



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

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

Comitê Africano dos Direitos e  
Bem-Estar da Crianças

اللجنة الأفريقية المعنية بحقوق الطفل ورفاهه

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**Investigative mission of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions of The Republic of The Sudan in the context of the amicable settlement of December 2020 on 23-31 May 2021**

**July 2021**

## **I. Background and justification of the fact-finding mission**

1. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/Committee) received a Communication on 26 August 2018, pursuant to Article 44(1) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Charter/ACRWC) against the Government of the Republic of The Sudan (“the Respondent State”). The Communication covers allegations against the Respondent State on matters related to children affected by armed conflict which erupted in June 2011 in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan regions. According to the Applicants, children in the two areas have faced various forms of violations, which the Respondent State fails to protect them from. The Applicants cite various instances of violations and attacks against children that took place in the two areas. The specific villages that were identified included: Al Dar, Farandala, Heiban, Abu Lila, Um Serdiba, Adouna, Khour Fadila, Al Hadra, Mindi, Payam Wadaka, Gidel, Kauda, Jegeba, Enbal, Alabu, Nugra, Tangel, Dunya, Trugi, Dilling, Shamshaga, Alrosirs, Khor Maganza, Damazin and Al Abassiya.
2. Based on the allegations presented, the Applicants submitted that the Government of The Sudan violated the following provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:
  - i. Article 1- obligation to give effect to the charter;
  - ii. Article 5- right to life, survival and development;
  - iii. Article 11- right to education;
  - iv. Article 14- right to health and health services;
  - v. Article 17- administration of juvenile justice;
  - vi. Article 22- rights of children during armed conflict and
  - vii. Article 27- sexual abuse and violence.
3. The Communication was duly registered and the Committee, during its 33rd Ordinary Session held from 18-28 March 2019, declared that the Communication is admissible. While the Committee remained seized on the Communication, the Applicants, through a letter dated 31 August 2020, submitted a request for the matter to be settled amicably. The Committee noted that the Applicants were pursuing the requested amicable settlement with hope and good faith resulting from the recent positive political transition and developments in Sudan. The Committee further noted that the Respondent State agreed with the Applicants’ proposal to settle the matter amicably. The Respondent State expressed its readiness to build on the political change and the ongoing peace processes and enhance the protection of children’s rights in the country and remedy the harm perpetrated against children in the two areas.

4. Following the consultation, the Committee deliberated on the request and noted that the Parties were in agreement to settle the matter amicably. The Committee further noted that accepting the occurrence of serious violations against children in the two areas, the Respondent State has demonstrated an encouraging level of political will and readiness to process a speedy remedy for the harms that children incurred.
5. Against this backdrop, the Committee took the view that resorting to an amicable settlement procedure would expeditiously help to address the challenges that the children in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states are facing. Hence, the Committee decided to settle the matters in the Communication amicably. Following Section XIII(2)(iii) of the Revised Guidelines for Consideration of Communications, the Committee availed two of its Members to facilitate the negotiations between the Parties. The Committee further decided for the two Parties to submit a written agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the amicable settlement. Under the supervision of the assigned Committee Members, a series of negotiations took place on the terms and conditions of the settlement based on the draft agreement provided by the parties. The amicable settlement was subsequently agreed under the auspices of the Committee pursuant to Section XIII(2) of the Revised Guidelines and duly signed by the two parties.
6. The purpose of the agreement is to seek the Respondent State's acknowledgement of the violations that children in the two areas have faced during the conflict between 2011 and 2018, and to obtain remedies on behalf of the children of the affected communities and locations in the two areas. The agreement also seeks to guarantee specific, measurable, and timebound remedies for the injuries suffered by the children and to facilitate closure of the Communication.
7. The Parties agreed that the implementation of the terms of the agreement should occur in consultation with and with the approval of the affected communities in the two areas that are explicitly mentioned in the Communication. The Parties further agreed that the Committee conducts an on-site mission to the Republic of The Sudan, particularly to Blue Nile and South Kordofan. The purpose of the on-site mission would be to assess and identify any other affected communities that might exist beyond what is explicitly mentioned in the Communication.
8. It is against this background that the Committee undertook an investigative mission to the Respondent State to the areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile Regions. The Committee conducted the mission from 23 to 31 May 2021.

