

31. Children and armed conflict

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted two decisions in its consideration of the item entitled “Children and armed conflict”. Debates in the Council focused primarily on the tools available to address violations against children in armed conflict, such as the use of sanctions, in particular against persistent perpetrators, the strengthening of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave child rights violations established by resolution 1612 (2005), the implementation of action plans consisting of time-bound commitments by armed forces and groups to release children associated with them, to prevent recruitment and to facilitate reintegration into civilian life. In 2011, the Council adopted resolution 1998 (2011), in which it requested the Secretary-General to list in the annexes to his reports parties to armed conflict that engaged in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals.

During its consideration of various country-specific items, the Council included a number of provisions touching upon children and armed conflict in its decisions, indicating a continuing trend of mainstreaming cross-cutting issues into its work.⁷⁰⁶

16 June 2010: presidential statement concerning the adoption of measures against persistent perpetrators

At its 6341st meeting, on 16 June 2010, the Council adopted a presidential statement in which it repeated its strong condemnation of the recruitment, killing, maiming, rape and other abuse of children during armed conflict and expressed its readiness to take targeted and graduated measures against persistent perpetrators of such crimes. To that end, the Council encouraged greater cooperation and information-sharing among the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and relevant sanctions committees and their groups of experts. It also declared its intention, when establishing, modifying or reviewing the mandate of relevant sanctions regimes, to consider including

⁷⁰⁶ For information on the mainstreaming of other thematic issues, see part I, sect. 32, “Protection of civilians”, and sect. 33, “Women and peace and security”.

provisions pertaining to parties to armed conflict that engaged in activities in violation of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict. In addition, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict was invited to carry out a country-specific visit within a year in order to examine a situation referred to in the report of the Secretary-General.⁷⁰⁷

At that meeting, the Council had before it a report of the Secretary-General that included for the first time, in addition to engaging in the recruitment and use of children, those parties to armed conflict that engaged in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children in contravention of applicable international law.⁷⁰⁸

At the same meeting, after the briefings and the testimony of a Nepalese former child soldier, a large number of speakers acknowledged the importance of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on crimes committed against children in armed conflict and welcomed the signing of action plans by some parties to end the recruitment and use of children. At the same time, several speakers emphasized the need to use caution when engaging with non-State actors in order to fully respect the national sovereignty of the Governments involved and avoid the risk of legitimizing such groups.⁷⁰⁹ Others stressed the need for accurate and verifiable information to enable an appropriate response to crimes committed against children. Several speakers expressed concern as to the accuracy and legitimacy of references in that report to some cases related to situations, including those in their countries, that should not be defined as armed conflicts under international law.⁷¹⁰ The representative of Pakistan argued that overloading the reporting mechanism by stretching it beyond its mandate would weaken the message associated with the mandate of the Secretary-General regarding children and armed conflict.⁷¹¹ Some speakers voiced concern that their

⁷⁰⁷ S/PRST/2010/10.

⁷⁰⁸ S/2010/181.

⁷⁰⁹ S/PV.6341, p. 22 (Russian Federation); S/PV.6341 (Resumption 1), p. 13 (Viet Nam); and p. 46 (Philippines).

⁷¹⁰ S/PV.6341, p. 22 (Russian Federation); S/PV.6341 (Resumption 1), p. 7 (Thailand); p. 23 (India); pp. 25-27 (Iraq); p. 43 (Myanmar); and pp. 45-46 (Pakistan).

⁷¹¹ S/PV.6341 (Resumption 1), p. 45.

police or military forces had been or remained listed in the annex to the report.⁷¹² Other speakers called for clarification of the criteria for delisting the parties on the list and those for qualifying parties to conflicts as persistent violators.⁷¹³

Speakers generally agreed on the need to take strong action against perpetrators of violations and abuses committed against children, particularly persistent violators who had been listed in the report of the Secretary-General for at least five years. While many supported the imposition of targeted measures, some cautioned against the frequent and indiscriminate use, or threat of use, of sanctions, arguing that greater attention should be given to conflict prevention, the local specificities of each situation and the unintended consequences of such measures on children themselves.⁷¹⁴ With regard to the parties and individuals listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, a large number of speakers welcomed the expansion of triggers for listing to include killing and maiming of children, as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence. In addition to the inclusion of provisions related to violations against children in the mandates of relevant sanctions committees, speakers supported the inclusion of provisions on the protection of children in the mandates of peacekeeping and political missions, as well as the appointment of child protection advisers.

