

**Children and Armed Conflict:
A symposium on implementing
UN Security Council
Resolution 1379**

Labouisse Hall, UNICEF
3 UN Plaza, New York
November 8, 2002

Organized by the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, in cooperation with the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, and the OSRSG on Children and Armed Conflict. Supported by the Human Security Network.

Executive Summary — Symposium on Children and Armed Conflict

November 8, 2002

On November 8th, 2002 the **Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research** organized a symposium on children and armed conflict in cooperation with the **Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers** and the **Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict**, **UNICEF**, and the **UNOSRSG on Children and Armed Conflict**, with the support of the **Human Security Network**. This event was intended as lead-up to the UN Security Council thematic debate on children and armed conflict and as a substantive input into the Human Security Network's ongoing work on this topic. The event brought together a variety of actors including representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on child protection, members of the Human Security Network, the UN Security Council, young people from conflict areas, representatives from academic organizations, and staff of UN agencies.

The goal of the day-long event was to discuss and further develop strategies for political actors with regard to the protection and rights of children in armed conflicts. Pointed lists of recommendations from this event are being delivered to the Security Council and the Human Security Network for development of their respective action on this topic. Key themes in the recommendations include: monitoring, documentation and follow-up; measures to stop the use of child soldiers; youth participation; the special rights and needs of girls; building local and regional capacity; diplomacy and creating political will; and humanitarian access and protection for children.

These recommendations are included in this packet of materials along with a summary of the day-long meeting and a larger menu of recommendations made throughout the course of the event.

Enclosed please find the following:

- Key recommendations for the Security Council
- Key recommendations for the Human Security Network
- Minutes from November 8th event
- Full menu of recommendations from November 8th event

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Key Policy Suggestions for UN Security Council

The following suggestions for policy are the creative thinking of government representatives, experts from the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, academic researchers and young people from conflict areas, who all developed ideas for how the UN Security Council (SC) can implement and build upon Resolution 1379 to protect children affected by armed conflict. These suggestions are not listed in order of priority, and do not represent the official position of the organizations involved.

The Security Council should:

1. Routinely make sure that measures to protect the security and rights of children are included in SC analyses and resolutions on specific armed conflicts.
2. Identify a SC-member government to be the focal point for information-sharing and leadership at the SC for the protection of children in armed conflict.
3. Facilitate monitoring, documentation and follow-up action by:
 - Establishing a clear and consistent channel for information to reach the SC before, during and after conflict, with input from both local and international NGOs, and which would allow feedback from SC on what information is useful and what is being done to respond to information presented;
 - Creating a quick response team, including independent experts on international provisions to protect children, to monitor and investigate conflict situations involving violations of child rights; and
 - Carrying out field visits to countries where grave violations against children are occurring but not receiving international attention. Such visits should include meetings with young people, local NGOs and women's organizations.
4. Request a new list of those parties that recruit or use children in conflict areas, making this an annual review and use criteria designed to include all conflict situations involving the recruitment or use of child soldiers in violation of international obligations.
5. Initiate follow-up activities to the Secretary-General's list of those parties recruiting or using child soldiers, including:
 - Hold regular discussions between the SC and government parties identified in the "1379 list";
 - Explore creating an evaluation mechanism to appraise progress made by parties identified in the 1379 list in preventing and reducing recruitment and use of child soldiers – possibly by requesting the SG to provide an interim six-month report;
 - Suspend cooperation with those governments identified as using child soldiers in 1379 list, failing effective progress in ending the use of child soldiers.
6. Include boys and girls in all DDR process, and ensure that the duration of the DDR process is extended to allow for successful transition to normal life.
7. Implement child-focused expertise in the staff of the SG, DPA, and DPKO and mainstream issues impacting children in armed conflict in the Consolidated Appeals Process, education in emergencies and DDR processes.

