countries. Despite the progress made on the realisation of children's rights on the African continent, currently millions of children are missing out on basic services not only because of poverty but also because they may face discrimination. In this vain, we call on all AU Member States to implement the Africa's Agenda for Children 2040: Fostering an Africa Fit for Children.

We warmly welcome the adoption of the EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child – Leave no Child Behind in March 2017, as well as the adoption of the Joint General Comment on Child Marriage by the African Child Committee and the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in May 2017, both of which have positive contributions for the creation of an Africa fit for children.

The EU strongly supports the work of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which is demonstrated by political dialogue and financial support.

Ranieri Sabatucci

Head of the European Union
Delegation to the African Union

Benyam Dawit Mezmur

Chairperson of the African Committee
of Experts on the Rights and Welfare
of the child

#EU4children