



Third International Policy Conference on the African Child

Child Poverty in Africa

12 – 13 May 2008, United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**In collaboration with
International Child Support (ICS), ILO, IOM, Plan, UNDP and UNICEF**

The African Child Policy Forum
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Background:

Extreme poverty remains a serious and, in some cases, growing problem in the developing world, especially in Africa. It is particularly serious and alarming amongst children. Yet the problem of child poverty, especially in developing countries, is neither fully documented nor directly addressed in the formulation of economic and even anti-poverty strategies and policies.

Child poverty is intricately linked with child rights. Fulfilment of children's rights is largely dependent on access to an adequate standard of living. That is why Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) spells out the duty of State parties to recognise the right of every child "to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development."

Child poverty is a major, possibly the biggest obstacle for the fulfilment of rights in Africa. Our knowledge of it, however, is limited. What little we know is based on scattered empirical data and anecdotal evidence. We don't know enough about the nature, dimension and magnitude of the problem. Nor do we know enough about what is being done to address it or how to deal with it.

Hence, the rationale for The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) to organise the **Third International Policy Conference on the African Child**, on the theme of **Child Poverty**. The conference will engage policy makers, child rights activists, children's organisations and researchers from within Africa and around the world and address key issues that ought to be at the forefront of the development agenda.

Objectives:

The objectives of this conference are to:

- draw attention to the issue of child poverty in Africa
- to exchange information on the nature, measurement and dimensions of child poverty and policy experiences
- to initiate dialogue on areas for future research and policy work with special attention to entry points having the greatest impact on children

Partners and participants:

The conference will be organised in partnership with international child rights and development agencies. International Child Support (ICS), ILO, IOM, Plan International, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF have expressed interest to join hands in the organisation of the Conference. Participants will include government policy

makers, child experts and researchers, child rights activists and children's organisations from within Africa and around the world.

Conference Programme:

The conference programme includes sessions on:

Child rights, child wellbeing and child poverty

International and African perspectives of child poverty

Poverty through the eyes of the African child

International and African experiences in dealing with child poverty

Venue and Date:

The Conference will take place from 12-13 May, 2008 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Be a part of this important conference and look for more updates.

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Satellite conference,

The Second All Africa Consultative Conference of Children, Youth and Human Rights Organisations

Sunday 11 February, United Nations Conference Centre

The **Second International Policy Conference on the African Child**, which was held in May 2006 in Addis Ababa, was followed by a special meeting of child, youth and human rights organisations to discuss how they could support each other and work together so as to create a strong Africa - wide movement for the promotion and protection of the rights and wellbeing of African children. This meeting was attended by some 85 African child rights organisations. The meeting concluded that there was a need for an organisation that could serve as an umbrella and platform for joint action and appointed a seven-member task force to come up with a report on the way forward. Member of the Task Force have now completed their work and are prepared to share their findings widely. They are therefore calling a **second All Africa Consultative Conference of Child, Youth and**

Human Rights Organisations to deliberate on the recommendations of the Task Force and launch what could constitute as an Africa – wide movement of child rights organisations. This meeting will be organised in conjunction with the Third International Policy Conference and take place on Sunday, 11 May at the United Nations Conference Centre.

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