

**Fellow Children,**

**Parents and all our Care Givers,**

**Our Leaders,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

My name is Margaret Sweene, I'm 14 years old and a member of the Smart Children Club in Child Space in Baba Dogo area of Kasarani Sub – County in Nairobi. I'm also the Club's integrity Champion. I am delighted for this rare opportunity to echo my voice on this platform on behalf of all many Kenyan Children across the Country to Launch 2021 Day of the African Child (DAC) under the theme: “30 years after the adoption of the charter: *Accelerate implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children*”

I am happy that there are many children's rights in my country but also sad that some are still just on paper. For instance; not all children are treated for free when they are sick and sometimes medicine is too expensive for our parents.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 during “*Children's Webinar*” held over the internet by National Council for Children's Services (NCCS) and other Child Protection experts drawn from Governmental and non- governmental organizations.

I listened to my fellow children expressing their problems and it was quite hurting to hear that some children do not have birth certificates because they are charged a lot of money to get one while for others it takes a long time like six months to get one.

Though there are still numerous unforeseen challenges such as COVID-19 that adversely affected our right to quality education, efforts must be made by all stakeholders to ensure that every child benefits fully from quality education and is protected from sexual abuse, emotional abuse and physical abuse in Kenya.

The Government should also ensure that every Child benefits from a child-sensitive justice system and be safe from the impact of conflicts, clashes, violence and other emergency situations.

I hope we are aware of Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2040 that says “African Children’s Charter, as supervised by the African Children’s Committee, provides an effective continental framework for advancing children’s rights”.

If Aspiration 1 is not attained, then all the other aspirations will remain just but dreams.

The Aspiration that excites me the most is the one that says that “African children’s views matter”. This makes me happy because it means that we can freely express our views like we did on Saturday and today and I hope you will continue to create more spaces for us to air our views. We would also like to see the Kenya Children’s Assembly(KCA) functioning like it did in the past.

I believe that the Charter and Agenda 2040 simply call for nothing but commitment by all of us to make Kenya and Africa Fit for Children. I would like to remind my fellow children to be responsible and always remember that every right has a responsibility. To our parents, thank you for taking care of us and God bless you as you continue making our families fit for us.

**Thank you and God bless the Children of Kenya and Africa.**