8. Promote the participation of children in peace-building and post-conflict decision making to create a “child conscious” approach to making peace.
9. Promote gender sensitive support for children within United Nations agencies by:
 - Promoting reproductive health education programs, including peer-led education on preventing infection by HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as unwanted pregnancies; and supporting assistance for survivors of gender-based violence, such as child mothers and their babies;
 - Empowering girls by involving them in post-conflict national reconciliation and decision-making, especially encouraging girls’ involvement in local government.
 - Ensuring that DDR processes are responsive to the particular needs and rights of girls involved in conflict.
10. Empower / strengthen local NGOs to respond to crisis and impending crisis, through assistance such as training in fact-finding and documentation of violations against children.
11. Take more effective action to stop the flow of arms and resources to parties to conflict that do not protect children, with particular attention to the role of the private sector, as designated in resolution 1379. For example, identify, monitor, and initiate dialogue with companies working in conflict situations and establish a specific contribution or percentage of profits to be contributed to fund rehabilitation and reintegration of war affected children.
12. Support the elaboration of regional frameworks for protecting and promoting child rights, such as the draft OSCE framework.
13. Encourage donor governments and agencies to make education eligible for funding as an emergency response program and as a component of psychosocial responses.
14. Ensure the right of unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for all in children in conflict areas. For example, make special arrangements for protection and assistance requirements of children, including where appropriate, “Days of Tranquility.”
15. Make training for peace keeping personal on child protection standards mandatory for all peacekeeping operations. This should be extended to humanitarian workers and police forces.

Key Policy Suggestions for the Human Security Network

The following policy suggestions are the creative thinking of government representatives, experts from the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, academic researchers and young people from conflict areas, who developed ideas for how the Human Security Network can contribute to the implementation of UN Security Council 1379 to protect children affected by armed conflict. These policy suggestions are not listed in order of priority, and do not represent the official position of the organizations involved.

Participants welcomed the proposal that the Human Security Network (HSN) would develop a **common support strategy** for the children and armed conflict (CAC) agenda. They also outlined possible HSN activities for this purpose. Participants agreed that there is a need for strong and consistent government support for initiatives to protect children in armed conflicts.

The following are policy suggestions on actions HSN could take to develop its support strategy:

1) Persistent Political Leadership: The CAC agenda requires persistent political leadership. An NGO speaker stated that the HSN is well positioned to “develop the art of diplomacy for children.” Attention to children and armed conflict must be mainstreamed as a component of human security. In its political leadership at the United Nations and elsewhere, the HSN should encourage detailed attention to ensure that initiatives on children’s security (safety, education, health & social services for children) are included in all country-specific and regional resolutions, as well as thematic discussions about insecurity.

- Recognize the interdependent nature of children’s security in the design and disbursement of humanitarian aid programmes. Avoid separating or prioritizing one dimension over others; favor multisectoral, integrated, and sustainable responses;
- Ensure that the needs of children are on the agendas of reconstruction and peace processes (e.g., draft accords and delegate funds to strengthen children’s security through legal protection and rights promotion and, strengthen agencies of health, education, social services and child protection).

2) Focus on Regional Groups (APEC, ECOWAS, EU etc.): HSN could support promote cross-border solutions for cross-border issues (e.g. displacement, cross-border recruitment, etc.). A regional approach to security is missing. This is an opportunity to connect progress in child protection at international and local levels with regional initiatives.

- Support the elaboration of regional frameworks for protecting and promoting child rights, such as the draft OSCE framework.

3) Child Soldiers: The “1379 List” prepared by the Secretary-General is important for accountability of those parties that recruit or use child soldiers in violation of international obligations. Follow-up to the “List” could include evaluating progress and suspending cooperation with those groups identified, recognizing political constraints for some member states. HSN members can collectively support a new Security Council resolution calling for the “1379 List” to be compiled annually, but ask for broader criteria to include all conflicts where international standards are violated.

4) Corporate citizenship and the CAC agenda: HSN member states could discourage corporate actors within their jurisdiction from maintaining commercial relations with parties to armed

conflicts, as urged upon UN Member States by UN Security Council Resolution 1379. This could do much to stop the flow of arms and resources to parties that do not protect children.

- Identify and hold accountable those corporations in territories under its members' jurisdiction whose practices increase risks to children and undermine their security. This could evolve into a "report card" function;
- Identify, monitor, and initiate dialogue with corporate actors to establish a specific contribution or percentage of profits they should contribute to fund rehabilitation and reintegration of war affected children.

