



**October 10, 2016**

**AFRICAWIDE Movement for Children** prepares for a new and better future: **Mohamadou Lamine Cissé**, Sénégalaise advocate for the rights and wellbeing of children in West Africa – **elected President**.

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Octobre 1st 2016** – 52 Representatives of African child rights civil society organisations and activists met in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the AfricaWide Movement for Children (AMC) - a pan African organisation that seeks to advance the realisation of children’s rights and wellbeing on the African Continent.

29 African countries, namely; Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, and Uganda were represented at the meeting.

Speaking about the challenges of networks and coalitions in Africa, former AMC President, Mme Wambui Njuguna said that *“as far as coalitions and networks are concerned, it is a stillbirth in Africa”*. She emphasized that this is due to failure to invest in institutions. *“The challenge, she said, is to begin thinking how this investment in institutions is taken up more seriously instead of starting new things”*.

The President’s report focused on defining the key AMC objectives as to promote and advocate for full realisation of child rights and speak out against violence. His presentation also focused on the strategic plan and direction to guide the movement, *key strategic pillars in terms of alliance building, knowledge sharing, advocacy and capacity building*. The one-day annual general meeting further discussed performance, challenges and achievements of the AMC.



A new governance structure was presented to address some of the challenges mentioned and unanimously approved by the General Assembly. A new Board of Custodians was also elected to lead the work of the AMC for the next two years. Mr. Mohamadou Lamine Cissé, of the *Observatoire International de La Democratie et de la Gestion des Crises et Conflits (OIDEK)* was nominated and elected President by acclamation, replacing George Nyakora, AMC President

from March 2012 to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.



The AMC Board of Custodians now includes five regional representatives and three of the regions are represented by women Custodians:



1. **Ms Stella Ayo Odongo:** Representing East Africa and replacing former Custodian, Eric Guga;
2. **Mr MacBain Mkadawire:** Representing Southern Africa and reelected;
3. **Madame Bassinga Solange Traore:** Representing West Africa and replacing former Custodian, Cissé Mohammadou Lamine;
4. **Ms Lydie Christiane Azab Aboto:** Representing Central Africa and replacing former Custodian, Enama Leon;
5. **Dr Salah Arafa:** Representing North Africa and replacing former Custodian, Dr Ali Mohammed Osman;

Former Presidents Wambui Njuguna and George Nyakora were also named honorary Presidents of the AMC by the General Assembly.

The New Board of Custodians has held its first meeting later on Saturday afternoon and co-opted two additional custodians: Mr. Theophane Nikyema, ACPF (AMC Secretariat); and Prof. Atangcho Akonumbo, as the official legal advisor to the Board of Custodians.

Mr. Théophane Nikyèma, Executive Director of The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) and head of the current AMC Secretariat, reminded the AGM that it is high time that the movement stands on its two feet and that ACPF will support the new Custodians in their efforts towards AMC's institutional capacity building and specifically supporting the work of the regional Custodians.

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