



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*  
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STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE  
**THIRD COMMITTEE**

ON  
**AGENDA ITEM 70:**  
**"PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN"**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

1. I thank you for giving me the floor. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the African Group.
2. Kenya has ratified both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), and reaffirms its commitment to these treaties as well as to the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals associated with the protection and promotion of the rights of children.
3. As we all know, the international community has made significant progress in protecting children from discrimination, exclusion and inequality. However, much more needs to be done. Kenya has a youthful population of approximately 42.5% (age 0-14) and will remain committed to the full realization of the rights of the child, through the development and implementation of child friendly policies, legislation as well as the social empowerment of children. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) has a strong bill of human rights which cushions and protects the vulnerable in society, including children.
4. Despite significant global investments in protecting and promoting the rights of children, acts of child labour as well as harmful social norms and discrimination against children still persists.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. In order to achieve essential progress on the right to education, free and compulsory basic education for all children is a constitutional right in Kenya. Implementation of key programs such as free primary and secondary education and the mainstreaming of inclusive education have resulted in improved access, retention and gender equality within Kenyan schools. Current funding towards education amounts to approximately 27% of the national budget and 6% of the GDP.
6. In line with SDG 3, our President has prioritized Universal Health Care for all, including children, as part of the "Big Four Agenda" for revitalized development. The agenda aims to equally enhance food and nutrition security, increase affordable housing and accelerate manufacturing; all geared towards improving the wellbeing of the vulnerable and more so our children. In line with this, the Government has implemented free maternal health care and expanded comprehensive immunization programs leading to reduction in maternal, infant and child mortality.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. We denounce violence which negatively impacts children's growth, health and cognitive development in all forms as noted in the Secretary General's Report. Equally, we condemn, vile acts of child trafficking, sexual abuse and any form of oppression. To this end, legislative and institutional mechanisms have been put in place in Kenya to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and ill treatment. Female police officers are also being deployed to respond to cases relating to the physical, emotional and sexual abuse of girls. Additionally, the "Child Protection Information Management System" (CPIMS) which aims to centralize children's data for effective planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting in child protection services has been established.
8. The Government has also been active in condemning harmful cultural practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. These practices undermine the child's participation in education and poses serious health challenges. To this effect, the Marriage Act (2014) and the FGM Act (2011) criminalize child marriage and FGM respectively.

**Mr. Chairman,**

9. I am pleased to report that Kenya is implementing child friendly social protection mechanisms through a wide range of initiatives including: the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Cash Transfer, bursary schemes and hunger safety net programs which cushion children from poverty and associated vulnerabilities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10. I conclude by calling for cooperation among Member States in creating an enabling and peaceful environment in order for children to survive, thrive and develop to their full potential. Kenya will continue to play its part as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda.

**I Thank You!**