

Children and Armed Conflict

SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

SPECIAL UPDATE
SEPTEMBER 2014

Recommendations for the Security Council

On Monday 8th September, the UN Security Council will hold an Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict (CAC), which will take place under the Presidency of the United States. This is the second Open Debate on CAC in 2014. The first Open Debate was held in March. The September Open Debate takes place following the 1st July publication of the UN Secretary-General's 13th Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict. Every year, the Secretary-General submits the thematic report to the Security Council, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2068 (2012). The 13th annual report covers the period from January to December 2013.

In all, 59 parties to conflict have been listed in the annexes of the report. Of these, 51 are armed non-State actors, and 31 parties have been in the annexes for at least five years and are therefore considered persistent perpetrators. There are currently eight countries whose security forces are listed for grave violations against children. They are: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The joint UNICEF/OSRSG-CAAC campaign, Children Not Soldiers, focuses on governments whose security forces recruit and use children – all of the above except for Syria, which is listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children. Only the Government of Sudan has yet to sign an action plan with the UN to end recruitment and use.

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

- (1) Call on the Secretary-General to develop and implement a policy that prohibits government security forces listed in the annexes to the Secretary General's annual report on children and armed conflict from contributing troops to UN-mandated missions, until the Secretary-General has certified the full implementation of their action plan with the UN to end and prevent violations against children;
- (2) Request the Secretary-General to include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage in abductions of children; and expand the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism trigger violations to include abductions;
- (3) Urge Member States, UN entities, and other parties concerned to ensure that child protection provisions, including ending and preventing all six grave violations against children, are integrated into all peace negotiations and peace agreements;
- (4) Ensure an efficient and effective Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict by addressing the continuing problem of lengthy delays in the adoption of country-specific conclusions;
- (5) Call for all Member States to take concrete measures to deter the military use of schools, including by supporting and implementing the *Draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict*.

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: A Policy prohibiting Listed Government Forces from Contributing Troops to UN Missions (August 2014)
- Watchlist, Briefing Note, Working Methods 2006-2013 (May 2014)
- Watchlist, Briefing Note, A Checklist for Mainstreaming (March 2013)
- Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, *Draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict* (July 2013)

About Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

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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