

**WORLD VISION STATEMENT AT THE 45th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF
THE CHILD.**

World Vision International would like to congratulate the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child for organising its 45th Ordinary Session in the Kingdom of Lesotho. We would also like to appreciate the Committee for inviting partners (including World Vision) to participate and contribute to the Strategic Planning Retreat held on the 4th of April.

We are pleased to know that the Committee continues to engage Member States through its high level advocacy for reporting on the Charter. The engagement with the Central African Republic is very commendable and we pledge our support to engage CAR through our national office (with other partners) to submit their Periodic Report

World Vision would like to commend the Committee for its continuous engagement with the thematic Working Groups as a way of strengthening the technical capacity of its work and would like to entreat the Committee to consider forming a Technical Working Group on Child Hunger and Nutrition – an issue that is drawing local, regional and global attention. World Vision will be happy to co-lead such a TWG.

The African Union has dedicated the year 2025 to ensuring Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparation. The theme of the year provides an opportunity to reflect on all forms of injustices and inequalities that call for attention and concrete measures for redress. In line with our ENOUGH Campaign, World Vision would like to draw a parallel between the theme and injustices children face across the continent as a result of child hunger and malnutrition and call for nutrition justice for such children

Our vision for every child – life in all its fullness, inspires and drives us, as an organisation to collaborate with all stakeholders to enhance effective participation of children on platforms that affect them and will continue to support their participation during Committee Sessions.

Honourable Chair, WV would like to provide the Committee with the following updates:

- The 38th Heads of State Summit adopted the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. WV actively engaged in the development of the Convention

and we are pleased with this monumental achievement for women and girls in Africa. We call for universal ratification by Member States

- We continue to implement our ambitious ENOUGH Campaign to address child hunger and malnutrition. During the G20 Summit in Rio, we joined other Organisations and governments to launch the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty
- We supported children to engage with decision makers during 10th African Day for School Feeding in the Central African Republic. They called on governments to prioritise school feeding as a means of addressing the education, health and protection needs of children.
- During the 69th edition of CSW held in New York, World Vision together with other stakeholders and the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development held a high level event on the operationalization of the AU Accountability Framework and we are excited to know that the 45th Session will discuss the same.

Whilst updating the Committee about World Vision's assessment of the situation in Africa, we would also like to draw your attention to the following:

- i. We are concerned about deteriorating humanitarian crises particularly in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo where WV staff continue to provide humanitarian interventions. We would like to express our unfailing support to children in conflict situations and urge the Committee and other stakeholders to take steps to intervene in these crises and possibly undertake missions to these countries if possible
- ii. World Vision would like to call on AU Member States to invest in quality home-grown school feeding programs and food systems to address child hunger and malnutrition across the continent and look forward to engaging in the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit in Addis in July 2025
- iii. Finally, we would like to highlight the impact of the USG Stop Work Orders on humanitarian work across the countries where we work. The cut in funding poses a great threat to the vulnerable in our societies and we continue to engage and lobby the USG to grant exemptions. We however think it is also an opportunity for the AU and the Committee to initiate discussions on how the continent can increase internal resource mobilization to support its humanitarian work

Hon Chair, we commit to collaborate with the Committee and other stakeholders to make children's rights a priority in Africa. **We wish you a successful 45th Session.**

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