



PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD REGARDING THE POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

28 December, 2024.

Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/the Committee) expresses deep concern over the escalating violence in the Republic of Mozambique following the recent national elections. The post-election period has witnessed disruptions and conflicts that indeed affect children both directly and indirectly. Children bear the heaviest burden in such crises. Election-related violence directly threatens their right to life, enshrined under Article 5 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Moreover, crises of such nature exacerbate their vulnerabilities, with disruptions to education, healthcare, and essential services creating a ripple effect of harm that can last a lifetime.

Recognising the effects of election-related violence on children's rights and welfare and the corresponding obligations under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Committee refers to Article 22(3) which prescribes the protection of children in all conflict situations, including tension and strife, such as election-related violence. Additionally, the Committee draws attention to its Guidelines on Children's Rights During Election Periods, which call for a commitment to fostering peace so that elections may function effectively for the benefit of children. It also underscores the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG), which obligates State Parties to protect and promote the rights of all citizens during elections. Upholding



these obligations is essential to ensuring that electoral processes do not result in violence that jeopardizes the rights and welfare of children.

The ACERWC calls on all stakeholders involved to de-escalate the situation promptly, refrain from further acts of violence, and hold accountable those responsible for harming civilians—especially children—and emphasises the urgent need for child-centred protection measures.

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child renews its commitment to supporting the Republic of Mozambique in its continued efforts towards the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of children.

Jointly issued by

Hon. Wilson Almeida Adão
Chairperson
African Committee of Experts on
the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Hon. Robert Nanima
Special Rapporteur on Children
and Armed Conflict - ACERWC

Note to Editors:

The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) is an African Union Organ mandated to monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) as well as promote and protect children's rights in Africa. Following the entry into force of the on November 29, 1999, the Committee was established in July 2001, in accordance with Article 32 of the Charter. To date, the Charter has been ratified by 51 of 55 Member States of the African Union. The mandate of the Committee is derived from Articles 32-45 of the Charter and provides among others to undertake research and studies on children's rights issues.