



Committing Africa for Action to Ending Violence against Children

A Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Ending Violence against children in Africa was held in Addis Ababa, on September 29th and 30th, 2016, organised by ACPF. A total of 106 participants from 32 countries in Africa and beyond participated in the meeting. The consultation drew interest and participation from the African Union Commission, governments' representatives, regional economic communities, international agencies, representatives of the academia and regional and continental civil society organizations and networks.

The participants noted that, despite years of efforts to combat violence against children, and notwithstanding the huge progress made, violence against children still remains a major challenge in Africa. Many children are still exposed to violence, including fatal violence, in homes, in schools, and other community and work settings.

Various factors contribute to this state of affairs, including inadequate capacity in enforcement and policy implementation, limited allocation of funding and human resource expertise and the fragmentation of efforts across sectors and actors. The predominant focus on response, rather than on prevention and addressing the structural and root causes of violence, has also been an important factor. The lack of coordination of efforts and cross-sectoral fragmentation, partly the result of the absence of a credible pan-African platform for creating synergy among stakeholders was also emphasized.

These factors require enhanced and new modalities of co-operation and a continental collective, multi-sectoral child protection platform to address violence against children comprehensively; hence, the proposal for the establishment of an ***African Partnership to End Violence against Children***.

The meeting unanimously endorsed the establishment of the ***African Partnership to End Violence against Children*** and discussed the major elements of the programme framework and modalities of operations. The participants emphasised the need to coordinate the proposed African partnership with the Global Partnership and to ensure that it complements and coordinates continental, regional and national efforts aimed at domesticating and implementing the violence-related targets of the Global Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 of the African Union, through collective programming, knowledge building and sharing. An Interim Task Force representing regional civil society, regional economic communities, the African Movement of Working Children and Youth, the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children was mandated to work with ACPF in finalising the Partnership Strategy.

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