

Children and Armed Conflict:

SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

SPECIAL UPDATE:
MARCH 2014

Recommendations to the Security Council

On Friday, 7th March, the UN Security Council is expected to hold an Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict, which will take place under the Luxembourg Presidency. The thematic Open Debate takes place before the publication of the UN Secretary-General's 13th annual report on children and armed conflict to the Security Council, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2068 (2012), by which the Council requested the Secretary-General to 'continue to submit annual reports on the implementation of its resolutions and presidential statements on children and armed conflict'. The 13th annual report will cover the period from January to December 2013, and is expected to be published in June. A second thematic Open Debate is expected to take place after the publication of this report.

On Thursday, 6th March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, together with UNICEF, will launch a joint Campaign to End the Recruitment and Use of Children by Government Security Forces in Conflict by 2016. There are currently eight Government security forces listed by the Secretary-General in his annual report on Children and Armed Conflict for the recruitment and use of children. These are: Afghanistan, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Myanmar, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Of these eight Governments, two have yet to sign action plans with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. These are Sudan and Yemen. Six Government security forces are also 'persistent perpetrators': they have been listed for five or more years in the annexes to the Secretary-General's annual reports on Children and Armed Conflict. They are: Chad, DRC, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict recommends that delegations participating in the 2014 Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict urge the Security Council to commit to the following actions to strengthen implementation of the Children and Armed Conflict agenda:

(1) Take specific and concrete measures to encourage action plan implementation by States and the UN:

- a. Request a special briefing by the SRS-CAAC on challenges encountered in action plan implementation;
- b. Request the Resident Coordinator or Special Representative of the Secretary-General for a specific country to raise the needs and rights of children with the national political leadership repeatedly and consistently and to brief the UN Security Council and/or its Working Group on progress made in terms of perpetrators active in the country, and the status of action plan implementation, in person or via video-link;
- c. Call upon donors to support national efforts to strengthen capacities for child protection, including the development of legislation criminalizing violations against children, the strengthening of investigative and prosecutorial capacities, the promotion of birth registration, and the establishment of age verification processes for military recruitment;
- d. Welcome the efforts of Member States in implementing its resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), and 2068 (2012), and encourage Member States to continue to pursue such implementation through national level strategies, including, inter alia, legal, political, diplomatic, financial and material measures, to encourage action plan implementation;
- e. Call on the donor community to address the critical need for sufficient and predictable resources to prevent and respond to grave violations and to implement action plans, for example, through establishing a revolving, pooled fund that provides seed money to government actors, UN agencies and partners upon action plan conclusion to start short-term programming.

Situations in the SG report involving parties listed for grave violations against children:

[Afghanistan](#)

[Central African region \(LRA-affected areas\)](#)

[Central African Republic](#)

[Chad](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[Iraq](#)

[Mali](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)

[Somalia](#)

[South Sudan](#)

[Sudan](#)

[Syrian Arab Republic](#)

[Yemen](#)

For resolution language on Children and Armed Conflict, download the new Children and Armed Conflict smartphone app from Watchlist and Liechtenstein, now available on [iPhone](#), [iPad](#), [Android](#) and [Blackberry!](#)



(2) Call for enhanced engagement by all actors with non-state armed groups for the purpose of ending violations and conclude action plans:

- a. Call on the SRSWG-CAAC to conduct, as soon as possible, outreach promoting action plan conclusion with armed non-State actors;
- b. Urge relevant Member States to allow unconditional access for the UN to armed non-State actors for the conclusion and implementation of action plans;
- c. Encourage external actors, including Member States, engaged in supporting peace negotiations or having other contacts to perpetrators to support action plan conclusion and implementation.

(3) Call for enhanced preparedness of Security Sector actors in the face of issues affecting children in situations of armed conflict:

- a. Call on parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education, in particular the use of schools for military operations, and urge Member States to endorse the draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict;
- b. Request the Secretary-General to develop a policy prohibiting government armed forces listed in the annexes to the Secretary-General's reports on Children and Armed Conflict to contribute troops to peacekeeping operations until they have adopted, and fully implemented, action plans to end violations against children;
- c. Call on Member States to support efforts to integrate guidance on issues affecting children in situations of armed conflict into military training manuals and standard operating procedures.

(4) Mainstream CAC concerns in the Security Council's country-specific work:

- a. Incorporate child protection within the priorities of any Security Council-authorized mission and ensure that child protection advisers are deployed in sufficient numbers to carry out the mission's child protection functions;
- b. Call on all parties to ensure that the cessation of violations against children, including the full demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers, and ensuring accountability for violations are essential components of efforts towards conflict mediation and peace negotiation.


(5) Revitalize the SCWG-CAAC:

- a. Request the Secretary-General to ensure that a new country-specific report on Children and Armed Conflict is submitted to the SCWG-CAAC every two months and that amendments or oral updates are provided as necessary by the SCWG-CAAC;
- b. Address the continuing problem of lengthy delays in adopting country-specific conclusions so consensus can be reached within the established two-month target.

CHAIR OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S WORKING GROUP ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT: LUXEMBOURG

- Party to Geneva Convention IV, Additional Protocols I and II, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 182, and the Rome Statute of the ICC; Endorsed the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict (July 2013) 
- Watchlist, Discussion Paper: Action Plans to Prevent and End Violations Against Children (April 2013) 
- Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein, Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination, Watchlist, Report of the workshop, Children and Armed Conflict: How to deal with Persistent Perpetrators? (March 2013) 
- Watchlist, Briefing Note, A Checklist for Mainstreaming (March 2013) 
- Watchlist, Briefing Note, Working Methods 2006-2012 (January 2013) 

About the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

The Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a global network of international human rights and humanitarian non-governmental organizations which strives to end violations against children in armed conflicts through local partnerships, reporting and advocacy.

To subscribe to Watchlist updates and recommendations, [click here](http://watchlist.org/sign-up) or visit: <http://watchlist.org/sign-up>

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

122 East 42nd Street, Suite 1620, New York, NY 10168-1289 • Telephone: 212.972.0695 • Fax: 212.972.0701

Email: watchlist@watchlist.org • Website: www.watchlist.org