



**“Children out of Work into School”
“Watoto Shuleni wala sio Kazini”**

East Africa Regional Conference on Child Labour 2007

Thika Declaration on Child Labour

*Adopted and proclaimed by East African Conference on Child Labour
of 16th and 17th January 2007*

We, Non-Governmental Organizations representing Kenya, Uganda, and Somalia, at a Regional Conference held in Thika on January 16th and 17th, 2007 upon careful deliberations adopt the East Africa Regional Declaration on Abolition of all forms of Child Labour and upholding Children's Right 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 African 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 African 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 of work into school" "Watoto shuleni wala sio kazini" (January 16th and 17th 2007, Thika-Kenya) concluded this two day conference with a rights-based Declaration, as follows,

Article 1

All persons 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 deprived of their rights should have access to schools and receive all government 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 ensuring 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 a 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 forms of child labour are unacceptable, as such, every child must access full time formal education as a non-negotiable principle.

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