5) Monitoring, Documentation and Follow-Up: Attention to monitoring is essential. Support for monitoring and reporting mechanisms both inside and outside the UN is important. Direct activities by HSN countries would be welcomed.

- Support establishment of a UN quick response team that would report to the Security Council and UN agencies about emerging and existing violations against children in conflict situations;
- Undertake bilateral and HSN activities, such as initiating "eminent persons" missions to visit conflict zones where abuses against children are well-known but receive scant attention;
- The HSN may act as a conduit for information to alert the SC and UN agencies about emerging and existing situations of concern.

6) International Financial Institutions: HSN members could engage in outreach and raising awareness to international financial institutions and donors to ensure coordinated, sustainable responses for children affected by armed conflict.

7) Gender and Girls: The protection of girls is core to a human security agenda. The special needs of girls are not being met in Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) processes. HSN members could bring special attention to girls' needs and rights related to safety, education, health & social services throughout DDR processes. For example, programs and access to medical treatment are needed by girls who survived sexual violence, and child mothers and their babies often have difficulty in accessing education.

- Support and promote the involvement of girls in peace processes, post-conflict planning and decision-making; support educational and reproductive health programs; ensure access to medical treatment and DDR processes.

8) Humanitarian Access and Protection: Education in emergency settings maximizes the security and protection of children. In emergency setting peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, police etc. should be trained on international child protection standards and tested for HIV/AIDS.

- Support education in emergencies as a programming priority and make it eligible for funding as an emergency response program;
- Encourage the broadening of definitions of psychosocial interventions for war-affected children to include efforts to restore structure, safety and social supports for entire populations of young people (e.g., emergency education programs) to help buffer potentially traumatic exposures and displacement.

9) Youth Participation: Young people should be at the forefront of peace-building, allowing children a voice in political processes affecting them is important; to deny youth access and opportunities such as education could fuel instability. Youth participation is crucial.

- Encourage programs to involve youth at the outset of any program or consultation;
- Support and promote the participation of youth in decisions that affect them taking into consideration their evolving capacities and best interests as expressed in the CRC. In particular,

provide opportunities for adolescents to exercise their capacities in peace negotiations, peace building, and reconstruction processes.

10) Local and regional capacity building: Empower/strengthen community grassroots organizations and nongovernmental organizations to respond to crisis and impending crisis through training in child rights protection, and the monitoring, fact-finding and documentation of violations against children.

- Use local HSN government embassies to share information, resources, and work with local NGOs

Support the efforts of advocacy NGOs to develop an alarm function to monitor violations against children in armed conflicts.

Policy Suggestions for Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1379

These suggestions for policy are the result of a full-day symposium held on 8 November 2002 organized by the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research; the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers; and the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict and supported by the Human Security Network.

These suggestions are not listed in order of priority, and do not represent the official position of the organizations involved. They are the creative thinking of government representatives, experts from the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, academic researchers and young people from conflict areas.

Theme	Recommendation	Implemented by	Target of action
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	More specific requests for reporting on CAC issues from the UN agencies in the field to agency headquarters and Security Council (SC).	UN field agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, etc.)	UN officials, SC
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Evaluation of the experience and effectiveness of Child Protection Advisors in promoting better observance of child rights in conflicts.	UN agencies	Child Protection Advisors
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Establish clear channel for information to reach SC before, during and after conflict, with input from NGOs, both local and international, and feedback from SC on what information is useful and what is being done to respond to the information presented.	SC, HSN	SC
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Identify a government on the Security Council to be the focal point for information-sharing and leadership at the SC for the protection of children in armed conflict.	SC, HSN	SC
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Child-focused expertise created on the staff of SG and DPA to ensure child-focused data is used in drafting SG reports.	Secretary-General (SG)	SG's office
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Deploy child focused experts in the staff of DPKO, OCHA and other UN agencies; Mainstream issues affecting children and armed conflict in CAP, CHAP, education in emergencies and	SC, UN Agencies	UN Agencies

