

Day of the African Child in Mali: The President of the Republic recognizes the efforts of UNICEF in Mali

16 of June 2008 - Mali celebrated the Day of the African Child today by organizing an advocacy forum at the Centre International des Conférences in Bamako. Several Organizations, Embassies, NGOs, Children's Parliament, The Prime Minister and Government Departments and UN Agencies took part in the forum chaired by Amadou Toumani TOURE, President of the Republic of Mali. UNICEF Mali was represented by Assane AMADOU, OIC.



Speeches by the African Committee Expert on the Child Rights of the African Union, COMADE (Mali Association for the Rights of Children), the Chair person of the Malian Children's Parliament, UNICEF, and the Minister in charge of the rights of children were delivered on *Children's Rights to participate in decision-making that affect them*.

Young Artists made a vibrant advocacy for children's rights through songs, dramas, choreographies and dances.

The President of the Republic, Amadou Toumani TOURE took the floor last. He vividly expressed his satisfaction for the good work UNICEF is doing in Mali to the benefit of children. He cited the recent cooperation agreement signed between ORANGE, a private company and UNICEF for the construction of 114 new schools in rural areas. These new schools will make it possible for thousands of girls and boys to access education.

He insisted that his gratitude for the excellent work implemented by UNICEF be extended to the entire staff in Mali, Marcel Rudasingwa, the Representative of UNICEF Mali, the staff of the WCARO and the UNICEF headquarters. He also mentioned his positive appreciation for his participation, with the support of UNICEF, in the World Fit for Children Plus 5 meeting in New York in December 2007.

The celebration will continue the whole week throughout the country.