## **II. Objectives of the Fact-Finding Mission**

The main objectives of the mission included:

- An assessment of the situation of children affected by armed conflict in Blue Nile and South Kordofan regions of the Republic of The Sudan;
- An assessment of the magnitude of the impact of the armed conflict and if more areas other than those indicated in the Communication have been impacted;
- Identification of the progress achieves thus far in terms of the implementation of the amicable settlement; and
- Identification of areas of progress and challenges in the implementation of the amicable settlement. This extended to the identification of rebuilding the lives of children that have been affected by the armed conflict to mobilize a collaborated response.

### **III. List of Delegation**

9. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child designated a Delegation to undertake the mission which was composed of:
  - Hon Robert Doya Nanima, Member of the Committee and Special Rapporteur on Children and Armed Conflict
  - Dr Musavengana Chibawana, Senior Officer for Children Affected by Armed Conflict at the Secretariat of the Committee
  - Ms Adiam Zemenfes Tsighe , Legal Researcher at the Secretariat of the Committee.

### **IV. Methodology**

10. The Delegation of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child went on the ground to assess the situation of children in the two areas. The Delegation held various meetings in Khartoum as well as in South Kordofan and Blue Nile Regions. The Delegation also had the opportunity to visit one community and meet with members of the SPLM North leadership in Blue Nile Region. The delegation held meetings with the following principals:
11. Meeting with the Secretary-General of the NCCW
  - i. Minister of Social Development
  - ii. Representatives in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - iii. National Committee of Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice
  - iv. Acting Minister of Education
  - v. Governor and Deputy Governor of South Kordofan region
  - vi. The State Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) and other Ministries at the regional level in South Kordofan.
  - vii. Governor of Blue Nile region
  - viii. UNICEF Country Office in Khartoum, Representative of the Offices in South Kordofan and Blue Nile
  - ix. Save the Children in Khartoum, South Kordofan as well as Blue Nile regions;

- x. UNHCR in Khartoum and South Kordofan
- xi. Plan International in Khartoum
- xii. Stakeholders meeting in South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions in the presence of Government representatives as well as various CSOs
- xiii. Representatives of SPLM North in Blue Nile.

12. The Delegation also attempted to visit an area outside of the capitals of the two regions. The Delegation attempted to visit Um Serdiba in South Kordofan but was not granted access by SPLM North. However, it succeeded in visiting Maganza in Blue Nile.

## V. General Assessment

- a. **Dissemination of the Amicable Settlement:** In terms of the progress with regard to the amicable settlement, the Delegation noted that the amicable settlement had been shared with some government offices and stakeholders, however, it has not been widely circulated. The Delegation received information that the amicable settlement has been sent to the Ministry of Justice to gazette it publicly, but the process was taking time as the Ministry had a different procedure regarding the gazetting of such agreements.
- b. **Ratification of relevant human rights instruments:** During its various engagements, the Delegation observed that various initiatives had been taken by the Government towards the improvement of the situation of children's rights in South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions as well as the implementation of the amicable settlement. The Delegation was informed that the Government had ratified some important international and regional instruments including the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention Against Torture, and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
- c. **Withdrawal of reservation to the Charter:** The delegation was informed that the Government had decided to withdraw its reservations on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured that it will ensure that the withdrawal of the reservation is transmitted to the AU and becomes effective.
- d. **Legislative reform:** The Delegation further learned that the State Party is undertaking various legislative reforms to ensure harmonization of its laws with international and regional child rights instruments including the raising of the age of criminal responsibility to 18, the revision of the criminal law, and the adoption of

a law on gender-based violence. The Delegation was informed that the Child Act was under review and various stakeholders including UNICEF were part of the Committee that was established to reform the Act. The Delegation further noted that the first revised draft is ready and submitted to the Ministry of Justice for its consideration. The Delegation also learned that the Trafficking in Persons law and the Personal Law are under revision and a National Strategy on Combating Child Marriage has been developed.