12 July 2011: expansion of the listing criteria to include parties responsible for attacks on schools and hospitals

On 12 July 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [1998 \(2011\)](#), in which it expanded the criteria under which parties to armed conflicts could be included in the annexes to the periodic report of the Secretary-General on children and armed

conflict, to include those parties that engaged in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals.

At that meeting, the Secretary-General emphasized the positive outcome of efforts on listed violations, such as the recruitment and use of child soldiers, as well as the effective implementation of action plans in 15 countries, which proved the value of “naming and shaming”.⁷¹⁵

During the debate, speakers expressed concern at the emerging trend of attacks on schools and hospitals, emphasized that education and health were fundamental components of lasting peace and development, and thus welcomed the expansion of the listing criteria to include groups involved in attacks on such facilities as a step ahead in the development of the protection framework for children affected by armed conflict. Speakers also underlined the equal gravity of the six grave violations defined in resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#), the need for enhanced reporting and monitoring of the situation of children in armed conflict and the imposition of targeted measures against persistent perpetrators. Some welcomed that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo had listed, in December 2010, several individuals responsible for grave violations against children, following the briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The issue of the accountability gap which existed in cases where no country-specific sanctions regimes were in place was also addressed. While many speakers acknowledged the work of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict thus far, including its new practice of field visits, such as those to Nepal and Afghanistan in November 2010 and June 2011, respectively, several underscored the need to adequately follow up on its recommendations and to improve its ability to act swiftly in response to urgent situations in which children were affected.

⁷¹² *Ibid.*, p. 29 (Afghanistan); and p. 44 (Myanmar).

⁷¹³ [S/PV.6341](#), p. 22 (Russian Federation); [S/PV.6341 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 36 (Sri Lanka).

⁷¹⁴ [S/PV.6341](#), p. 27 (China); [S/PV.6341 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 30 (Indonesia); and pp. 47-48 (Bangladesh).

⁷¹⁵ [S/PV.6581](#), p. 3.

Meetings: children and armed conflict

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6341 16 June 2010	Report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/181) Letter dated 15 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2010/314)	Letter dated 11 June 2010 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations requesting his participation (S/2010/316)	40 Member States ^d	Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Ms. Manju Gurung, ^b Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members ^c and all invitees	S/PRST/2010/10
6581 12 July 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (S/2011/250) Letter dated 1 July 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/409)	Draft resolution submitted by 54 Member States ^d (S/2011/425)	59 Member States ^e	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Executive Director of UNICEF, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members, ^f 33 invitees under rule 37 ^g and all invitees under rule 39	Resolution 1998 (2011) 15-0-0

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to Meetings: children and armed conflict)

^a Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica (as Chair of the Human Security Network, including Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand and South Africa as an observer), Croatia, Finland (on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Viet Nam and Yemen.

^b Former child soldier in Nepal.

^c Mexico was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^d Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Nigeria, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

^e Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict), Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland (on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland (on behalf of the Human Security Network, including Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand and South Africa as an observer), Thailand, Ukraine and Yemen.

^f Bosnia and Herzegovina and Colombia were represented by their respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Germany by its Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Portugal by its Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and South Africa by its Minister of Justice.

^g Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Canada, Chile, Finland, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and Yemen.

Mainstreaming of issues relating to children and armed conflict in the decisions of the Security Council

During the period under review, the Security Council continued to include in its decisions provisions touching upon the issue of children and armed conflict in dealing with country-specific and regional situations, reflecting a trend of mainstreaming cross-cutting issues into its work.

The provisions related to children and armed conflict, which were addressed to relevant Governments, parties to a conflict, the Secretary-General or the international community, were included in decisions on Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic,

Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Somalia, the Sudan, the Central African region and the Middle East. Provisions include calls for the immediate cessation of violations and abuses against children, such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming or abduction; the signature of action plans; monitoring and reporting on the situation of children; strengthening of national legislation to better protect the rights of children; and support for child reintegration and rehabilitation efforts.

