

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 14 December 2021 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 Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established pursuant to resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#), containing an account of the Working Group's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2021. The report, which was approved by the Working Group, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 ([S/1995/234](#)).

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) Mona Juul
Chair

Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict



Report of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

[Original : English]

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021.
2. The Bureau of the Working Group consisted of Mona Juul (Norway) as Chair and a representative of the Niger 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 to review the reports of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict, 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. On 2 May 2006, the Working Group adopted its terms of reference, which were subsequently published as a document of the Security Council ([S/AC.51/2007/1](#)). On 8 September 2006, the Working Group adopted a list of options for possible actions, which is referred to as the “toolkit” ([S/AC.51/2007/2](#)).

5. Pursuant to resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#), the Chair of the Working Group has submitted periodic reports to the Security Council on developments in relation to the Working Group since 2006.

6. On 9 July 2018, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2427 \(2018\)](#), which provided a comprehensive framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and the empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle and emphasized the importance of the children and armed conflict agenda to conflict prevention and peacekeeping.

III. Summary of the activities of the Working Group

7. During the reporting period, the Working Group held three formal meetings (in person), on 19 July and 7 and 29 September, and met twice in informal consultations (in person), on 11 August and 11 October, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures and informal informal meetings.

8. In the light of the challenges posed to the Working Group’s usual procedures by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the limitations on holding

in-person meetings, and in order to ensure the continuity of its work, the members of the Working Group agreed, on an exceptional basis, to hold virtual meetings in the form of closed videoconferences, on 5 February, 31 March, 28 and 29 April and 21 and 25 May.

9. During the closed videoconference held on 5 February, the Working Group held an exchange of views with the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations following the adoption on 17 December 2020, by means of written procedure, of the conclusions on children and armed conflict in Mali ([S/AC.51/2020/11](#)). At the same meeting, the Working Group examined the sixth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Myanmar ([S/2020/1243](#)), which covers the period from 1 September 2018 to 30 June 2020 and was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The representative of Myanmar to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group.

10. During the closed videoconference held on 31 March, the Working Group heard a presentation by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) of the global horizontal note by the Secretary-General, covering the period from October to December 2020.

11. During the closed videoconference held on 28 April, the Working Group held an exchange of views with the Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations following the adoption on 5 March, by means of written procedure, of the conclusions on children and armed conflict in South Sudan ([S/AC.51/2021/1](#)).

12. During the closed videoconference held on 29 April, the Working Group heard a briefing on the situation of children and armed conflict in Myanmar by the Co-Chairs of the country task force on monitoring and reporting.

13. During the closed videoconference held on 21 May, the Working Group examined the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic ([S/2021/398](#)), which covers the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020. The report was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group.

14. During the closed videoconference held on 25 May, the Working Group heard a briefing on the situation of children and armed conflict in Mali by the Co-Chairs of the country task force on monitoring and reporting.

15. At its 92nd meeting, held on 19 July, a representative of UNICEF presented the global horizontal note by the Secretary-General covering the period from January to March 2021.

16. At its 93rd meeting, held on 7 September, the Working Group discussed the fifth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan ([S/2021/662](#)), which covers the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report, recalling the main conclusions, after which the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations presented the views of the Government of Afghanistan on the report.

17. At its 94th meeting, held on 29 September, the Working Group discussed the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Yemen ([S/2021/761](#)), which covers the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report, recalling the main conclusions, after which the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations presented the views of the Government of Yemen on the report. At the same meeting, the Working Group heard

a presentation by UNICEF of the global horizontal note by the Secretary-General, covering the period from April to June 2021.

18. Pursuant to the adoption of the aforementioned conclusions, the Working Group released two public statements as Security Council press releases, containing messages in relation to Mali (on 5 February) and South Sudan (on 28 April).

19. In 2021, in direct relation to the conclusions adopted by the Working Group, the Working Group sent 90 communications to 44 Member States and other stakeholders.

20. The lack of interpretation continued to be an issue within the Working Group, since it undermines multilingualism as a core value of the Organization. Despite efforts by the Chair, members regretted that this issue was further accentuated in the virtual format and that no remote interpretation platform was used.

IV. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

21. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Working Group. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the Working Group.

22. The Division worked with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to facilitate the conduct of in-person meetings in line with relevant COVID-19 guidance and restrictions and continued to make virtual meetings available as an alternative option.