	DDR processes.		
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	The Human Security Network (HSN) could support the UN in creating a quick response team, including independent expertise on international provisions to protect children, to monitor and investigate conflict situations involving violations of child rights. This team would serve an alarm function to alert the SC and UN agencies about emerging and existing violations against children in conflict situations, sending timely information to HSN members' UN permanent missions and their capitals.	SC, HSN	UN agencies
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Routinely make sure that measures to protect the security and rights of children are included in SC resolutions and analyses on specific armed conflicts.	SC, HSN	SC, HSN
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Create peace-monitoring teams that can visit conflict areas (e.g. northern Uganda).	SC, UN agencies	
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Donors to monitor allocation of bilateral aid to national governments in terms of addressing child protection and participation (e.g. northern Uganda).	Donor countries, HSN	Governments using donor funds
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Carry out field missions to countries with the gravest violations against children, particularly situations not receiving much world attention. Act as a bridge between the situation on the ground and international diplomatic efforts. The itinerary for such field missions should include meetings with young people, local NGOs and women's organizations.	HSN, SC	HSN, SC
Monitoring, documentation and follow-up	Track abuses of children and the amount of assistance provided in the "post" conflict period.	SC, HSN, INGOs, UN agencies	

Child Soldiers	Request a new list of those parties that recruit or use children in conflict areas, making this an annual review and use criteria designed to include all conflict situations involving the recruitment or use of child soldiers in violation of international obligations. The annual report should also include other specific violations of international law to increase accountability.	SC, HSN	SC
Child Soldiers	Initiate discussions between the SC and the government parties identified in 1379 List about how they will end their use of child soldiers, by not just holding a dialogue but inviting those governments to meet the SC and formulate solutions.	SC, HSN	Governments identified in 1379 List
Child Soldiers	Explore the creation of an evaluation mechanism to appraise the progress made by parties identified in the 1379 list in preventing and reducing their recruitment and use of child soldiers. One way to do this is to request the SG to provide an interim six-month report.	SC, HSN	
Child Soldiers	Use targeted methods that do not harm children (e.g. restrict travel visas, bilateral aid) to those governments identified as using child soldiers in 1379 list, failing effective progress in ending the use of child soldiers.	HSN, SC	Governments using children as soldiers
Child Soldiers	Refer individuals associated with government armed forces and non state actors as identified in the 1379 list to the International Criminal Court for prosecution, if the government does not act to prosecute those recruiting or using child soldiers.	SC, HSN, ICC	Parties using children as soldiers, SC, ICC
Child Soldiers	Advocate that those governments that are ratifying	SC, HSN	Parties recruiting child

	the ICC should improve upon the Rome Statute by raising the age of culpability for child soldier recruitment from 15 to 18 years of age.		soldiers, SC
Child Soldiers	Boys and girls should be included in all DDR processes, with priority to their special needs. The duration of the DDR process should be extended to allow for successful transition to normal life.	SC, UN agencies, NGOs	Former child soldiers
Child Soldiers	Provide/promote education and skills training given to former child soldiers with enterprise development schemes so they can use their trades in small businesses.	NGOs, UN agencies	Former child soldiers
Youth Participation	Provide / promote mainstream methods for children and young people to take part in peace and political processes in post conflict situations.	UN agencies, national governments, NGOs	Children in armed conflicts
Youth Participation	Provide better security for young people and children carrying out monitoring activities.	Governments in conflict areas	Children in armed conflicts
Youth Participation	Encourage funding choices to emphasize projects and programs that utilize child participation and child partnership. Audit these programs to ensure funding truly results in child participation.	SC, HSN, national governments, UN agencies	Donors
Youth Participation	Encourage the integration of children's views into programmatic work at the beginning of project implementation.	UN agencies, NGOs	UN agencies, NGOs
Youth Participation	Involve children in any monitoring process as a primary source of information, to better check veracity of information.	UN agencies, INGOS	Children in armed conflicts
Youth Participation	Involve children as human rights educators, and in peer mediation.	UNICEF, UN Agencies, NGOs	Children in armed conflicts
Youth Participation	Facilitate collaboration and exchange among children and young people across regions	NGOs	Children in armed conflicts