In connection with the situation in Somalia, the Council expanded the criteria for imposing sanctions to include parties involved in recruiting or using children and those responsible for other violations, such as

killing and maiming, sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals.⁷¹⁶ With regard to the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the Council called upon all Ivorian parties to fully implement the recommendations of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict,⁷¹⁷ notably to adopt and implement a national action plan to address sexual violence, and to ensure accountability for such crimes.⁷¹⁸

In connection with the situation in the Central African Republic, the Council welcomed the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and encouraged the parties to continue engaging with her regarding the signature of action plans to halt the recruitment and use of children.⁷¹⁹ In connection with the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Council called upon the Government to build on its cooperation with the Special Representative of the

Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁷²⁰ The Council welcomed, in connection with the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the information-sharing between the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1572 \(2004\)](#) concerning Côte d'Ivoire and the two Special Representatives.⁷²¹

The following table lists, by item, provisions relating to children and armed conflict that were included in decisions adopted under other items. The table does not reflect the integration of provisions relating to children and armed conflict into the mandates of subsidiary bodies, which are covered in part X of the present Supplement. Provisions with a specific focus on actions related to children and armed conflict are reproduced in full, while those that are broader in scope are indicated by a reference to the decision and paragraph number.

⁷¹⁶ Resolution [2002 \(2011\)](#), para. 1.

⁷¹⁷ [S/AC.51/2008/5](#).

⁷¹⁸ Resolution [1933 \(2010\)](#), para. 13.

⁷¹⁹ Resolution [2031 \(2011\)](#), para. 18.

⁷²⁰ Resolution [1925 \(2010\)](#), para. 14.

⁷²¹ Resolution [1980 \(2011\)](#), para. 22.

Mainstreaming of issues relating to children and armed conflict in the decisions of the Security Council, 2010-2011: selected provisions

Decision

Provision

Africa

The situation in Somalia

Resolution [1964 \(2010\)](#)
22 December 2010
(adopted under Chapter VII)

Calls upon all parties to end grave violations committed against children in Somalia, welcomes the commitment by the Transitional Federal Government to appoint a focal point to address the issue of the recruitment of child soldiers, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children in Somalia, to continue a dialogue with the Transitional Federal Government towards the preparation of a time-limited action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers and to strengthen the child protection component of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) (para. 16)

See also the second and seventeenth preambular paragraphs and para. 15 of the resolution

[S/PRST/2011/6](#)
10 March 2011

The Security Council stresses the responsibility of all parties and armed groups in Somalia to comply with their obligations to protect the civilian population from the effects of hostilities, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate or excessive use of force. The Council expresses deep concern about the continuing violations and abuses committed against children in Somalia by parties to the conflict and urges the immediate implementation of all conclusions of its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on Somalia (twelfth paragraph)

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Resolution 2002 (2011) 29 July 2011 (adopted under Chapter VII)	<p>Decides that the measures in paragraphs 1, 3 and 7 of resolution 1844 (2008) shall apply to individuals, and that the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 7 of that resolution shall apply to entities, designated by the Committee [established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992)]:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) As being political or military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflicts in Somalia in violation of applicable international law;</p> <p>(e) As being responsible for violations of applicable international law in Somalia involving the targeting of civilians, including children and women, in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and abduction and forced displacement (para. 1)</p> <p>See also the third and twelfth preambular paragraphs of the resolution</p>
Resolution 2010 (2011) 30 September 2011 (adopted under Chapter VII)	<p>Recalls the conclusions on children and armed conflict in Somalia endorsed by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (S/AC.51/2011/2), calls upon all parties to end grave violations and abuses committed against children in Somalia, urges the Transitional Federal Government to develop and implement a concrete time-bound action plan to halt the recruitment and use of children, requests the Secretary-General to continue his dialogue with the Transitional Federal Government in this regard, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to strengthen the child protection component of UNPOS and to ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children in Somalia (para. 24)</p> <p>See also the first and thirteenth preambular paragraphs and para. 22 of the resolution</p>
The situation in Burundi	
Resolution 1959 (2010) 16 December 2010	<p>Commends the Government of Burundi for the completion of the reintegration of the last groups of children formerly associated with armed groups and of ex-combatants, encourages the Government to ensure that these results are sustainable, encourages the Peacebuilding Commission to consider what specific actions it could undertake to bolster its support to the sustainable reintegration of war-affected populations and other vulnerable groups, and supports the efforts of the Government in the voluntary civilian disarmament campaign and the launch of the Burundian National Police arms marking and registration process (para. 9)</p> <p>See also resolution 1959 (2010), thirteenth preambular paragraph and para. 6; and resolution 2027 (2011), fourteenth preambular paragraph and para. 3</p>
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Resolution 1925 (2010) 28 May 2010 (adopted under Chapter VII)	<p>Calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to build on its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (para. 14)</p> <p>See also the eleventh and thirteenth preambular paragraphs of the resolution</p>

