

Children and Armed Conflict:

SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

SPECIAL UPDATE:
JUNE 2013

Recommendations to the Security Council

In June, the UN Secretary-General is expected to submit his 12th annual report on children and armed conflict to the UN 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 report covers the period from January to December 2012. The Security Council will discuss the report during a public debate, scheduled to take place in June under the UK Presidency.

The 12th report of the Secretary-General lists fifty-five parties to conflict who commit grave violations against children. Twenty-nine parties have been listed for a period of five years or more and are thus considered persistent perpetrators. Nine listed parties (six state parties and three non-state armed groups) have concluded an action plan with the United Nations. Two non-state armed groups in Myanmar are indicated to 'have sought to conclude an action plan with the United Nations (...), but the United Nations has been prevented from doing so by the Government'. Contrary to last year, no listed parties were removed after the adoption, and completion, of an action plan.

After more than a decade of development of the normative framework for, and of the UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on children and armed conflict, more support is now needed to strengthen the implementation of the agenda.

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict recommends that delegations participating in the 2013 Security Council 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) Encourage action plan implementation by parties to conflict and the UN:

- a. Call on Member States to mobilize embassies in-country in their bilateral contacts or through local "groups of friends" to encourage action plan implementation by concerned Governments and the UN;
- 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, in person or via video-link;
- c. 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;

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

- a. Call on the SRSB-CAC to replicate, as soon as possible, the successful outreach of the past two years promoting action plan conclusion with listed governments, now focused on 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;

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

[Afghanistan](#)

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

[Central African Republic](#)

[Chad](#)

[Colombia](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[Iraq](#)

[Mali](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)

[Philippines](#)

[Somalia](#)

[South Sudan](#)

[Sudan](#)

[Syrian Arab Republic](#)

[Yemen](#)

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(3) Take specific and concrete measures to increase pressure on perpetrators of grave violations against children:

- a. Sanctions:
 - i. Include grave violations against children as designation criteria in all relevant sanctions committees, subject individuals responsible for such violations to sanctions, and consider options for extending the sanctions regimes to other situations of armed conflict involving violations against children or for imposing sanctions where no country-specific sanctions regime exists;
 - ii. Call for greater interaction between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and relevant sanctions committees;
- b. Accountability:
 - i. National: Encourage Member States to: criminalize all grave violations against children; ensure that all allegations of grave violations are investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted or subjected to (military) disciplinary sanctions; and cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of grave violations and in the arrest of suspects;
 - ii. International: Invite concerned States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC) Statute to refer situations of grave violations to the ICC or invite the ICC Prosecutor to consider examining situations of grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict; invite the Prosecutor or Deputy Prosecutor to brief the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict; encourage the exchange of information between the Prosecutor and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRS-G-CAC); and transmit conclusions of the Working Group to the ICC Prosecutor;

(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 any peace negotiation;

(5) Revitalize the SCWG-CAC:

- a. Increase the range and frequency of the use of tools in the toolkit, making better use specifically of field trips, emergency briefings by the SRS-G-CAC, press statements, and communication with justice mechanisms;
- b. Address the growing problem of lengthy delays in negotiations by referring draft conclusions to political coordinators or Permanent Representatives where consensus cannot be reached within the established two-month target;
- c. Request the Secretary-General to ensure that a new country-specific report is submitted to the SCWG-CAC every two months and that amendments or oral updates are provided as necessary by the SRS-G-CAC.

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

- 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.

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