

- That the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and all other International Instruments and standards protecting children in situations of armed conflict, be ratified, implemented and their provisions respected by West African States;
- That special mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of these instruments and for investigating violations of rights be created at the national level by respective governments in collaboration with civil society and at regional level by ECOWAS. Such mechanisms should report regularly;
- That States and all others responsible for these violations be held accountable through appropriate mechanisms, and be sanctioned, taking into account the interests of children;
- That a network of children's organisations of ECOWAS countries be established by ECOWAS and all concerned, recognising the importance for children and youth to meet, share experiences and participate in finding solutions together;
- That the highest priority be given to the realisation of our right to accessible, quality, formal and non-formal education for all, as well as vocational skills training, taking into account article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which provides for free and compulsory primary education, these being the basic conditions for our proper growth and development.

WE RECOMMEND SPECIFICALLY, among other things, on:

A. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

- Ensure the provision of quality basic services to all children, including physical and psychological health and psycho-social care and assistance for children, victims of violence, children with disabilities, etc.;
- Encourage the creation of rehabilitation centres for children affected by war providing psycho-social assistance, health care, family tracing;
- Strengthening communities and families to protect and care for the children;
- Ensure the creation of "safe zones" for children and women during war. These zones must be protected and those who violate them must be brought to justice.

B. CHILD SOLDIERS

- To prohibit the use of children under 18 as soldiers;
- Those who still recruit children as soldiers must be brought to justice;
- To ensure that the process of demobilization and rehabilitation of child soldiers includes appropriate programmes of special education to facilitate their reintegration.

C. REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION

- All West African States, especially war torn countries must assume responsibility and assist refugees to be repatriated and resettled in the countries of their origin;