



# AFRICA TOUR 2008

**“Children out of work and into school”  
“Watoto Shuleni wala sio Kazini”**

**Stop Child Labour Africa Tour: Kenya NGO/CSO workshop  
Thika Declaration on Child Labour  
4 November 2008**

**During the Stop Child Labour Africa Tour 2008 Kenya NGO/CSO workshop on 4 November 2008, the delegates from Ethiopia, Morocco, Uganda and Zimbabwe endorsed the Thika Declaration which has been adopted and proclaimed by East African Conference on Child Labour of 16 and 17 January 2007. By consensus of representatives on 4 November 2008, Article 10 was amended to the Thika Declaration.**

We, Non-Governmental Organizations representing Kenya, Uganda and Somalia, at a Regional Conference held in Thika on January 16 and 17, 2007 upon careful deliberations adopt the East Africa Regional Declaration on Abolition of all forms of Child Labour and upholding Children’s Rights to education

**WHEREAS** all human beings are born free and equal in rights, and as such should treat each other with respect and dignity,

**WHEREAS** recognition of the inherent dignity and equal inalienable rights of all children in the world that they should enjoy their growth, freedom and development, free from exploitation,

**WHEREAS** it is essential, children rights should be protected by the rule of law,

**WHEREAS** the NGOs of this East Africa Conference have in this Declaration reaffirmed their faith in children’s right to education and abolition of all forms of child labour,

**WHEREAS** the NGOs have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the East African Community and the Stop Child Labour Campaign, the promotion of all children rights in respect to their education and abolition of all forms of child labour,

**WHEREAS** a common understanding of these children rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the realization of this pledge, as such, the East Africa Conference proclaims this Declaration of abolishing child labour as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations, to end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive to promote respect for child rights and freedom from child labour by national and international agencies.

*WE the participants of the conference “Children out work into school” “Watoto shuleni wala sio kazini”(January 16 and 17 2007, Thika-Kenya) concluded this two day conference with a rights-based Declaration, as follows,*

**Article 1**

All person up to eighteen years of age in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and as ratified by States are to be regarded as children,

**Article 2**

All children out of school are either child labourers or potential child labourers,

**Article 3**

*Every child shall be protected from all forms of child labour,*

**Article 4**

All children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and are deprived of their rights should have access to schools and receive all governments support to protect them,

**Article 5**

Every child has a right to education, and it shall be the legal and moral obligation of States to guarantee quality and accessibility,

**Article 6**

All states should incorporate abolition of all forms of child labour and rehabilitation of affected children in their policies and programs for enduring universalization of school education,

**Article 7**

Non-formal education is to be regarded as a transitional arrangement to enable children to integrate with formal education system and not to substitute for formal schools,

**Article 8**

Child labour perpetuates poverty, depresses adult wages and undermines labour standards and productivity;, liberation of children from labour paves way for socio-economic development that includes the poor and marginalized ,

**Article 9**

All form of child labour are unacceptable, as such, very child must have access full time formal education as a non-negotiable principle.

**Article 10**

Teachers unions have a vital role in existing efforts to retain every child in school and to ensure quality education. Trade unions have a positive role in protecting labour standards, including the refraining from engaging child labour.

Adopted in Thika-Kenya this 17 day of January, 2007 with the participation of delegates from Zimbabwe and India.