- e. **Unavailability of a child rights situational analysis as a baseline:** All the stakeholders lamented that there is no baseline study with all the vital statistics necessary for decision making. At the time of the investigative mission, no child rights situational analysis had been conducted. The Delegation notes that it is difficult to get accurate information in the two areas as protection partners such as Save the Children, Plan International, only report few protection incidences. The Delegation learned that the Ministry of Social Development has a plan to collect all the vital statistics in the two areas. The existence of the National Information Centre gave the idea that the importance of the data was recognized, though efforts had to be made to ensure that child rights data gets collected through appropriate disaggregation. However, the Delegation notes that lack of access to most of the areas covered in the Communication and many other places poses a challenge in getting valid and reliable data.
  
- f. **Enabling environment for non-state actors:** The Delegation heard that the Government is collaborating with UN Agencies, International Nongovernmental Organisations (INGOs) and other stakeholders to mobilize resources and also to reach out to the children in the areas affected. The Delegation observed that there is a conducive environment for non-governmental actors to engage with the Government since the change of government in the State Party. The Delegation observed that some UN agencies and INGOs have already confirmed their support to implement the amicable settlement. While the positive political will is commendable, the Delegation noted that there is a high turnover of officials and staff in Government offices which might pose a challenge in the continuous implementation of the amicable settlement.
  
- g. **Development of an action plan on the two areas and the implementation of the amicable settlement:** The Delegation was informed of an action plan that was prepared by technical and higher committees that had been set up to address the issue of children affected by armed conflict. It was reported that various stakeholders including UN Agencies would be involved. Moreover, the Delegation observed that there is a reintegration mission launched where children are released from armed forces and reintegrated into the community. The Government has accepted the amicable settlement positively and has informed the leadership of the two regions concerned for further actions. The Delegation was informed that

the Government has decided to set up working groups both at the Federal and State level to come up with a road map on the implementation and monitoring of the amicable settlement. The Delegation was informed that at the Federal level, a draft plan of action for the implementation of the amicable settlement was already developed. The Government indicated its intentions to hold the public acknowledgement during an event that was planned to celebrate the reconciliation of the tribes in the Nuba Mountains. Moreover, the Delegation was informed that the Government intends to install a culturally appropriate, meaningful and low-cost memorial. In its implementation plan, the Government undertook to cover more areas than was included in the Communication. The Delegation was informed that the Government is hosting refugees from South Sudan and Ethiopia- a position that slowed the implementation of the amicable settlement at its level. The Government assured the Delegation that it will submit its first implementation report by July 2021. Additionally, the Delegation was informed that the Government has developed and approved its first periodic report on the implementation of the Charter and that the Committee will receive it soon.

- h. **Development of an inclusive education curriculum:** Concerning the education curriculum, the Delegation was informed that the curriculum has been revised as part of the settlement through the National Center for Curriculum Development and has undergone various consultations. The Delegation was informed that the revised curriculum considers the multi-cultural aspect of education and has given due consideration to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- i. **Commitment to allocate adequate resources for rebuilding the two areas:** The Delegation was informed that the Government is willing to provide access to humanitarian aid in all of the areas affected, however, some of the areas are still under Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North's (SPLM-N) Control and most of the areas are not reachable during the rainy season. The Government indicated that the Federal and State level governments are willing to allocate resources and provide support for the betterment of the situation of children who have been affected in the two areas. The Delegation further noted that the Government has finalized one peace agreement with one faction of SPLM and is currently undergoing negotiations with the faction of SPLM-N which is dominant in South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions to ensure sustainable peace and full access of services to children in those areas. The signing of the peace agreement has facilitated humanitarian access in some areas.
- j. **The influx of internally displaced persons:** The conflict in the two regions has resulted in an influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. The Delegation noted that there are over 100,000 IDPs from the two regions in Khartoum. The Government has provided them with areas of settlement and children are allowed to enroll in schools and access birth registration services.