	and from peaceful and conflict situations.		
Gender/Girls	Support programs and access to medical treatment for girls who have been victims of sexual violence.	UN system, NGOs	Girls in conflicts
Gender/Girls	Establish programs to assist child mothers and their babies, particularly in accessing education.	NGOs, UN agencies, HSN	Child mothers
Gender/Girls	Promote reproductive health education programs, including peer-led educators, on preventing HIV infection and unwanted child and adolescent pregnancy.	NGOs, UN agencies, HSN	Girls in conflict zones
Gender/Girls	Provide extra assistance to girl mothers seeking education.	NGOs, UN agencies	Girls in conflict zones
Gender/Girls	Empower girls by involving them in post-conflict national reconciliation and decision-making, especially encouraging girls' involvement in local government.	UN agencies	Girls in conflict zones, local civic authorities
Building local / regional capacity	Empower / strengthen local NGOs to respond to crises and impending crises, through assistance such as training in fact-finding and documentation of violations against children. Use local embassies of HSN governments to share information, resources and work with local NGOs.	HSN	HSN members, NGOs
Building local / regional capacity	Provide better training for those mental health professionals working with war affected children in refugee settings.	SC, UN agencies, HSN	War affected children, mental health professionals
Diplomacy and creating political will	Promote the participation of children in peace-building and post-conflict decision making to create a "child conscious" approach to making peace.	SC, UN agencies, HSN	Governments and parties involved in peace processes
Diplomacy and creating political will	Outreach and awareness raising to international financial institutions (IFIs) and donors.	SC, UN agencies	IMF, IBRD
Diplomacy and creating political will	Cultivate stakeholders in conflict areas who can advocate on behalf of children i.e. nurse training colleges, universities,	NGOs, UN agencies	Local civil society structures

	NGOs, through awareness-raising programs.		
Diplomacy and creating political will	<p>Take more effective action to stop the flow of arms and resources to parties to conflict that do not protect children, with particular attention to the role of the private sector, as designated in resolution 1379.</p> <p>For example, identify, monitor and initiate dialogue with companies working in conflict situations and establish a specific contribution or percentage of profits they should contribute to fund rehabilitation and reintegration of war affected children.</p>	SC, HSN, international corporations	Corporations
Diplomacy and creating political will	Identify and hold accountable those corporations in territories under its member's jurisdiction whose practices increase risks to children and undermine their security.	HSN, International corporations	Corporations
Diplomacy and creating political will	Identify and initiate dialogue with selected Non-State Actors (NSAs) on their use of child soldiers and the impact of armed conflict on children in general.	HSN	Non-State Actors (NSAs)
Diplomacy and creating political will	Initiate "eminent persons" missions to visit conflict zones (eg northern Uganda)	HSN, NGOs	Parties using child soldiers
Diplomacy and creating political will	Support the elaboration of regional frameworks for protecting and promoting child rights, such as the draft OSCE framework.	Regional organizations: OSCE, AU, OAS, ASEAN	
Diplomacy and creating political will	Maintain and improve focus on early-warning systems and conflict prevention programs to prevent wars that impact on children.	SC, UN Agencies	
Humanitarian Access and Protection	<p>Uphold the right to unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for all children in conflict areas.</p> <p>For example, make special</p>	SC, UN Agencies, INGOs	Children in armed conflicts

	arrangements for protection and assistance requirements of children, including, where appropriate, “Days of Tranquility.”		
Humanitarian Access and Protection	Education should be eligible for funding as an emergency response program and as a component of psychosocial responses.	Donor Governments / agencies	Children in armed conflicts
Humanitarian Access and Protection	Encourage member states to ratify 1951 Refugee Convention and implement its standards for protection and to support the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.	SC	UN Member States
Humanitarian Access and Protection	Make training for peace keeping personal on child protection standards mandatory for all peacekeeping operations. This should be extended to humanitarian workers and police forces. Particular attention to issues of prostitution, spread of HIV/AIDS.	UN agencies, Member States, INGOs	Peacekeepers, Aid workers, police
Humanitarian Access and Protection	Review effectiveness of child protection training for peacekeeping personnel and make necessary improvements. (eg peacekeepers using youth prostitutes in Sierra Leone).		

