



Security Council

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Letter dated 27 November 2013 from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chair of the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict, I have the honour to submit a report on the activities of the Working Group since the submission of its last report on 25 September 2012.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the enclosed report issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sylvie **Lucas**



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

(1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013)

I. Introduction

1. On 26 July 2005, the Security Council adopted resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#) on children and armed conflict.

2. In paragraph 8 of the resolution, the Security Council decided to establish a working group of the Council to review the reports of the mechanism referred to in paragraph 3 of the resolution, to review progress in the development and implementation of the action plans mentioned in paragraph 7 of the resolution and to consider other relevant information presented to it. The Council decided further 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 implementation of the resolution in accordance with their respective mandates.

3. Pursuant to resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#), the Chair of the Working Group has submitted annual reports to the Council on developments in relation to the Working Group.¹ During the reporting period (1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013), the Working Group held five formal meetings, on 5 October and 19 December 2012 under the chairmanship of Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, and on 18 January, 19 April and 20 May 2013 under the chairmanship of Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations. During the same period, the Working Group held 23 informal consultations, as well as various bilateral meetings.

II. Substantive issues addressed

34th meeting

4. At the 34th formal meeting on 5 October 2012, chaired by Ambassador Wittig, the Working Group adopted two sets of conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Sudan ([S/2011/413](#)). Those sets of conclusions, dealing with the situation of children and armed conflict in the Sudan and with the situation of children and armed conflict in South Sudan, were

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](#)) and 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 ([S/2012/718](#)).

published as Security Council documents ([S/AC.51/2012/1](#) and [S/AC.51/2012/2](#), respectively). Following the adoption of the conclusions, the Permanent Representative of the Sudan and the Deputy Permanent Representative of South Sudan conveyed the views of their respective Governments on the conclusions.

5. 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 Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, respectively, and the Secretary-General, and also by transmitting letters to the World Bank and donors. Public statements by the Working Group emanating from the conclusions on the Sudan and South Sudan were published on 14 November 2012 as Security Council press releases (SC/10813 and SC/10814, respectively).

6. At the 34th meeting, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also presented the Secretary-General's global horizontal note for May and June 2012. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict also briefed the Working Group on recent developments concerning children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

35th meeting

7. At its 35th formal meeting, on 19 December 2012, the Working Group adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka ([S/2011/793](#)). Those conclusions were issued as a Security Council document dated 21 December 2012 ([S/AC.51/2012/3](#)). Following the adoption, the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka conveyed the view of his Government on the conclusions.

8. 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 Sri Lanka and the Secretary-General, and also by transmitting letters to the World Bank and donors.

9. At its 35th meeting, the Working Group also adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Colombia ([S/2012/171](#)). Those conclusions were published as Security Council document dated 21 December 2012 ([S/AC.51/2012/4](#)). Following the adoption, the representative of Colombia conveyed the view of his Government on the conclusions.

10. 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 a letter to the Government of Colombia, and by transmitting letters to the World Bank and donors. A public statement by the Working Group was published on 21 January 2013 as a Security Council press release (SC/10890).

36th meeting

11. At its 36th formal meeting, on 18 January 2013, chaired by Ambassador Lucas, the Working Group discussed the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of children and armed conflict affected by the Lord's Resistance Army ([S/2012/365](#)). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions. She noted that although a number of encouraging developments had occurred in the region since the report was issued, the situation of children affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remained dire, as grave violations continued to be perpetrated. She also expressed concerns regarding the increased threat posed by LRA in areas with weak presence of State security forces. She called upon the international community to provide continued support for a comprehensive response to the challenge posed by LRA.

12. During the meeting, the representatives of the Governments of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Uganda presented the views of their respective Governments. The Working Group then held an exchange of views. The main elements of the statements made by the representatives as well as the exchange of views among the members of the Working Group are reflected in the summary contained in the conclusions ([S/AC.51/2013/1](#)).

13. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict then briefed the Working Group on her mission to Yemen from 26 to 28 November 2012 and her mission to the Syrian Arab Republic from 14 to 17 December 2012 and gave an update on the situation of children in the Central African Republic. The Deputy Director of the Programme Division of UNICEF also presented the Secretary-General's global horizontal note for September and October 2012.

37th meeting

14. At its 37th formal meeting, on 19 April 2013, the Working Group adopted conclusions with respect to the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of children and armed conflict affected by the Lord's Resistance Army ([S/2012/365](#)). Those conclusions were issued as a Security Council document dated 22 April 2013 ([S/AC.51/2013/1](#)). Following the adoption the representatives of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan conveyed the respective views of their Governments on the conclusions.

15. The Chair of the Working Group subsequently carried out the tasks entrusted to her in the context of the conclusions, including by transmitting a letter to the President of the Security Council requesting that the President convey letters to the Governments of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Uganda, and to the African Union and the Secretary-General, and also by transmitting letters to the World Bank and donors. A public statement by the Working Group was published on 13 May 2013 as a Security Council press release (SC/11007).

16. At the 37th meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict also briefed the Working Group on the situation of children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic and Mali, and the

Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF presented the global horizontal note for November and December 2012.

38th meeting

17. At its 38th formal meeting, on 20 May 2013, the Working Group held a discussion on persistent perpetrators, as called for in Security Council resolutions [1998 \(2011\)](#) and [2068 \(2012\)](#). The introductory statement of the Chair of the Working Group was followed by a presentation by the Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein of the report of the workshop “Children and Armed Conflict: How to Deal with Persistent Perpetrators?” (see [A/67/794-S/2013/158](#)). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict also made a statement on persistent perpetrators. On 17 June 2013 the Council adopted a presidential statement on children and armed conflict ([S/PRST/2013/8](#)) that included provisions on persistent perpetrators.

18. At the 38th meeting, the Working Group also discussed the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of children and armed conflict in Myanmar ([S/2013/258](#)). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict introduced the report and recalled its main conclusions. She noted that the Tatmadaw had made notable efforts to halt recruitment of children and identify children in its ranks. Those efforts had contributed to enhanced child protection, but there remained challenges that needed to be addressed immediately in order to keep the momentum that was created by the signature on 27 June 2012 by the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations of an action plan to end and prevent the recruitment of children in the Tatmadaw. She also stressed that all armed groups should unconditionally stop all violations and abuses committed against children.

19. During the meeting, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Myanmar presented the views of his Government on the Secretary-General’s report. The Working Group then held an exchange of views. The main elements of the statement made by the representative of Myanmar, as well as the exchange of views among the members of the Working Group, are reflected in the summary contained in the conclusions ([S/AC.51/2013/2](#)).

20. During the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict also briefed the Working Group on her mission to Chad from 12 to 14 May 2013.

III. Other matters

21. During the reporting period, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict also briefed members of the Working Group, during its informal consultations on 22 February 2013, on the situation of children and armed conflict in Mali.

22. The visit of the Working Group to Myanmar, which had been scheduled to take place between 1 and 6 December 2012, was cancelled owing to the Chair's obligations in the Security Council as the Permanent Representative of Germany.²

23. A background paper on press statements was circulated by the Chair on 15 October 2012.

24. The Secretariat continued to make available to the Working Group a United Nations E-Room, which allows members to access the institutional memory of the Working Group with a user ID and password. During the reporting period, the Secretariat, following consultations with the Chair, also launched the Internet webpage of the Working Group.³

² The Working Group's visit to Myanmar has been rescheduled to occur from 29 November to 5 December 2013.

³ www.un.org/sc/committees/WGCAAC/.