## **VI. Situation of Children in South Kordofan**

13. South Kordofan is one of the 18 States of the Republic of The Sudan and is home to over 2 million people. More than 60% of the population is below 35 and only less than 1% is above 70 years old. South Kordofan has 17 localities in total whereby only 7 are exclusively controlled by the Government of the Republic of The Sudan. While 3 localities are under the exclusive control of SPLM-N, the remaining 7 are localities that have the presence of both the Government and SPLM-N. Due to the conflict, there are over 100,000 refugees from the region hosted in South Sudan and a large number of IDPs exist. In terms of areas, among the 200 hot spots that exist in the Country, 15 are in South Kordofan.
  
14. The Delegation noted that access to basic services is a challenge in many areas of South Kordofan for various reasons. First, there is no infrastructure in most areas of South Kordofan. The Delegation observed that there are no roads in most areas and during the rainy season most areas are completely unreachable to the Government as well as development partners. The physical inaccessibility is further exacerbated by the fact that there is no commercial flight operating to South Kordofan and hence only UN flights and other chartered flights can reach certain places. Secondly, political tension plays a key role. While there is no active conflict in the region currently, the SPLM-N led by Abdelaziz Adam Al-Hilu has control over most places that are covered in the Communication that was submitted to the Committee. In those areas, no one can have access without permission from the Government's and SPLM's side. In areas where SPLM-N has control, the Government also does not have access and hence it becomes impossible for the Government to provide services even if it wishes to. Humanitarian workers also have very limited access. The SPLM-N led by Abdelaziz Adam Al-Hilu mainly operates from Kauda which is in South Kordofan. Thirdly, the Delegation was informed that some areas are inaccessible to humanitarian workers due to the existing anti-personnel mines. This affected the provision of basic services such as food and non-food items.
  
15. The Delegation witnessed some of these challenges first-hand during its visit. The Delegation was able to use UN Flight to reach Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan. However, when it was trying to pay a visit to one of the closet areas in South Kordofan which is in the Communication and amicable settlement, it was not possible. The Delegation attempted to visit Um Serdiba which is partly still under the control of SPLM-N. While the Delegation had authorization from the Humanitarian Aid Commission from the Government's side, it did not have authorization from the SPLM-N side, and hence access was hindered by the officials at a check-point. The Delegation also witnessed that parents and their children were not allowed direct access to Kadugli the capital where most services exist as they had to pass through a thorough security check.

16. The Delegation noted that children in South Kordofan have various challenges due to such a complex and protracted political situation in the region. As the Governor of South Kordofan informed the Delegation, the situation of children in the region is very concerning: The State has one of the lowest school enrolments, highest school dropout, malnutrition, and poverty which stands at above 80%. Given the very high rate of the young population, unemployment in the region has become a major challenge. Due to the conflict, agricultural activity was affected- a situation that affected production. Furthermore, sanctions have affected investment.
17. For instance, the Nuba mountains were known for their cotton production but due to the conflict, the lack of production has increased unemployment. The Delegation noted that unemployment exacerbated the recruitment of children into armed forces and their involvement in the worst forms of child labour, especially in the notable gold mines. The Delegation was also informed that the high level of Internally Displaced Persons and pastoralist people in the region was a challenge that was further amplified by the large number of refugees in the region from South Sudan. Moreover, there are inter-tribal conflicts in some parts of South Kordofan.
18. The lack of accessibility to most areas in the region has forced children to be out of school. The complexity of this problem revolves around the lack of schools, teachers, and learning materials. Furthermore, there is no access to medical services including immunization; food items; basic services such as birth registration and justice. Moreover, the Delegation notes that children affected by the armed conflict do not have access to psychosocial support. In some areas, teachers provided education for children voluntarily and without payment. This was evident in the informal setting in places provided by the community. The Delegation was informed that children who engage in economic activities most often get lost and separated from their parents and end up on street situations. The region has a high rate of unaccompanied minors in general. The Delegation further learned that the conflict has created a culture where very young children are accustomed to arms, possess arms and are trained on how to use them. This culture and the proliferation of arms in the region makes the rehabilitation work difficult and hence strategic mechanisms should be crafted. Moreover, the high level of children out of school and the impact of the conflict has made South Kordofan a hub for drug smuggling in which children are involved.
19. Moreover, the land mines that were placed during the active conflict period have affecting children in the region. The Delegation was informed that in 2020, 7 cases of death due to mines was reported out of which 3 were children. There are also reports that unreported deaths and injuries that continue to occur due to the lack of a clear reporting mechanism in the region.
20. The Delegation noted that assessing the situation of children in the region is very difficult as there is no data available on most issues. For instance, there are