Children and Armed Conflict Event
November 8, 2002
Labouisse Hall, UNICEF, 3 UN Plaza, New York
AGENDA

Organized by the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, in cooperation with the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, and the OSRSG on Children and Armed Conflict. Supported by the Human Security Network.

9:15-9:45am

Opening: SRSR on Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu
Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN, Ambassador Dr. Gerhard Pfanzelter
Director of Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, Claude Bruderlein

9:45-11:15am

- **Panel One—Engaging the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict: Resolution 1379**
 - Moderator: Claude Bruderlein, Director, HPCR
 - Haakon Gram-Johannessen, First Secretary, Security Council Affairs, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations
 - Margaret Novicki, Chief of Outreach, Representative from OSRSG
 - Casey Kelso, Coordinator for the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Representative of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
 - Mary Diaz, Executive Director, Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Representative from Watchlist

11:15-11:45am

Coffee Break

11:45-1:00pm

- **Panel Two—Human Security strategies related to the 1379 Resolution, one example in focus.** *The rights and special needs of girls affected by armed conflict: Are they accounted for?*
 - Moderator: Theo Sowa, Researcher
 - Ambassador Jerry Corr, Deputy Permanent Representative, Security Council, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations
 - Angelina Acheng Atyam, Co-Founder Concerned Parents Organization, Uganda
 - Fatmata Binta Barrie and Abibatu Samba, adolescent researchers from Sierra Leone, affiliated with the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children
 - Rachel Brett, Quaker UN Office
 - Angela Raven-Roberts, Tufts University

1:00-2:30pm Lunch at UNICEF

- 2:00-2:30pm Lunchtime **Presentation on Youth-to-Youth Networking and New Use of Technology**

- Introduction: Gilbert Luran, Deputy Permanent Representative and Charge 'd Affairs, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations
- Eric Hoskins, President, War Child Canada, and Krista Riley, Youth Advocate and Member of War Child Canada's Youth Advisory Board

2:30-4:30pm

- **Roundtable: “An Action Plan for Promoting the Security of War Affected Children”**
 - Moderator: Iain Levine, UNICEF
 - Ambassador Dr. Georg Mautner-Markhof, Director for Human Rights, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Austria
 - Randolph Carter, Liberian youth representative
 - Kathy Vandergrift, Senior Policy Analyst, World Vision Canada; Representative from the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
 - Rory Mungoven, Global Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch; Representative from the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
 - Marie Smyth, Chief Executive and founder director of the Institute for Conflict Research in Northern Ireland; Currently Senior Fellow, Jennings Randolph Program at United States Institute of Peace

**Proceedings of the Policy Symposium on
Children and Armed Conflict
November 8, 2002
UNICEF House, New York**

This event was organized by the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, in cooperation with the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, and the OSRSG on Children and Armed Conflict. It was supported by the Human Security Network.

The participants represented countries from around the globe. Speakers and audience members included former child soldiers, youth advocates, educators, researchers, UNICEF and OSRSG staff, and government representatives. Approximately one-hundred people attended.

The workshop broadly addressed child protection and human security in post-conflict processes, and discussed ways to use research, advocacy and political action around the issue of children in armed conflict. UN Security Council Resolution 1379 served as a background document and foundation for discussions about child protection and accountability of state and non-state actors.

The stated purpose of the conference was threefold, as presented by Claude Bruderlein, Director of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research: 1) To feed into the UN Security Council process on children and armed conflict and to build awareness and urgency around the issue of children in armed conflict; 2) To provide an opportunity for NGOs and governments to engage in informal dialogue and to ensure that practitioners and researchers hear from children and attend to their needs; and 3) To provide inputs for an agenda of action to improve the situation for children in armed conflict. This report and the accompanying list of suggestions are initial outcomes of that agenda.

Opening

Opening remarks were given by Ambassador Dr. Gerhard Pfanzelter of the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations and Olara Otunnu, The Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict.

