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IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX OF THE COMMUNIQUE PSC/PR/COMM.1296 (2025) ADOPTED BY THE PSC OF THE AU, AT ITS 1296TH OPEN SESSION HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2025 ON EDUCATION IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS.

No	Task (Specified and Implied)	Implementers/ Responsibilities	Actions to be taken	Resource(s)	Implementation Timeline	Status/Observations
1	Urge all actors in conflict situations to fully respect IHL and IHRL and ensure the upholding of children's rights.	AU Member States; Armed actors; AU Commission	Issue formal calls to all conflict actors on the continent to comply with IHL and IHRL obligations on children's rights.	N/A	Immediate	**Ongoing.** AP-CAAC leadership continues to engage PSC Members on the implementation of decisions related to accountability for violations against children affected by armed conflict. The SE-CAAC remains actively engaged in advocacy and high-level lobbying to strengthen the implementation of child protection frameworks. While the ACERWC continues to promote compliance with IHL and IHRL through its engagement with Member States, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). ACERWC continues to urge Member States, through the State Reporting process, to comply with their obligations under IHL and IHRL concerning the protection of children's rights
2	Redouble enforcement of IHL and IHRL protections for schools, teachers and learners from attacks.	AU Member States	Review and reinforce national legal and operational frameworks implementing IHL/IHRL protections for education in armed conflict.	N/A		
3	Criminalize the use of education infrastructure, including schools, for military purposes during armed conflict and ensure accountability for violations.	AU Member States	Develop and adopt national legislation criminalizing military use of schools; establish accountability mechanisms for violations.	N/A	Short-term	
4	Implement the objectives of the Decade of Education and the Continental Education Strategy for	AU Member States; AU Commission (ESTI)	Align national education plans with CESA 25-34; develop conflict-sensitive education components; monitor and report on implementation.	N/A	2026–2035	In progress Member States are being supported to align national education systems with CESA 26–35 through the

	Africa (CESA 25-34), prioritizing education in all conflict and post-conflict contexts.					CESA Cluster on Education in Emergencies, which promotes conflict-sensitive policies, education system resilience, continuity of learning, and monitoring of education-in-emergencies commitments.
5	Promote contingency planning, temporary learning centres and integration of education in national emergency response frameworks, including distance learning through educational digital platforms.	AU Member States; AU Commission	Develop national contingency education plans; establish temporary learning centres in crisis areas; create educational digital platforms for distance learning.	N/A	Short-term	In progress, The Africa Teacher Forum has been developed where teachers are engaging and sharing best practices.
6	Integrate peace and psychosocial education and support, as well as ending harmful practices, into AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs) and PCRD frameworks, with dedicated accountability measures.	AU Commission; PSO missions; PCRD structures	Revise PSO and PCRD mandates and frameworks to include peace and psychosocial education components and measures against harmful practices.	N/A	Short-term	In progress. Revised PCRD Policy integrates MHPSS and includes a dedicated Child Protection pillar strengthening the protection and well-being of children affected by conflict. The MHPSS Guideline has been validated and endorsed by Member States, providing a framework for addressing the psychosocial needs of children. Child Protection mainstreamed in PSOs through specialised training and capacity building of PSOs personnel to enhance child protection responses in conflict settings. Revised Child Protection Harmonised Curriculum (2025) addresses emerging child protection issues, including harmful practices, yet to be rollout for training purposes.
7	Accelerate domestication and implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration by Member States.	AU Member States; AU Commission	Identify Member States that have not yet endorsed or domesticated the Safe Schools Declaration; provide technical support and advocacy to accelerate action.	N/A	Short-term	Ongoing Identification of non-endorsing Member States completed. Engagement with the remaining 17 Member States is ongoing. AP-CAAC and SE-CAAC continue targeted advocacy to encourage endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD)
8	Develop a continental policy on the protection and provision of education services during conflicts.	AU Commission	Commission and develop a comprehensive AU policy framework on education protection and delivery in conflict settings; consult Member States and partners.	N/A	Short-term	Ongoing Integrated within CESA 26-35 to ensure equitable access to quality, inclusive and resilient education