incidences of alleged sexual violence against girls, despite the lack of accurate information. Since there is no way to get data, such violence is not reported.

21. While challenges exist, the delegation learned that the political change has brought better access to humanitarian aid workers in the areas under the control of SPLM-N. Yet, providing humanitarian aid is very expensive as most items have to be transported from Sudan, through South Sudan to areas in control by SPLM-N. Despite this, some stakeholders have put in place health centres and schools, however, maintaining such services is difficult in circumstances that pose difficulty on access.
22. The Government is also trying to restore services in the region. It has increased its investment in education to build schools, provided school chairs and textbooks. The Government informed the Delegation that currently there is no discrimination by the Government against children or their parents based on their support to SPLM-N. The Delegation noted that the Government is developing a comprehensive plan by involving scholars of the University of Sudan to redress the impact of armed conflict in the region. The Government indicated that it is striving towards peacebuilding programs and indicated that it draws inspiration from other African countries such as South Africa and Rwanda in the discussions for the healing process.
23. The Delegation was informed that the process has already started and currently peace markets are created where anyone from any part of the region can access to buy goods and items in the days where the peace markets work. The Delegation learned that the Government has allocated budget to the region through the poverty alleviation program to provide social cash transfer to the most economically disadvantaged families. The Government indicated that building infrastructure is its priority for the upcoming few years to address most of the challenges. The Delegation was also informed that the Government intends to build rehabilitation centers for children in collaboration with other stakeholders. Moreover, the Government informed the Delegation that it needs to build its capacity to provide appropriate response measures in the affected areas.

## **VII. Situation of Children in Blue Nile State**

24. The delegation had the opportunity to visit the Blue Nile State. The State is home to more than a million people, representing more than forty different ethnic groups forming a heterogeneous society characterized by both ethnic and cultural diversity. About 75% of the population live in rural areas and 25% in urban centers. The delegation had met with the leadership of the State, namely the State Governor, leadership of the SCCW and Director in the Ministry of Social Development.

