

## Recommendations to the Security Council

### Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict

The UN Security Council will hold an Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict on Friday, 7 March 2014. This will be one of two thematic debates on Children and Armed Conflict in 2014. The second Open Debate is expected to occur in the months following the publication of the 13th Annual Report of the Secretary-General (SG) on Children and Armed Conflict. For detailed recommendations please see '[Children and Armed Conflict Special Update, March 2014](#)'.

### AFGHANISTAN

The Afghan National Police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network and Hezb-e-Islami) are listed for recruitment and use of children. The armed groups are also listed for the killing and maiming of children. The Taliban are listed for attacks on schools and hospitals. In 2011, the Government concluded an action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children, with an annex on sexual violence. In March 2014, the Security Council is expected to decide on UNAMA's mandate renewal, as foreseen in S/RES/2096 (2013). NATO-led ISAF will report on the implementation of its mandate, extended in S/RES/2120 (2013). **Council Members should:**

- Urge the Government, with support from UNAMA, NATO, and ISAF, to **accelerate action plan compliance**, as set out in S/RES/2120 (2013);
- Bearing in mind the renewal of UNAMA's mandate, **ensure adequate resources** for child protection advisors to carry out activities, including to be able to adequately support the government in action plan implementation;
- Urge governments engaged in supporting and training the Afghan Local Police to **take measures to put an end to and prevent the recruitment and use** of children;
- Expand the designation criteria of the **1988 Afghanistan Sanctions Committee** to include attacks on schools and hospitals.

**AUSTRALIA IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON AFGHANISTAN, THE CHAIR OF THE 1267 AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE CHAIR OF THE 1988 AFGHANISTAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE.**

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Seven parties are listed for the recruitment and use of children. The SG will report to the Security Council on the possible transformation of MISCA to a UN peacekeeping operation, as set out in S/RES/2127 (2013). The SG will also provide an update on the creation of a 'Panel of Experts', S/RES/2127 (2013), who will investigate and report on individuals that violate international humanitarian and human rights law. **The Security Council should:**

- Ensure that MISCA or any UN peacekeeping operation has **adequate resources and child protection advisors** to monitor and report on violations against children;
- **Increase military patrolling** in provinces where military deployments and humanitarian presence remain limited;
- **Enforce the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy** by putting in place necessary oversight mechanisms and assist MISCA to identify and suspend troops implicated in human rights violations; and **ensure that suspected perpetrators do not form part of the UN peacekeeping mission**;
- **Support the work of the Panel of Experts** in identifying individuals who commit grave violations against children and **recommend travel bans and asset freezes** where credible evidence exists.

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.**

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Eight parties are listed for violations. The Congolese armed forces and the FDLR have both been listed in the annexes for at least five years and are therefore considered persistent perpetrators. The Government concluded an action plan in 2012 to end and prevent recruitment and use of children. ▶

### 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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## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (cont'd)

In March, the mandate of MONUSCO, as set out in S/RES/2098 (2013), is expected to be renewed. **The Security Council should:**

- Ensure that MONUSCO's **child protection advisors are able to maintain their essential contributions** in monitoring and reporting on grave violations, separating children from armed groups, and advocating for action plan implementation;
- Call on the Government to **establish a professional and accountable national army**, including by strengthening age verification in army recruitment procedures to prevent children from being unlawfully recruited or integrated into the FARDC, and in this regard, welcome progress made thus far and continue to encourage the Government, in collaboration with MONUSCO, to **adopt time bound measures to implement the 2012 action plan**;
- Call on Member States to **support efforts to arrest and to bring to justice** those responsible for grave violations against children.

**FRANCE IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.**

## SOUTH SUDAN

The SPLA is listed for the recruitment and use of children. In May 2012, the Government of South Sudan concluded a revised action plan. The SG will provide his second update on the implementation of S/RES/2134 (2013), which authorized an increase in the military component of UNMISS. The SG will also report on the progress of the mandate of UNMISS, S/RES/2109 (2013). **Council Members should:**

- Continue to **urge all parties to honor the cessation of hostilities agreement**, which includes refraining from attacks on civilians and recruitment and use of children;
- Ensure that **children's rights are fully integrated** into the ongoing peace negotiations and reconciliation process;
- Urge the African Union to finalize the terms and conditions to **rapidly deploy the Commission of Inquiry**. The Commission should be sufficiently resourced, transparent and impartial. It should investigate the recruitment and use of children as soldiers and other grave violations committed against children.

**THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOUTH SUDAN.**

## YEMEN

Three parties in Yemen are listed for recruitment and use of children (State armed forces, al-Houthi, Ansar al-Sharia). The Council also expects a briefing on Yemen by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen in accordance with S/RES/2051 (2013). **Council Members should:**

- Call on the government to **adopt an action plan** to address the recruitment and use of children by Government forces, in line with S/RES/1612 (2005), S/RES/1882 (2009), S/RES/1998 (2011);
- Request the SG to **continue to include** the matter of children and armed conflict as a specific aspect of all reports on progress in Yemen, and more specifically, to report on the implementation of the 2013 conclusions adopted by the SCWG-CAAC on Yemen.

**THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON YEMEN.**

## Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

### SYRIA

Two parties are listed: the Free Syrian Army, and Syrian Government. In February, the SRSR-CAAC presented the first report on Children and Armed Conflict in Syria to the Working Group, and negotiations over the conclusion are expected to start late March.

- For detailed recommendations to the Security Council Working Group, see 'Children and Armed Conflict Monthly Update January 2014'.

### Presidency of the Security Council for March: Luxembourg

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

## NGO resources

- Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Education under Attack 2014, February 2014 
- Princeton Workshop Policy Report Strengthening Implementation of the UN's Children and Armed Conflict Agenda, February 2014 
- Security Council Report: Cross-Cutting Report on Children and Armed Conflict, February 2014 
- The Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, Child Soldiers: A Handbook for Security Sector Actors, October 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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