Children and Armed Conflict MONTHLY UPDATE: APRIL 2014

Recommendations to the Security Council

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Seven parties are listed for the recruitment and use of children, four as part of the Seleka Coalition. The Council will be briefed on the implementation of BINUCA's mandate, in accordance with SCR 2134 (2014). The African Union (AU) and France will report on the activities of MISCA and the French forces respectively, pursuant to SCR 2127 (2013). A resolution authorizing the transformation of MISCA into a UN Peacekeeping Operation (PKO) is also expected. **The Security Council should**:

- Ensure that any UN peacekeeping operation has **adequate resources and child protection advisors** to monitor and report on violations against children;
- Pending the deployment of a PKO, urge the enforcement the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy by putting in place necessary oversight mechanisms and assistance to MISCA to identify and suspend troops implicated in human rights violations; and ensure that suspected perpetrators do not form part of a UN peacekeeping mission;
- Encourage the development and adoption of **standard operating procedures**, by all armed forces active in CAR, **on the treatment and transfer of children believed to be associated with armed groups**.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

MALI

Three armed groups are listed both for recruitment and use of children and for rape and other forms of sexual violence. The national army of Chad, listed for recruitment and use of child soldiers, is participating in MINUSMA. Pursuant to SCR 2100 (2013), the Secretary-General (SG) will report on the situation in Mali and the implementation of MINUSMA's mandate. **Council Members should**:

- Call on all parties to ensure that peace and reconciliation discussions systematically incorporate child protection concerns;
- Request the SG to increase the child protection capacity of MINUSMA with a view to strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism;
- Urge the government to ensure that in any **DDR framework** children are treated separately and their reintegration is prioritized.

FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON MALI.

SOMALIA

Two persistent perpetrators, the Somali Armed Forces and Al-Shabaab, are listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. The Government adopted two action plans in 2012. Pursuant to SCR 2102 (2013), the Council is expected to review UNSOM's mandate. **The Security Council should**:

- Urge the Government to take concrete steps to implement, as a matter of priority, the action plans on killing and maiming and recruitment and use; and to widely communicate on their progress;
- Strengthen UNSOM's child protection capacity, currently at one child protection advisor, to ensure monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children, and conduct humanitarian dialogue to obtain the release of children associated with armed groups.

THE **UNITED KINGDOM** IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA, AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS THE CHAIR OF THE 751/1907 SOMALIA-ERITREA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

Situations before the Council 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

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SOUTH SUDAN

The SPLA is listed for recruitment and use of children. In 2012, the Government of South Sudan adopted a revised action plan to end recruitment and use. The SG will provide an update on the implementation of SCR 2132 (2013), which authorized an increase in the military component of UNMISS due to increased hostilities in December 2013. The Council may adopt a resolution proposing a reprioritization of UNMISS's mandate. **Council Members should**:

- Express **concern and raise awareness about youth mobilization**, including children, by all parties;
- As per the campaign, Children not Soldiers, ensure joint cooperation with the government in advancing the action plan on the recruitment and use of children, including the release of children; and urge all parties to grant unhindered access for child protection advisors to verify the recruitment and use of children in youth mobilization centers and barracks;
- Call on all parties to ensure that child protection concerns, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, are systematically incorporated in ongoing peace and reconciliation discussions;
- Recommend for UNMISS to **support the work of the AU Commission of Inquiry** on South Sudan, particularly in its investigation of grave violations against children.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN.

SUDAN (DARFUR)

Nine parties, including the Sudanese government forces, are listed for the recruitment and use of child soldiers. The Council will receive a report on the implementation of the mandate of UNAMID, in accordance with SCR 2113 (2013). **The Security Council should**:

- Call on all parties to allow the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance and encourage the Sanctions Committee of resolution 1591 (2005) and its Panel of Experts to pay particular attention to the denial of humanitarian assistance;
- Encourage the Government of Sudan to **enhance efforts to conclude negotiations** with the UN on an action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

THE **UNITED KINGDOM** IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DARFUR. ARGENTINA CHAIRS THE 1591 SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.

YEMEN

Three parties in Yemen (State armed forces, Al-Houthi, Ansar al-Sharia) are listed for recruitment and use of children. The Sanctions Committee will brief the Council on its work, pursuant to SCR 2140 (2014). **Council members should**:

- Request the SRSG-CAAC to **share information with the Sanctions Committee** on those responsible for grave violations against children;
- Request the Sanctions Committee to include the designation of individuals or entities for grave violations against children.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

SYRIA

Two parties are listed: the Free Syrian Army and the Syrian Government. In February, the SRSG-CAAC presented the first report on <u>Children and Armed Conflict in Syria</u> to the Working Group, and negotiations over the conclusions are expected to last into April. For detailed recommendations to the Security Council Working Group, see <u>'Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update January 2014</u>'.

Presidency of the Security Council for April: Nigeria

 Party to Geneva Convention I-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; Has not endorsed the Paris Commitments.

NGO resources

- Child Soldiers International, Chad: Briefing on the status of implementation of the June 2011 Action Plan on children associated with armed forces and groups and its 10-Point Roadmap, March 2014
- War Child, A Vicious Cycle for Children in the Central African Republic, March 2014
- World Vision, Our Uncertain Future: A report written by the children of Syria, March 2014

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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