Ambassador Pfanzelter opened by stating the importance of the event as “evident” in the interest on the part of participants. He expressed his hope that the day would send a strong message to the forthcoming Security Council debate on children and armed conflict and function to allow the Human Security Network to move forward its attention to children and armed conflict. Ambassador Pfanzelter stated that Austria aims to bring the human security perspective to the debate on child protection. Austria’s two priority issues in its work with the Human Security Network are children and armed conflict, and human rights education. He referred to the United Nations and its accompanying protocols as an overarching response mechanism to situations of children in armed conflict and made reference to several successful initiatives as starting points of future work, for example, establishing corridors of peace and child-safe areas in conflict zones and addressing children’s psychosocial needs in refugee camps.

Mr. Otunnu’s remarks echoed the importance of the occasion and highlighted the role of monitoring and reporting. He referred to monitoring as a priority and integral component to improving security for children in armed conflict. He stressed the need for collaboration across

sectors, special groups, and countries to improve reporting and to raise the profile of monitoring violators of children’s security in armed conflict. Specifically, he referred to UN Security Council Resolution 1379 and the provision for a list to be compiled by the Security Council of all countries that recruit and employ child soldiers. While giving a description of the context and brief history of Resolution 1379 (in particular the ways in which Resolution 1379 builds upon previous Resolutions 1314 and 1261), Mr. Otunnu strongly suggested that an official rather than an independent, report name each country and its violation. Mr. Otunnu also acknowledged the important role that NGOs play in calling attention to the issue of children and armed conflict, in addressing the needs of children and armed conflict, and in strengthening the capacity of local service organizations. Mr. Otunnu welcomed the suggestions of the participants particularly with regard to the promotion and consolidation of child protection issues in the context of the Security Council.

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Panel One—Engaging the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict: Resolution 1379

The panel focused on the principles and follow-up to Resolution 1379. The panelists suggested roles and actions for actors at all levels – from the Security Council to local NGOs.

Claude Bruderlein, Director, HPCR moderated the panel. Other panelists included:

- Haakon Gram-Johannessen, First Secretary, Security Council Affairs, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations
- Margaret Novicki, Chief of Outreach, Representative from OSRSG
- Casey Kelso, Coordinator for the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Representative of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
- Mary Diaz, Executive Director, Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Co-Chair, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

Mr. Bruderlein opened the panel with a question about generating accountability to the goals of SC 1379, and the role of the Security Council and international human rights system in accomplishing that accountability.

Mr. Gram-Johannessen offered perspectives on how to frame the issue of children and armed conflict to respond to the needs and process of the Security Council. He noted the great developments that have come about in the SC with relation to protection of civilians and yet how there is a challenge for thematic debates to be focused and action-oriented. Mr. Gram-Johannessen noted the way that thematic debates at the Security Council level often function to raise awareness around and/or to mainstream an issue; such thematic debates can serve to make a comprehensive strategy on issues requiring more thorough consideration. Often, he noted, the handling of items on the SC’s agenda does not allow for debate on larger thematic issues or the agendas laid out in the context of thematic debates are overshadowed by realpolitik.

Mr. Gram-Johannessen discussed briefly the process of drafting of SC resolutions with the goal of addressing what kind of information is most useful for SC members in the drafting process. Delegations need more input from NGOs and they need it earlier in the process, he stated. NGOs and others seeking to influence the drafting process should also consider make a point to lobby at the national level because key decisions are often made at the capitals.

The end of this presentation underlined the challenges associated with thematic provisions. There is difficulty in creating accountability with thematic provisions. Such provisions need, for example, specific reporting requirements and plan of action for reporting. Lack of appropriate monitoring, as noted by others, also continues to be a problem. Programs need to be carefully designed to address particular needs. With better design and implementation comes opportunity for more appropriate monitoring of children's rights, suggested Mr. Gram-Johannessen.

