

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 5 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As President of the Security Council, Belgium is organizing a briefing on “Children and armed conflict: integrating child protection into peace processes”, which will be held on 12 February 2020.

Please find attached a concept note for the briefing (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marc **Pecsteen de Buytswerve**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 5 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Concept note for the Security Council briefing on children and armed conflict: integrating child protection into peace processes, to be held on 12 February 2020

I. Background

1. The Security Council has unanimously recognized the need for the integration of child protection into peace processes, since the very beginning of the children and armed conflict mandate. In its first resolution on children and armed conflict, resolution [1261 \(1999\)](#), the Security Council urged all parties to armed conflicts to ensure that the protection, welfare and rights of children are taken into account during peace negotiations and throughout the process of consolidating peace in the aftermath of conflict.

2. In the ensuing 20 years leading up to 2020, the Security Council has continued to underscore this issue time and again in its resolutions and presidential statements alike, and has further broadened the scope of the children and armed conflict agenda. In its most recent resolution on the topic, resolution [2427 \(2018\)](#), the Security Council stressed the importance of giving due consideration to child protection issues from the early stages of peace processes, including through specific provisions in peace agreements, considering the best interest of the child, the treatment of children separated from armed groups as victims and a focus on family and community-based reintegration.

II. Briefing

3. In its capacity as the President of the Security Council in February 2020, the Government of Belgium will organize a briefing at the Security Council on integrating child protection provisions into peace processes as part of successful conflict resolution and the transition to peace.

4. In response to the call by the Security Council in presidential statement of 31 October 2017, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict developed practical guidance for mediators to better protect children in situations of armed conflict, in partnership with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Peace Operations, the United Nations Children's Fund and other stakeholders. The guidance highlights the importance of taking these issues into consideration at the early stages of negotiations so as to attain sustainable and long-term peace and security.

III. Objectives

5. Members of the Security Council will learn about the practical guidance and hear from child protection and mediation experts about their experience in including the protection of children in peace negotiation and mediation efforts, with tangible results for children, including their release from armed forces or armed groups and reintegration into civilian life.

6. The briefing provides an opportunity for the Security Council to discuss the practical guidance for mediators to better protect children in situations of armed conflict.

7. Member States are invited to draw upon their own experiences and good practices in this respect, and to further explore how addressing child protection concerns can contribute to peace processes in specific contexts.

IV. Format

8. The briefing will be a public meeting. Only Council members may deliver statements following the briefing. The briefing will be presided over by Philippe Goffin, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium, in the presence of King Philippe and Queen Mathilde, King and Queen of the Belgians. His King Philippe will deliver a statement for the Kingdom of Belgium.

V. Briefers

- António Guterres, Secretary-General
 - Smaïl Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission (by videoconference)
 - Jo Becker, Chair of the Advisory Board of Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
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