

Report on the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (AP-CAAC) visit to Nigeria.

Venue: Save the Children Country Office, Wuye, Abuja

Date: 31st July 2024



dRPC, INGOs meet with the AP-CAAC delegation to Nigeria - 31st July 2024

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Meeting Highlights

- The dRPC was invited by Save the Children to meet with the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (AP-CAAC) to discuss our work as CSOs to address the challenges of Children Affected by Armed Conflict, in the company of INGOs and key sector players and to make advocacy recommendations for the AP-CAAC.
- The AP-CAAC delegation was led by H.E. Jainaba Jagne, Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the AU and the Co-Chair of the AP CAAC. The delegation comprised consisted of 4 Ambassadors and 10 representatives of various Embassies and the AU

Commission. The overall objective of the mission is to advocate for the enhanced protection of children and the implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD), its guidelines and related instruments.

- The meeting had in participation the County Director of Save the Children (SCI), the Child Protection Manager at UNICEF, The Country Director of Plan International, The CSACEFA National Policy Advisor, the Nigerian INGO Forum and the dRPC Education Program Officer and Business Development Manager.
- The development partners presentation from UNICEF centred around the work of the Group of friends of CAAC established in the north-east and the strategic support to the Nigerian Army in developing the coasted workplan for the strategy to hand over survivors and for their re-integration into the communities.
- Plan International spoke specifically to the need to review the 6 grave violations and the responses strategy in Nigeria and Plan’s work in collaboration with Save the Children and UNICEF in chairing the SSD Implementation Committee in Nigeria. The County Director’s question to the Delegation was to enquire about the feedback on government commitment and perception of their performance in managing the issues of children in areas of armed conflicts.
- The dRPC’s contribution to the discourse was to highlight the Policy Advocacy piece of work through strengthening the capacity of CSOs as strategic catalyst to drive the advocacy for the domestication of the NPSSVFS, track budgetary provisions and demand accountability for the process. The dRPC’s question to the delegation was to seek recommendations and for the delegation to lend their advocacy to the challenge of funding which has now halted the implementation of the Financing Safe Schools Plan to Implement the NPSSVF, as this is the only strategic response to over 900,000¹ children who are out of school as a result of armed conflict beyond the north east and in the



dRPC’s Education Program Officer making a presentation about the dRPC’s Work on Child Protection through advocacy for the implementation of Safe Schools Declaration in Nigeria

¹ National Financing Safe Schools Plan (2023 – 2026)

north west which is the new hot zone for banditry, kidnapping and various forms of violence against children.

- CSACEFA spoke to the issue of poor accountability by the government on the utilization of fund for the implementation of the National Safe Schools Policy and the need to further advocate for CSOs participation as monitors in every stage of the implementation of the National Policy and Program of Safe Schools.
- The Nigerian INGO Forum spoke generally on their work in the northeast to re-integrate survivors of armed attacks to the communities and the alarming rate of return of these survivors to their captors as in the issue of Boko Haram and the northeast.

Delegation's key responses

- The AP- CAAC led gave a commitment in response to the dRPC that; as an advocacy committee, they are willing to work with member states of the AU to co-fund National Programs that align with their mandate and area of work.
- The delegation's Special Rapporteur, Prof. Robert reiterated that there is a crucial need for data to back up resource mobilization (funding) in this area of work which should be child specific.
- The Save the Children Child Protector officer recommended to th e AP-CAAC to



Cross section of the meeting

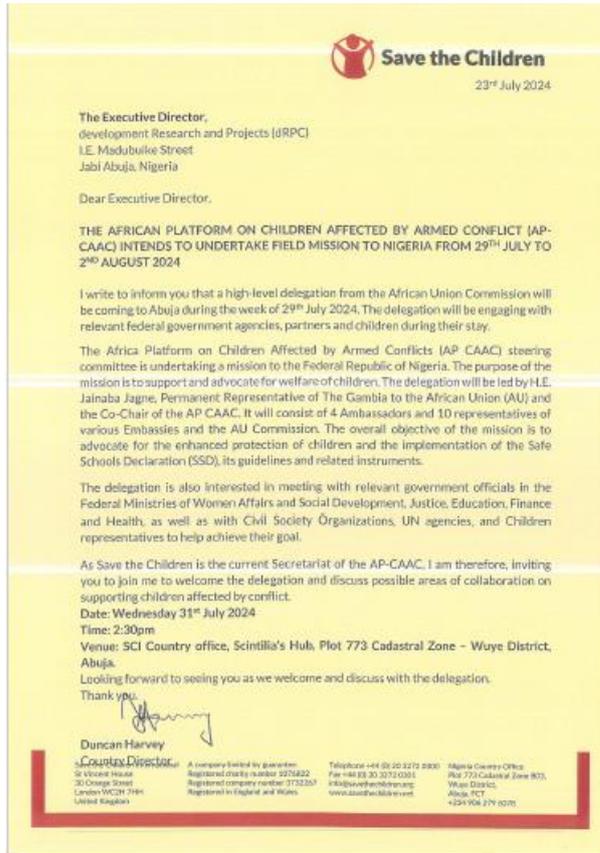
include the adoption of the Pari Passau Principles as they advocate for the pending 14 Member states to sign on to the Safe Schools Declarations. This was adopted by the delegation lead.

- The technical lead of the delegation noted that the 6 gave violations has been reviewed and that there is a need for further collaboration with the Nigerian CAAC committee to liaise with the AU for its strategic adaptation in Nigeria
- The delegation also noted that there is need a need to develop a framework for the root causes of conflict and work with the government to ensure the transition to justice for the criminalization of offenders.



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dRPC's Invitation letter



Link to full dRPC's letter of Invitation and AP-CAAC notice of visit and the country visit agenda: [Save the Children Invitation to AP- CAAC meeting .pdf](#)