Decision

Provision

[S/PRST/2010/17](#)
17 September 2010

The Council reaffirms its resolve to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children during and after armed conflict. It supports the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and encourages her to regularly interact with the Sexual Violence Unit of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to coordinate United Nations response and monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy on Combating Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council looks forward to her trip to the country later in September and requests a briefing upon her return (ninth paragraph)

[S/PRST/2011/11](#)
18 May 2011

The Council reiterates its deep concern about the persistent high levels of violence, especially sexual violence, and human rights abuses against civilians, mostly affecting women and children, including the use and recruitment of children by parties to the conflict, in particular in the eastern part of the country. It reiterates its deep concern about continuing activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). It calls for an urgent end to the attacks against the civilian population by all armed groups. It condemns all violations of human rights, including those committed by some elements of the Congolese security forces. The Council welcomes progress with the recent prosecutions after the incidents in Fizi and other cases. It reiterates the urgent need for the swift prosecution of all perpetrators of human rights abuses, and urges the Congolese authorities, with the support of the Mission, to implement the appropriate responses to address this challenge, including in Walikale. It urges the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take all necessary steps, including ensuring proper conduct by its armed forces in compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, to facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons (fourth paragraph)

Resolution [1991 \(2011\)](#)
28 June 2011
(adopted under Chapter VII)

Demands that all armed groups, in particular the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and LRA, immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights abuses against the civilian population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular against women and children, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and demobilize (para. 13)

Encourages the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to build on its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and to meet, without further delay, its commitments to adopt and implement an action plan to halt the recruitment and use of children by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in close collaboration with the Mission (para. 16)

See also the ninth and tenth preambular paragraphs of the resolution

Decision

Provision

Resolution [2021 \(2011\)](#)

29 November 2011

(adopted under Chapter VII)

Demands that all armed groups, in particular the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, LRA, Mai Mai Yakutumba, the Forces nationales de libération and the Allied Democratic Forces, lay down their arms and immediately cease all forms of violence, human rights abuses and international humanitarian law violations against the civilian population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, in particular against women and children, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and demobilize (para. 13)

See also the eleventh preambular paragraph of the resolution

The situation in the Central African Republic

Resolution [2031 \(2011\)](#)

21 December 2011

Strongly condemns the continued violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape, sexual slavery and other sexual violence and abductions perpetrated by armed groups, and specifically LRA, that threaten the population as well as the peace and stability of the Central African Republic and the subregion ... (para. 14)

Welcomes the recent signature by the Armée populaire pour la restauration de la démocratie and the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix of action plans to halt the recruitment and use of children, calls upon all remaining parties listed in the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict to follow suit as soon as possible, welcomes the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in the Central African Republic and encourages the parties to continue engaging with her in this regard, calls upon the international community to support child reintegration efforts, and urges the Government of the Central African Republic to continue to strengthen the protection of children, including through the implementation of pertinent legislation and in the conduct of military operations (para. 18)

See also the twelfth preambular paragraph of the resolution

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Resolution [1911 \(2010\)](#)

28 January 2010

(adopted under Chapter VII)

Reaffirms paragraphs 14 to 17 of its resolution [1880 \(2009\)](#), calls upon all Ivorian parties, with the continued support of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, to ensure the protection of civilians, including women and children, to fully implement the recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire ([S/AC.51/2008/5](#)), including to adopt a national action plan to address sexual violence, and to ensure that the rule of law is strengthened and that all reported abuses are investigated and those responsible brought to justice, and calls, in particular, upon all parties to take appropriate measures to refrain from, prevent and protect civilians from all forms of sexual violence (para. 13)

See also the tenth preambular paragraph of the resolution

Decision

Provision

Resolution [1933 \(2010\)](#)
30 June 2010
(adopted under Chapter VII)

