



Review of the 2014 September Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict

The UN Security Council (UNSC) held two Open Debates on Children and Armed Conflict in 2014. The first [Open Debate took place on 7 March 2014](#) under the Presidency of Luxembourg. The outcome of the debate was the adoption of [Security Council Resolution 2143](#).

The second Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict took place on 8 September 2014 under the Presidency of the United States (U.S). It followed the 1 July publication of the [Secretary-General's 13th Annual Report on Children in Armed Conflict](#). As a resolution was adopted in March, **no outcome document was expected** for the September Open Debate. The U.S. did not circulate a concept note, and instead encouraged **Member States to base their intervention on the Secretary-General's report**.

The **thematic section** of the Secretary-General's report covers four issues. First, it discusses the joint campaign of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), and UNICEF, to end recruitment and use of children by government security forces, "[Children not Soldiers](#)". Second, it discusses engagement with non-State armed groups for ending violations against children. Third, it draws attention to attacks on schools and hospitals, and the military use of schools. Fourth, it discusses the mainstreaming of the UN's children and armed conflict agenda in the work of the Security Council and within regional organizations. The annexes of the report list **59 parties to armed conflict or other situations of concern**, of which **51 are armed non-State actors**, for grave violations against children. Of these 59 parties, **31 have been in the annexes for at least five years** and are therefore considered **persistent perpetrators—10 of which have appeared on the list every year since it was first issued in 2002**.¹ The Chadian Armed Forces were delisted after implementing their 2011 action plan to end recruitment and use. Boko Haram, active in Nigeria, is listed for the first time for attacks on schools and/or hospitals, and killing and maiming.

The debate was generally positive and manifested broad support for strengthening implementation of the Children and Armed Conflict (CAC) agenda. **Sixty-one delegations, representing over 120 countries**, participated. The most prominent themes in delegation statements included the "Children Not Soldiers" campaign, child protection in peacekeeping, military use of schools, and specific country situations, including Gaza, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Syria.

The attached analytical summary provides an overview of delegation statements related to Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict's [key recommendations to the UNSC](#), and other themes featured in the debate. It is hoped that this information may be useful in helping to shape targeted follow-up to the Security Council.

¹ These are: DRC [Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC), Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR)]; Myanmar (Tatmadaw Kyi); South Sudan [Sudan's People's Liberation Army (SPLA)]; Colombia [Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP)]; Philippines [Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), New People's Army (NPA), Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)]; Central African Region [Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)].



Analytical Summary of the September 2014 Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict

Participation:

- 3 UN representatives addressed the Security Council: Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Yoka Brandt, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.
- 2 additional speakers addressed the Council: Forest Whitaker, Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation of UNESCO; and Sandra Uwiringiyimana, a young survivor from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- 61 delegations² participated, including the European Union and League of Arab States. Austria spoke on behalf of the Human Security Network, Iran spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Sweden delivered a statement on behalf of the Nordic Countries, and Indonesia spoke for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Together these delegations represented over 120 countries.
 - Overall participants made generally favorable remarks, but 10 delegations³ were critical of some aspects of the agenda;
 - Compared to the Open Debate in March 2014, 10 new States or intergovernmental bodies⁴ participated, and 11 Member States⁵ did not participate in September, even though they spoke in March;
 - 7 out of 8 governments⁶ listed for grave violations against children made statements.

Themes in Delegation Statements:

Abductions

- Abductions of children in armed conflict were a recurrent theme with specific cases in Nigeria and Iraq being mentioned by various delegations.
 - Recent abductions of children in Nigeria were mentioned by 21 delegations⁷;
 - 4 States⁸ urged the Council to expand the “triggers” for listing parties to a conflict to include abductions;
 - Russia urged that all 6 grave violations be given equal attention.

Accountability and Impunity

² Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russia, Rwanda, UK, USA, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, DRC, Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, India, Italy, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden*, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen, EU, Human Security Network, Non-Aligned Movement, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, League of Arab States.

³ China, Russia, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, and the Non-Aligned Movement

⁴ Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Israel, Somalia, Ukraine, Yemen, Non-Aligned Movement, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and League of Arab States.

⁵ Armenia, Croatia, Greece, Honduras, Human Security Network, Indonesia, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, and Uganda.

⁶ Afghanistan, DRC, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. South Sudan did not deliver a statement.

⁷ Chad, Chile, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Portugal, Qatar, Sweden*, Switzerland, EU, and the Human Security Network

⁸ Canada, Japan, Lithuania and Portugal

- 6 countries⁹ mentioned the need to include child protection provisions in peace negotiations and agreements.
- 9 delegations¹⁰ called on the Council to address the problem of persistent perpetrators.
- 9 delegations¹¹ supported targeted measures against perpetrators of grave violations.
- 17 delegations¹² referenced the positive role of the International Criminal Court.

Child Protection in UN Peacekeeping Missions

- 3 States (Rwanda, Germany, and Belgium) mentioned the need for a UN Peacekeeping policy banning listed countries from contributing troops to peacekeeping mission until action plans have been signed and implemented. In the March Open Debate, Switzerland also called for such a policy to be instituted. Other States who touched on this issue, include:
 - France noted in their statement, “The credibility of our efforts to liberate child soldiers also depends on our collective example. That is why France supports clarification of the rules governing participation in peacekeeping operations by national armies on the list for child recruitment;”
 - The U.S. referenced the inclusion of Chadian troops into the UN mission in Mali as an impetus for implementing its action plan on recruitment and use of children;
 - 3 countries (France, Canada, and Portugal) mentioned the enforcement of human rights screening, human rights due diligence and zero-tolerance policies;
 - 3 delegations (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Japan, and Portugal), addressed the importance of holding UN Peacekeepers to the highest standards.
- 13 States¹³ mentioned the importance training of peacekeepers on child protection, including:
 - 3 States (Estonia, New Zealand, and Switzerland) who called for the mandatory training of peacekeepers in child protection.
- 10 States¹⁴ supported the role of child protection advisors in UN missions.

