

COMMUNITY OF SAHELO-SAHARAN STATES (CEN-SAD)

Executive Secretariat

N'Djamena



PRESS RELEASE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD ON JUNE 16, 2025

On the occasion of the celebration of the Day of the African Child on June 16, 2025, a date that coincides with the organization of the symposium on the theme "The Link Between Conflict and Climate Change and Its Impact on Children in the Sahel," organized by CEN-SAD and ACPF in N'Djamena, Chad.

CEN-SAD would like to emphasize that the situation of children deserves even greater attention given the facts and realities that concern all member countries.

Indeed, Sahel countries account for 28 per cent of Africa's children. A large majority of children in the Sahel are deprived of education, healthcare, or basic needs like food, water, and shelter. This makes them more vulnerable to the effects of conflict and climate change.

On this day, June 16, 2025, CEN-SAD and the Sahel member states are examining the impact of climate change and conflict on children in the Sahel.

To this end:

- Investing in children's wellbeing is investing in Africa's future.
- Increasing our focus in peace building in our member states is a major part of our pledge to safeguard Africa's children.
- Investing in children is a sure way to break the cycle of poverty, violence, and inequality from generation to generation.

CEN-SAD reaffirms its commitment to implementing programs and projects to promote children's rights, particularly in education, health, and protection against violence against children.

CEN-SAD calls on member states to recommit to the effective implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Union's Agenda 2063, which emphasizes human development, rights, and protection of children.

CEN-SAD intends to provide guidelines to member states on measures that put children at the centre of climate policy and conflict responses.

CEN-SAD urgently calls on all member states to promote the well-being and development of children, as well as to make efforts to improve their living conditions by adopting the following measures:

- Placing children at the heart of national priorities and budget allocations;
- Prioritizing marginalized, underserved and vulnerable children, especially girls in our public investment decisions;
- Addressing the root causes of conflict and climate change which push children into deprivation.

African children are the treasure of our community; they determine its present and future.

Done in N'Djamena on June 16, 2025