						systems, including in situations of conflicts, emergencies, disasters and forced displavement.
9	Engage civil society, educators and communities to actively participate in creating safe, inclusive and equitable educational systems addressing the needs and rights of women and children in conflict situations.	AU Member States; Civil society; Educators; Communities	Establish multi-stakeholder platforms for education in conflict settings; develop inclusive education guidelines integrating gender and child rights perspectives.	N/A	Quarterly	AU- ESTI has established an Education in Emergencies (EiE) Cluster to provide an important mechanism for bringing together Member States, Regional Economic Communities, humanitarian and development partners, and relevant AU institutions to strengthen policy coherence, knowledge exchange, advocacy and coordinated action on education in crisis and conflict-affected contexts..
10	Issue periodic Scorecards on the Elimination of Harmful Practices, tracking trends in child marriage and other violations in conflict-affected areas to enable data-driven interventions.	AU Commission (AUC)	Design and issue periodic scorecards tracking child marriage and other harmful practices in conflict areas; disseminate findings to Member States and partners.	N/A	quaterly	HHS to update
11	Mobilize resources for the African Humanitarian Agency, Continental Civil Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response, the African Risk Capacity and AU Liaison Offices in conflict zones to support education delivery.	AU Commission	Develop a resource mobilization plan targeting AU mechanisms; engage partners and Member States for contributions to education delivery in conflict zones.	N/A	Short-term	HHS to update
12	Scale up domestic budget allocations for emergency education preparedness and response; promote innovative financing mechanisms including pooled emergency education funds and AU Peace Fund support; align donors with CESA 2026-2035 humanitarian education targets.	AU Member States; AU Commission; International donors	Develop guidelines on domestic budget allocation for emergency education; engage donors on alignment with CESA humanitarian education targets; explore pooled education funds.	N/A	Short-term	Ongoing: No dedicated AUC budget currently exists for Education in Emergencies. However, the AUC is mobilizing partner resources, including a proposed USD 3 million UNESCO-IICBA/Japan initiative, to strengthen education resilience and support CESA 26–35 priorities.
13	Promote peace education, conflict resolution and civic engagement content in national curricula; support teacher training on peacebuilding and inclusive pedagogy in fragile contexts including refugee and IDP camps; encourage community-based education initiatives fostering coexistence and preventing radicalization.	AU Member States; AU Commission	Develop guidelines for integrating peace education in national curricula; design teacher training programmes for conflict-affected and fragile settings.	N/A	Quarterly	Ongoing: The African Union Commission is advancing the integration of peace education and teacher capacity for conflict-affected settings through the CESA 26–35 and the AU Decade of Education and Skills Development (2025–2034), which provide strategic frameworks for promoting education system resilience, continuity of learning, peace education, and the protection of learners, teachers and educational institutions in fragile and humanitarian contexts.

14	Increase and sustain funding for education in Africa, strengthen educational infrastructure and services, and allocate more AUC resources to education particularly in conflict-affected areas.	AU Commission (AUC); AU Member States; International partners	Review AUC budget allocations for education; develop a resource mobilization strategy for educational infrastructure in conflict-affected areas.	N/A	Short-term	In progress The AUC is addressing financing gaps through strategic partnerships and donor-funded initiatives to strengthen education system resilience and expand learning opportunities for conflict-affected and displaced learners.
15	Follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of Communique PSC/PR/COMM.1229 (2024), including recommendations to address the challenge of education in refugee camps; strengthen child protection in AU peace, security and development programmes.	AU Commission	Conduct a review of implementation of PSC/PR/COMM.1229 recommendations; develop specific recommendations on education in refugee camps; report to the PSC.	N/A	Short-term	The Commission continues to advance the continental agenda on safeguarding children in situations of conflict. The Commission continues to strengthen prevention, response, and capacity-building efforts across APSA and AGA, aligned with Agenda 2063, Agenda 2040, and relevant Assembly and PSC decisions.
16	Encourage Member States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and transpose into domestic law the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Safe Schools Declaration and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.	AU Member States; AU Commission	Identify non-signatory and non-ratifying states; engage them through diplomatic and technical channels to expedite signature, ratification and domestication.	N/A	Short-term	Ongoing In April 2026, Somalia ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child marking significant increased national commitment to protecting children's rights. Targeted advocacy missions by the SE-CAAC are ongoing to support the ratification of the ACRWC by the remaining three Member States (Tunisia, Morocco and South Sudan).
17	Develop a comprehensive and dynamic matrix listing all AU legal frameworks, strategies and initiatives on inclusive education and continuity of education in conflict, and develop an action plan from 2025 onwards.	AU Commission	Map all existing AU frameworks, strategies and initiatives on education in conflict; develop the matrix and accompanying action plan; submit to PSC.	N/A	Short-term (from 2025)	In progress The AUC has integrated education in conflict into CESA 26–35 and operationalized implementation through the CESA Cluster on Education in Emergencies, led by UNHCR, providing a continental coordination platform to harmonize policy, strengthen Member State implementation, and advance education-in-emergencies commitments.
18	Facilitate technical support and capacity-building for Member States in implementing the Safe Schools Declaration, the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, and the Optional Protocol on children in armed conflict.	AU Commission	Design and deliver technical support and capacity-building programmes for Member States on these instruments; coordinate with relevant UN and civil society partners.	N/A		Ongoing (Women, Gender and Youth Directorate)