25. The Delegation observes that there is relative peace in Damazine and most of the localities in Blue Nile. The Delegation was informed that most of the localities are under the control of the Government and few under the SPLM-N faction led by Malik Agar. The Delegation observed that there are better facilities in the capital Damazine compared to Kadugli and there is less political hindrance to access most localities in Blue Nile. However, physical inaccessibility of most localities remains to be a huge challenge in the region, especially during the rainy season. While the Delegation witnessed for instance that the road to Maganza, one of the places the Delegation visited, is under construction, it is not yet finalized.
26. The Delegation also noted that many children are not registered especially in areas that lack infrastructure and are prone to flooding. A well developed and functioning civil registration system ensures the registration of all vital events including births, marriages and deaths and issues relevant certificates as proof of such registration. Civil registration promotes efficient government planning, effective use of resources and aid, and more accurate monitoring of progress within a jurisdiction. The Delegation noted that birth registration services are not well decentralized in the region to reach out to children living in areas that are not physically accessible by road. Since childbirth is inaccessible, it takes place in remote areas where there are no health facilities. This exacerbates the challenge of birth registration.
27. The Delegation observed that the domino effect of lack of birth registration is the recruitment of children into the armed groups as well as the State army. The ripple effect was susceptibility to child marriages. Furthermore, these children will not be considered in the government planning for schools, health facilities and social protection programs.
28. The Delegation noted with concern that there were very few schools in the region and the lack in some areas. The Delegation, in Maganza, visited a dilapidated structure that had been affected by the 2011 conflict and was yet to be rehabilitated. It meant that all children who were supposed to attend school at this facility were not able to do so. The result of not having children in school is that they become vulnerable to child labour. The Delegation witnessed several children manning commodity markets and herding goats, sheep, and cattle, during the time that was supposed to be for school. For the girl child, lack of access to education has an inevitable result of child marriages. Due to the paucity of statistics in the State, it is not known how many children are affected by this phenomenon since a child rights situational analysis has not been done in the area. It will suffice to note that education services have not been restored since the conflict, no alternative learning place has been allocated in the area, no, and no teachers are assigned for children in Maganza.



29. Using the case of Maganza that the Delegation visited, health and health care services have not been restored since the conflict. The Delegation noted in Maganza that the only available infrastructure that was meant to be a clinic is shut down. Unfortunately, the non-operational (closed and empty) health center is now being used as a community hall for meetings. The Delegation had a meeting with representatives of the Community in that same health center-turned-community hall. The health center had not been rehabilitated since the conflict of 2011. In a meeting with the Maganza community, each submission they made pointed to the need to rehabilitate the infrastructure so that their families could access adequate health care services. The nearest health care facilities are in Damazine, which is not accessible during the rainy season. Moreover, the Delegation noted that Blue Nile lacks health facilities in areas outside of its capital. And as roads are not well functioning and there are no transportation services, pregnant mothers and children have difficulties in accessing health facilities and other services like immunizations.

30. The partners informed the Delegation that in SPLM-N controlled areas, it is difficult to get access to provide services such as health care, birth registration and education. It means that humanitarian teams will not be able to access these areas

to provide service. The Delegation noted some progress as UNICEF indicated that they had negotiated for access into the SPLM-N controlled areas and were providing basic social services.

31. The conversations with stakeholders noted that there is a deluge of unaccompanied minors in the Blue Nile State primarily due to the state's proximity to both South Sudan and Ethiopia, who are currently dealing with their conflicts. The Delegation noted that the state instituted a family reintegration program in collaboration with partners such as *inter alia* Save the Children, UNHCR and UNICEF. It was noted that the initiative had registered some successes in reuniting children with their families. The challenge however of dealing with children coming from South Sudan and Ethiopia made the reunification program to be difficult.
32. The Delegation had an opportunity to meet with representatives of SPLM-N in Damazine. The meeting was organized by the SSCW representative of the State. The SPLM-N delegation registered their concerns with the lack of access to basic social services in the areas they controlled. They noted that it was in the interest of their children that demining would take place. There was however a trust deficit between the central government and SPLM-N.
33. The Delegation observed that in Maganza, there were no reliable water sources and sanitation facilities. The community raised a concern that their water sources were not appropriate as they shared the resource with their livestock. The water points that UNICEF had constructed in 2007 were no longer functional, leaving the communities to get their drinking water from a nearby river.
34. The findings of the Delegation in Maganza and its engagement with Stakeholders reveal that even in areas where there is access by the Government, there is a lack of services. Moreover, schools and health facilities that were destroyed during the conflict have not been restored. The Community of Maganza that flee during the conflict has settled and is still in the process of settling back. Nevertheless, the Delegation noted that the services and facilities they left are nowhere to be found.