Requests the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports relevant information on progress on the promotion and protection of human rights and international humanitarian law as well as on the strengthening of the rule of law, including on ending impunity in Côte d'Ivoire, with special attention to violence committed against children and women, and on progress on gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and all other aspects relating to the situation of women and girls, especially in relation to the need to protect them from sexual and gender-based violence, and consistent with resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#), [1612 \(2005\)](#), [1820 \(2008\)](#), [1882 \(2009\)](#), [1888 \(2009\)](#) and [1889 \(2009\)](#) (para. 22)

See also resolution [1933 \(2010\)](#), ninth preambular paragraph and para. 13; and resolution [1962 \(2010\)](#), eighteenth preambular paragraph and para. 9

Resolution [1975 \(2011\)](#)
30 March 2011
(adopted under Chapter VII)

... Expresses its concern at the recent escalation of violence, and demands an immediate end to the violence against civilians, including women, children and internally displaced persons (para. 1)

Reiterates its firm condemnation of all violence committed against civilians, including women, children, internally displaced persons and foreign nationals, and other violations and abuses of human rights, in particular enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, killing and maiming of children and rapes and other forms of sexual violence (para. 5)

See also the ninth preambular paragraph of the resolution

Resolution [1980 \(2011\)](#)
28 April 2011
(adopted under Chapter VII)

Recalls paragraph 7 of resolution [1960 \(2010\)](#) and paragraph 7 (b) of resolution [1882 \(2009\)](#) regarding sexual and gender-based violence and children in armed conflict, and welcomes the information-sharing between the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1572 \(2004\)](#) concerning Côte d'Ivoire and the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and on Sexual Violence in Conflict, in accordance with their respective mandates and as appropriate (para. 22)

See also the seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs of the resolution

Central African region

[S/PRST/2011/21](#)
14 November 2011

The Council strongly condemns the continued violations of international humanitarian law and the abuses of human rights by LRA. The Council condemns further the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape, sexual slavery and other sexual violence, and abductions. The Council demands an immediate end to all attacks by LRA, particularly those on civilians, urges LRA leaders to release all those abducted, and insists that all LRA elements put an end to such practices, and surrender and disarm (second paragraph)

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Resolution [1919 \(2010\)](#)
29 April 2010

Welcomes the adoption by the Sudan People's Liberation Army of an action plan to release all children still associated with its forces by the end of 2010, and in order to achieve this goal, calls for timely implementation of this action plan ... (para. 19)

See also the second, third and twelfth preambular paragraphs of the resolution

Decision

Provision

Resolution [1996 \(2011\)](#)

8 July 2011

(adopted under Chapter VII)

Demands that all parties, in particular rebel militias and LRA, immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights abuses against the civilian population in South Sudan, in particular gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse, as well as all violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law, such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming and abduction, with a view to specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolution [1960 \(2010\)](#) and violence and abuses against children (para. 9)

Calls upon the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army to renew the action plan (signed by the United Nations and the Sudan People's Liberation Army on 20 November 2009) to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers that expired in November 2010, ... and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in United Nations system activities in the Republic of South Sudan and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children (para. 10)

Encourages the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to ratify into law and implement key international human rights treaties and conventions, including those related to women and children, refugees and statelessness (para. 11)

See also the thirteenth preambular paragraph of the resolution

Resolution [2003 \(2011\)](#)

29 July 2011

Demands that the parties to the conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forms of sexual violence, in line with resolution [1820 \(2008\)](#) ... (para. 22)

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure (a) continued monitoring and reporting, as part of the reports referred to in paragraph 13 [of the resolution], of the situation of children, and (b) continued dialogue with the parties to the conflict towards the preparation of time-bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers and other violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law against children (para. 23)

See also the third and sixth preambular paragraphs of the resolution

The situation in the Central African Republic, Chad and the subregion

Resolution [1923 \(2010\)](#)

25 May 2010

Takes note of the measures already undertaken by the authorities of Chad to put an end to the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, encourages them to pursue their cooperation with United Nations bodies in this regard, particularly the United Nations Children's Fund, and calls upon all the parties involved to ensure that children are protected (para. 24)

See also the tenth and thirteenth preambular paragraphs and para. 2 of the resolution

Decision

Provision

Americas

The question concerning Haiti

Resolution [1944 \(2010\)](#)

14 October 2010

(adopted under Chapter VII)

