

**Security Council**

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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict**Statement by the Chairman addressed to the leadership of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam**

At the 8th meeting of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, held on 10 May 2007 in connection with the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka (S/2006/1006), the Chairman made the following statement on behalf of the Working Group:

The Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

1. *Calls the attention* of the leadership of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to the fact that the Security Council has received a report of the Secretary-General, dated 20 December 2006, on children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka (S/2006/1006), in which he described, inter alia, a continuous, ongoing and even increasing pattern of abduction, recruitment and use of children by LTTE, despite previous commitments made under the action plan for children affected by war in March 2003;

2. *Strongly condemns* the continuous recruitment and use of child soldiers and all other violations and abuses committed against children by LTTE;

3. *Urges the leadership of LTTE:*

(a) To immediately end the practice of abduction, recruitment and use of children under the age of 18 and to separate them from its ranks, in conformity with its obligations under the action plan;

(b) To immediately engage in transparent procedures with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the release and verification of the demobilization of all children;

(c) To immediately cease the transfer of demobilized children to the Educational Skills Development Centre and instead release them directly to their families, as stipulated in the action plan;

(d) To cooperate with UNICEF by sharing information and providing UNICEF representatives with unimpeded access to LTTE military camps with a view to putting an end to violations and abuses perpetrated against children;



(e) To recognize and commit to maintaining the neutrality and security of schools, hospitals and religious institutions as safe zones in conflict-affected areas;

(f) To immediately provide humanitarian actors with unimpeded and safe access to all areas under its control;

4. *Emphasizes that:*

(a) If in the coming months reporting by the Secretary-General on the follow-up by LTTE to this message indicates significant progress, the Working Group will look for continued progress in the framework of the next regular report on children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka;

(b) If, however, LTTE does not respond positively to this message in the coming months or does not carry out its commitments or abide by its obligations in accordance with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1612 (2005), further steps may be taken.