“Children Not Soldiers” Campaign

- 41 delegations¹⁵ welcomed the joint campaign, “Children, not Soldiers,” of the SRSB-CAAC and UNICEF.
 - 16 States¹⁶ mentioned their own support for the campaign;
 - 13 delegations¹⁷ raised the need to engage with non-State armed groups to end violations against children;
 - 2 States (India and Thailand) cautioned that engagement with non-state armed groups requires the explicit consent from the government concerned.

Military Use of Schools and Guidelines to Prevent

- 25 delegations¹⁸ addressed the importance of ending the military use of schools;
- 10 delegations¹⁹ welcomed the drafting of guidelines to prevent military use
 - 9 delegations²⁰ referred explicitly to the *Draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use During Armed Conflict*

⁹ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Turkey.

¹⁰ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Turkey, UK, USA

¹¹ Australia, Lithuania, Republic of Korea, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Mexico, Portugal, and Turkey.

¹² Australia, Brazil, Chile, Estonia, EU, France, Guatemala, Italy, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Switzerland, UK, Uruguay

¹³ Canada, Chile, Estonia, EU, Italy, Montenegro, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden*, Switzerland

¹⁴ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Rwanda, Switzerland

¹⁵ Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Rwanda, UK, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden*, Switzerland, Turkey, EU, Human Security Network, League of Arab States.

¹⁶ Botswana, Brazil, Chile, DRC, EU, Germany, Guatemala, League of Arab States, Mexico, Nordic Countries, Pakistan, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sudan, and Switzerland.

¹⁷ Argentina, Australia, Chad, Lithuania, Republic of Korea, USA, Estonia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Pakistan, Portugal, Switzerland, and Human Security Network.

¹⁸ Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, Lithuania, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, UK, USA, Canada, Estonia, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Spain, Sweden*, Uruguay, EU, Human Security Network.

¹⁹ Chile, France, Human Security Network, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Japan, New Zealand, Slovenia, Sweden*, Qatar

Missing Element:

Security Council Working Group Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG-CAAC) Working Methods

- None of the participants raised the need to address the continuing problem of lengthy delays in producing the Secretary General's country-specific reports on children and armed conflict or the delays by the Working Group in adopting country-specific conclusions;
- Only 2 speakers (Mexico and Guatemala) spoke in favor of enforcing the SCWG-CAAC tools;
- Argentina, Australia and Lithuania criticized the failure of SCWG-CAAC to adopt the conclusion on Syria. Negotiations have been ongoing since May 2014.

²⁰ Argentina, Lithuania, Estonia, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, New Zealand, Portugal, Switzerland, Human Security Network.

Annex 1: Overview of statements in comparison to Watchlist messages and/or messages of partners:

P= positive mention; N=negative mention.

* Sweden spoke on behalf of the Nordic Countries, including Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway.

** Austria spoke on behalf of the Human Security Network, which is composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand. South Africa is an observer.

*** Iran spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned movement: composed of 120 Member States and 17 Observer States.

**** Indonesia spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation: represents 57 States.

Speaker:	Policy banning listed States from contributing to UN Missions	Mandatory Pre-deployment training for peacekeepers	Inclusion of Child Protection Advisors	Upholding peacekeepers to highest standards	Expand triggers to include abductions	Child protection in peace agreements	Address lengthy delays of the SCWG-CAAC	Military Use of Schools	Lucens Guidelines	Concrete measures (not explicitly Lucens) to deter military use of schools	Engagement with ANSAs	Address Persistent Perpetrators	Targeted measures and/or sanctions	Children not Soldiers campaign	CAAC issues in Nigeria
Argentina								P	P		P			P	
Australia								P			P		P	P	
Chad								P		P	P			P	P
Chile								P		P				P	P
China														P	
France	P													P	
Jordan															
Lithuania					P			P	P		P		P	P	P
Luxembourg								P						P	P
Nigeria															P
Republic of Korea								P			P	P	P		P

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Russia Federation															
Rwanda	P		P					P						P	P
UK								P				P		P	P
USA								P			P	P			P
Algeria													P	P	
Azerbaijan														P	
Belgium	P														
Bosnia and Herzegovina			P	P		P						P	P	P	
Botswana														P	
Brazil														P	
Canada					P			P					P		P
Colombia						P								P	
DRC														P	
Estonia		P	P					P	P		P			P	
Germany	P		P								P			P	P
Guatemala			P											P	P
India			P								N				
Italy														P	
Iraq															
Israel															
Japan				P	P									P	P
Liechtenstein						P		P	P		P			P	P

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Malaysia			P					P		P				P	
Mexico								P		P		P	P	P	
Montenegro								P	P					P	
Morocco								P						P	P
Myanmar														P	
New Zealand		P	P			P		P	P			P			
Pakistan						P		P			P	P		P	
Philippines															
Poland														P	
Portugal			P	P	P			P	P		P	P	P	P	P
Qatar								P						P	P
Somalia														P	
Spain								P						P	
Sudan														P	
Nordic Country Statement*								P		P				P	P
Switzerland		P	P						P		P			P	P
Syria															
Thailand											N				
Turkey						P						P	P	P	
Ukraine															
Uruguay								P							
Yemen															
European								P						P	P

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Union															
Human Security Network**								P	P		P			P	P
Non-Aligned Movement* **															
Organization of Islamic Cooperation ****															
League of Arab States														P	
Total Positive mentioning	4	3	10	3	4	6	0	26	9	5	13	9	9	41	21
Total Negative Mentioning											2				