



Security Council

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

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 2022.
2. The Bureau of the Working Group consisted of Mona Juul (Norway) as Chair and a representative of Mexico 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 10 formal meetings, on 1 and 10 February, 1 March, 14 April, 5 May, 18 July, 2 September, 4 and 28 October, and 8 November, and held 11 informal consultations, on 20 May, 1 and 27 June, 28 July, 14 September, 13, 19 and 26 October and 2, 10 and 30 November, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. At its 95th meeting, held on 1 February, the Working Group discussed the fifth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic ([S/2021/882](#)), which covers the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report, recalling the main conclusions, after which the Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Central African Republic to the United Nations presented the views of the Government of the Central African Republic on the report.

9. At its 96th meeting, held on 10 February, the Working Group discussed the fifth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Colombia ([S/2021/1022](#)), which covers the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report, recalling the main conclusions, after which the Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations presented the views of the Government of Colombia on the report.

10. At its 97th meeting, held on 1 March, the Working Group discussed the fourth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Iraq ([S/2022/46](#)), which covers the period from 1 August 2019 to 30 June 2021. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report, recalling the main conclusions, after which the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations presented the views of the Government of Iraq on the report.

11. At its 98th meeting, held on 14 April, a representative of UNICEF presented the global horizontal note by the Secretary-General covering the period from October to December 2021.

12. At its 99th meeting, held on 5 May, the Working Group engaged in an exchange of views with the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations following the adoption on 25 April, by means of written procedure, of the conclusions on children and armed conflict in Yemen ([S/AC.51/2022/1](#)).

13. At its 100th meeting, held on 18 July, the Working Group adopted conclusions on children and armed conflict in Colombia ([S/AC.51/2022/2](#)). At the same meeting, the Working Group examined the sixth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Somalia ([S/2022/397](#)), which covers the period from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 and was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group.

14. At its 101st meeting, held on 2 September, the Working Group adopted the conclusions on children and armed conflict in Iraq ([S/AC.51/2022/3](#)).

15. At its 102nd meeting, held on 4 October, the Working Group discussed the sixth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Philippines ([S/2022/569](#)), which covers the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report, recalling the main conclusions, after which the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to

the United Nations presented the views of the Government of the Philippines on the report. At the same meeting, the Working Group examined the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Nigeria ([S/2022/596](#)), which covers the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 and was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. A representative of Nigeria also addressed the Working Group.

16. At its 103rd meeting, held on 28 October, the Working Group discussed the seventh report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Sudan ([S/2022/627](#)), which covers the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report, recalling the main conclusions, after which the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations presented the views of the Government of the Sudan on the report.

17. At its 104th meeting, held on 8 November, a representative of UNICEF presented the global horizontal note by the Secretary-General covering the period from April to June 2022. At the same meeting, the Working Group examined the eighth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ([S/2022/745](#)), which covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022 and was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group.

18. At its 105th meeting, held on 19 December, the Working Group adopted conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Philippines ([S/AC.51/2022/4](#)), the Central African Republic ([S/AC.51/2022/5](#)), the Sudan ([S/AC.51/2022/6](#)) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo ([S/AC.51/2022/7](#)).

19. Pursuant to the adoption of the aforementioned conclusions, the Working Group released seven public statements as Security Council press releases, containing messages in relation to Yemen ([SC/14881](#)) on 5 May, Colombia ([SC/14977](#)) on 20 July, Iraq ([SC/15017](#)) on 2 September, and the Philippines ([SC/15148](#)), the Central African Republic ([SC/15149](#)), the Sudan ([SC/15150](#)) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo ([SC/15151](#)) on 19 December.

20. In 2022, in direct relation to the conclusions that it had adopted, the Working Group sent 10 communications to 12 Member States and other stakeholders.

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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) guidance and restrictions and continued to make virtual meetings available as an alternative option.