

**AFRICAN UNION**

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

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



*"An Africa Fit for Children"*

**UNION AFRICAINE**

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

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**OPEN LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD**

**H.E. Macky Sall,**

**President of the Republic of Senegal**

**Your Excellency,**

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, an African Union Organ which was established by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to monitor the implementation of the African Children's Charter, learned with great satisfaction and appreciation Your Excellency's Decision on the measures to stop child begging on the streets of Dakar. The Decision comes at a right time as we are celebrating the African year of Human Rights, with special focus on the rights of women, ahead of the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

As you are aware, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child has been concerned about the situation of these children in vulnerable situations, and has provided recommendations at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 15 April 2014, following a communication/complaint introduced by Civil Society Organizations, alleging violations of several articles of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), which the Republic of Senegal is party to (the Decision is available at <http://www.acerwc.org/communications/>)

These recommendations were provided after engaging with the complaints as well as the relevant authorities of the Government of Senegal. In this regard the Committee would also like to thank the Government of Senegal for availing its senior officials and for engaging with the Committee on this matter in a candid and constructive manner.

The Committee, therefore, highly appreciates this first and decisive step and respectfully calls on Your Excellency to continue to pursue the efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Committee's Recommendations. Besides, the use of children in the form of begging being a cross-country issue, the Committee would also like to bring

to Your Excellency's attention the need for working together with neighboring countries and cooperate with all the relevant stakeholders to tackle the phenomenon in a holistic approach.

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency Macky Sall, the President of the Republic of Senegal, the assurances of its highest consideration.

**Benyam Dawit Mezmur**  
**Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts**  
**on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)**