

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
31 December 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 21 December 2015 from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict, containing an account of the Working Group's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ramlan Bin **Ibrahim**
Chair
Security Council Working Group
on Children and Armed Conflict



Annex

Annual report on the activities of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015.
2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Hussein Haniff (Malaysia) as Chair from January to April and Ramlan Ibrahim (Malaysia) thereafter. The representative of Nigeria served as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. On 26 July 2005, the Security Council adopted resolution 1612 (2005), on children and armed conflict. In paragraph 8 of that resolution, the Council decided to establish a working group of the Council to review the reports of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in order to review progress in the development and implementation of the action plans to halt recruitment and use of children in violation of international obligations and to consider other relevant information presented to it. The Council also decided that the working group should:

(a) Make recommendations to the Council on possible measures to promote the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including through recommendations on appropriate mandates for peacekeeping missions and recommendations with respect to the parties to the conflict;

(b) Address requests, as appropriate, to other bodies within the United Nations system for action to support the implementation of the resolution in accordance with their respective mandates.

4. Pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005), the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict has submitted annual reports to the Council on developments in relation to the Working Group.¹ During the reporting period, the Working Group held three formal meetings, on 6 February, 8 May and 6 July, and met four times in informal consultations. The Working Group also held joint informal consultations with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) to hear a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

¹ The Working Group's annual reports cover the periods 26 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (S/2006/497), 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (S/2007/428), 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (S/2008/455), 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (S/2009/378), 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (S/2010/410), 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (S/2011/610), 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (S/2012/718), 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (S/2013/710) and 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2014 (S/2014/914).

III. Substantive issues addressed

53rd meeting

5. At its 53rd formal meeting, held on 6 February, the Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in South Sudan (S/2014/884), covering the period from March 2011 to September 2014. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions. She said that, during the reporting period, all the parties to the conflict in South Sudan had committed grave violations against children, with recruitment and use of children showing a marked increase since the conflict began in December 2013. While progress had been made by the Government in the implementation of the action plan on the release of children from armed forces and groups up to December 2013, the subsequent setbacks were a cause of great concern and there should be full implementation of the recommitment agreement signed in June 2014. The Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition must also immediately cease all grave violations against children and abide by the commitments made by its Chair in May 2014.

6. During the meeting, the Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations presented the views of his Government on the report of the Secretary-General. His statement is annexed to the report of the Working Group containing its relevant conclusions (S/AC.51/2015/1). The main elements of his statement, as well as the exchange of views among the members of the Working Group, are also reflected in the summary contained in that report.

7. Also at the meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Working Group on her mission to Nigeria, carried out from 11 to 17 January.

54th meeting

8. At its 54th formal meeting, held on 8 May, the Working Group adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in South Sudan (S/2014/884). Those conclusions were issued as a document of the Security Council (S/AC.51/2015/1). Also at the meeting, the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund presented the Secretary-General's global horizontal note covering the period from October to December 2014. In addition, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Working Group on her visit to Havana, on 5 and 6 May, to meet the negotiating parties to the Colombia peace talks.

9. The Chair of the Working Group subsequently carried out the tasks entrusted to him in the context of the conclusions, including by conveying a letter to the President of the Security Council requesting that the President transmit letters to the Government of South Sudan and the Secretary-General and by transmitting letters to the World Bank and donors. A public statement by the Working Group was published on 8 May as a Council press release.

55th meeting

10. At its 55th formal meeting, held on 6 July, the Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan (S/2015/336), covering the period from September 2010 to December 2014.

11. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions. She stated that four parties in Afghanistan had been listed in the annexes to the report, with children continuing to bear the brunt of the conflict. The Afghan national police (including the Afghan local police) had been listed for recruitment and use of children; the Taliban, the Haqqani Network and Hezb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had been listed for recruitment and use and the killing and maiming of children; and the Taliban had also been listed for attacks on schools and hospitals. She noted the importance of the Government having initiated peace negotiations with the Taliban in May, and welcomed the decrease in verified incidents of recruitment by the national police and the local police, as well as the criminalization of child recruitment by the national security forces, in February. Describing the Taliban, the Haqqani Network and Hezb-e-Islami as “persistent perpetrators”, she encouraged the Government to take into consideration concerns regarding children and armed conflict in its negotiations with the Taliban.

12. During the meeting, the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations presented the views of his Government on the report of the Secretary-General. The Working Group then held an exchange of views.

13. In addition, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) presented the Secretary-General’s global horizontal note covering the period from January to March.

56th meeting

14. At its 56th formal meeting, held on 21 December, the Working Group heard a presentation on a report of the workshop, Children and Armed Conflict: Implementing Security Council resolution 1998 (2011), held in Berlin on 22 and 23 January 2015 (S/2015/681), by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations and a visiting fellow of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. Also at the meeting, the Director of the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes presented the Secretary-General’s global horizontal notes covering the periods from April to June and from July to September. In addition, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Working Group on progress that had been made in 2015 and challenges that remained to protect children from the impact of war.

IV. Other matters

15. On 18 September, the Working Group held joint informal consultations with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), at which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict provided a briefing. A press release on the consultations was issued on 22 September.

16. On 14 October, the Security Council Affairs Division launched a redesigned website for the subsidiary organs of the Security Council. The new website, which is available in the six official languages of the United Nations and accessible to the visually impaired, features an improved and user-friendly layout.²

² The website is accessible at www.un.org/sc/suborg/ or from the Security Council’s website at www.un.org/en/sc/.