

**DECISION ON THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS  
ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD**

**The Executive Council:**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child ;
2. **COMMENDS** the Committee for the advocacy role it has played so far in popularizing the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
3. **EXPRESSES** concern about the plight of children especially in conflict areas in Africa;
4. **APPEALS** to Member States, which have not yet done so, to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as a matter of priority;
5. **URGES** Member States to invest in children, include matters relating to them in national policies and programmes as well as provide the most vulnerable and excluded children with social protection;
6. **THANKS** the Chairperson of the Committee as well as those Members whose terms of office comes to an end in July 2005 for serving the Committee with dedication and loyalty;
7. **CALLS ON** Member States to continue to support the Committee to carry out its mandate efficiently;
8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to undertake study on the measures required to ensure continuity of the membership of the Committee, including the possibility of the renewal of the mandate of the members for one term;
9. **URGES** the African Union Commission to strengthen the Committee and to urgently ensure the full and effective functioning of its Secretariat.