Strongly condemns the grave violations against children affected by armed violence, as well as widespread rape and other sexual abuse of women and girls, and calls upon the Government of Haiti, with the support of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the United Nations country team, to continue to promote and protect the rights of women and children as set out in Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000, [1612 \(2005\)](#) of 26 July 2005, [1820 \(2008\)](#) of 19 June 2008, [1882 \(2009\)](#) of 4 August 2009, [1888 \(2009\)](#) of 30 September 2009 and [1889 \(2009\)](#) of 5 October 2009 (para. 14)

Same provision in resolution [2012 \(2011\)](#), para. 16

Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his reports a comprehensive assessment of threats to security in Haiti and give particular attention to the protective environment for all, in particular women and children, and progress in the sustainable resettlement of displaced persons, and to propose, as appropriate, options to reconfigure the composition of the Mission (para. 22)

Same provision in resolution [2012 \(2011\)](#), para. 24

[S/PRST/2011/7](#)

6 April 2011

The Council expresses its concern about the situation of vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons and children as victims of trafficking, and the increase of sexual and gender-based violence. In this regard, the Council encourages the Mission and the United Nations country team to continue assisting the Government of Haiti in providing adequate protection to the civilian population, with particular attention to the needs of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, especially women and children (sixth paragraph)

Asia

The situation in Afghanistan

Resolution [1917 \(2010\)](#)

22 March 2010

Expresses its strong concern about the recruitment and use of children by Taliban forces in Afghanistan as well as the killing and maiming of children as a result of the conflict, reiterates its strong condemnation of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and all other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in particular attacks against schools and the use of children in suicide attacks, calls for those responsible to be brought to justice, stresses the importance of implementing resolutions [1612 \(2005\)](#) and [1882 \(2009\)](#) in this context, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the child protection component of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in particular through the appointment of child protection advisers (para. 22)

Same provision in resolution [1974 \(2011\)](#), para. 22

See also the twenty-fourth preambular paragraph of the resolution; and resolution [1943 \(2010\)](#), third and twentieth preambular paragraphs

Decision

Provision

Resolution [1974 \(2011\)](#)
22 March 2011

Welcomes the recent signing of a comprehensive, time-bound and verifiable action plan by the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations to halt the use and recruitment of children into the Afghan National Security Forces (para. 23)

See also resolution [1974 \(2011\)](#), twenty-sixth preambular paragraph; and resolution [2011 \(2011\)](#), third and twenty-sixth preambular paragraphs

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East (Yemen)

Resolution [2014 \(2011\)](#)
21 October 2011

Demands that all armed groups remove all weapons from areas of peaceful demonstration, refrain from violence and provocation and refrain from the recruitment of children, and urges all parties not to target vital infrastructure (para. 8)

See also paras. 1 and 6 of the resolution

32. Protection of civilians in armed conflict

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings and adopted one presidential statement under the item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”. In its deliberations, the Council discussed such issues as the role of peacekeeping missions in the protection of civilians, compliance with international humanitarian law by non-State armed groups, humanitarian assistance and accountability for crimes committed against civilians in the context of armed conflicts. The deliberations of the Council on the protection of civilians acquired particular relevance in 2011, in the light of the political and social uprisings in the Middle East.

In decisions relating to country-specific and other thematic items, the Council included a number of provisions concerning the protection of civilians, confirming a trend of increased mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues into its decisions.⁷²²

⁷²² For information on the mainstreaming of other thematic issues, see part I, sect. 31, “Children and armed conflict”, and sect. 33, “Women and peace and security”.

7 July 2010: consideration of the gap between normative progress and effective protection on the ground

At its 6354th meeting, on 7 July 2010, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. In his introductory statement, the Secretary-General highlighted that, despite important institutional measures taken by the Council, such as the adoption of an aide-memoire⁷²³ and the establishment of an informal expert group on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, core challenges remained.⁷²⁴ He stressed, for example, that the protection of civilians by peacekeeping missions should be maximized through sustained political and financial support, while it was also essential to

⁷²³ [S/PRST/2009/1](#), annex.

⁷²⁴ In his previous reports on the protection of civilians in armed conflict ([S/2007/643](#) and [S/2009/277](#)), the Secretary-General identified five core challenges: enhancing compliance with international law; enhancing compliance by non-State armed groups; enhancing protection through more effective and better-resourced United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions; enhancing humanitarian access; and enhancing accountability for violations.