## **VIII. Recommendations**

35. During the visit, the Delegation observed that the magnitude of the challenges that exist in the two regions as well as the progress that has been achieved. The Committee commends the State Party for its political will to redress the impact of the armed conflict in the two regions and its willingness to negotiate and work with other stakeholders. The Committee observes that the issue of access to most of the areas that are covered in the Communication and the amicable settlement is a crucial challenge that needs to be addressed to ensure the implementation of the

amicable settlement. Without access to these areas, the Committee is concerned that the Government will not be in a position to implement the amicable settlement. The Committee also found that the impact of the conflict is real beyond the areas mentioned in the amicable settlement especially in South Kordofan region. The Committee notes that the region South Kordofan is mostly impacted by the conflict and the impact can even be seen in the capital, Kadugli where there is a high number of children in the street situation out of school and unaccompanied.

36. After assessing the situation, the Committee recommends the State Party to:

- i. **Disseminate the Amicable Settlement:** Widely circulate the amicable settlement with the States concerned and their organs, the various ministries in the State Party, and a wide range of stakeholders. The amicable settlement should also be available on the website of the NCCW;
- ii. **Negotiate for humanitarian access:** Further negotiate on access to the areas controlled by SPLM-N and if the peace negotiations may delay this specific issue of access, the Committee recommends that the State Party partly negotiates on the issue of access on selected issues such as education, health, and food items for children. The Committee draws the attention of the State Party to its General Comment on Children in situations of Conflicts, tension and Strife paragraph 42, which notes that ‘State Parties shall uphold the rights of children, and ensure humanitarian access to a child, to ensure the provision of the conducive environment as provided in Article 1 of the ACRWC. IHL requires parties to the conflict to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need, subject to their right of control. Each party must refrain from deliberately impeding the delivery of relief supplies to civilians in need in areas under its control’;
- iii. **Demining:** Conduct demining in all affected areas in collaboration with UN agencies;
- iv. **Equity approach to reconstruction of infrastructure:** Build infrastructure, mainly roads to connect affected areas with areas that have education, health and other services and items for children during the rainy season. The Committee recommends that areas that are not currently reachable during rainy seasons are given priority in the investment in infrastructures;
- v. **Ban recruitment of children:** Ensure that no children are recruited by the Government forces that operate in the two regions or even in troops deployed outside of the State Party and to achieve this ensure that birth certificates are issued to all children;
- vi. **Ratification of human rights instruments:** Fast-track the ratification of the remaining instruments and the legislative reforms provided in the amicable settlement by building on the already existing milestone of ratifications and law reforms;
- vii. **Development of a national roadmap for settlement implementation:** Develop a comprehensive national and state-level action plan and road map to

address the impact of armed conflict in the two regions and in doing so use a consultative process where children, communities and stakeholders are consulted;

- viii. **Provision of basic social services:** Provide health facilities and immunization services with acceptable standards to ensure that children have access to basic health services. The Committee recommends that such centers are established in areas that can be accessible to persons and children living in areas under the control of SPLM-N;
- ix. **Six monthly progress report submission:** Submit its report on the implementation of the amicable settlement every six months as indicated in the agreement and submit the first report before the end of July 2021;
- x. **ACRWC periodic report submission:** Submit its first periodic report to the Committee as it has been reported that it is compiled and approved; and
- xi. **Withdrawal of reservation:** Ensure that the withdrawal of the reservations of the State Party on the Charter is deposited to the Office of the Legal Counsel in the African Union to give it legal effect.
- xii. **Deliberate programs for street children:** Devise programs to address the plight of children in the street situation in the two regions and those involved in child labour including in illegal mining by incorporating withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies and services;
- xiii. **Provision of psychosocial support:** Provide psychosocial and rehabilitation programs for children who were recruited or have been impacted by the armed conflict to ensure their reintegration;
- xiv. **Strategies for sustainable alternatives:** Craft strategies to provide sustainable alternative care for children separated from their parents either due to the conflict or due to the impact of the conflict; and;
- xv. **Provision of necessary services to IDPs:** Provide necessary services to IDPs within the two regions and outside the regions, invest in rebuilding their villages and returning them to their original places.