Ms. Novicki used the example of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) to demonstrate the relevance and application of the principles of SC Resolution 1379. She began her presentation by explaining that she is new to the Office of the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict and would draw from her recent work with UNAMSIL in her remarks. She said that demonstrating a causal link between the UN's work on child protection and the improvement in the situation of children on ground could expand the body of norms and standards governing children and armed conflict. She offered UNAMSIL as a model for addressing children's needs in other conflict situations. Immunization projects, community-based work with survivors of child sexual abuse, and the truth and reconciliation commission are a few examples of how coordination addressed basic needs and long-term justice. The justice process in Sierra Leone has stressed the release of child combatants and prosecuted crimes against children without prosecuting children. The collaborative effort could be considered a partial catalyst for Resolution 1379, she said. She emphasized that future successes would depend heavily on local actors.

Mr. Kelso discussed how the NGO community, in particular the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, has taken up work responding to Resolution 1379. The Coalition has issued a shadow report, "The 1379 Report," which names government and non-state actors that recruit or use children in armed conflict as stated in paragraph 16 of Resolution 1379. Mr. Kelso discussed the methodology of the Coalition's report and highlighted some of the parties included in the report. He stressed the importance of broadening the definition of children affected by armed conflict to include those who are abducted, at risk of being re-recruited, and those in countries surrounding a conflict zone and suggested that the Security Council make the debate on children and armed conflict an annual event. Mr. Kelso also suggested the introduction of a 6-month interim report on any resolution calling for such a list of children in armed conflict so that if progress has not been made additional actions can be taken, such as the appointment of independent experts.

Mr. Bruderlein noted the severity of lack of hope seen in a recent visit to homes for children displaced by conflict in Sri Lanka and that the process of accountability needs to go beyond naming and shaming to find alternatives and prevent recruitment of children.

Ms. Mary Diaz spoke on the mandate of the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict—a recently developed initiative that focuses on monitoring and reporting data on a broad range of issues related to children and armed conflict. It is difficult to measure the scope of problems and suggest responses and monitoring mechanisms, she stated, without access to accurate data. The critical need for improved methodologies and strategies for monitoring, reporting and documenting abuses against children was a main theme of Ms. Diaz's comments. In bringing this to light, Ms. Diaz reiterated the need for local capacity building. She called attention to the role of NGOs to work in a coalition and testify to the abuses. She noted that the Watchlist is providing specific information on, for example, education, health, HIV/AIDS prevalence and gender-based violence, all with the help of local partners. She also stressed the need for security and protection of those who do testify or document abuses. Finally, she suggested creating a more open and

transparent process within the Security Council for addressing children and armed conflict, so that the Council can receive information from NGOs and youth organizations, and offer feedback to these organizations.

Questions and comments:

In commentary, an NGO representative offered two suggestions. First was to invite the governments named as child recruiters to a meeting where they could discuss with the Security Council how to end the abuses. Second was to classify all recruitment of children under 15 years of age as a war crime, and to refer these cases to the International Criminal Court.

Another NGO representative asked how to improve the process for NGOs to provide information to the Security Council and to encourage the Council to use the information.

Directing his question at Mr. Gram-Johannessen of Norway, a participant asked how the Security Council will uphold the commitment to children's needs when the Human Security Network members Norway and Ireland end their Security Council terms later this year. He suggested the elaboration of a further role for the Human Security Network. It was noted that with regards to Human Security Network members on the Security Council, Chile will join shortly.

A youth from Sierra Leone emphasized the need for a regional approach to security. He discussed how the arms trade crosses borders and prompts conflicts to follow. He also stressed that NGO's funds need to be increased or used more efficiently, given how much is spent on administration. Finally, he mentioned how 'marginalized' he felt by the Security Council process. He did not feel heard and felt they could act more quickly to address the needs of children in conflict areas.

In responding to comments, Mr. Gram-Johannessen echoed the need for lobbying at the capitals, and the need for NGOs to provide meaningful data and recommendations to the Security Council to assist them in formulating policy and implementation. Ms. Novicki underscored the suggestion for a subregional approach to ensure that the gains made in one country are not reversed by a bordering conflict. Mr. Kelso commented that ratification of the International Criminal Court by various countries would raise the standards for prosecution. He also suggested raising the age level for banning recruitment from 15 to 18 years old. He suggested going beyond the issue of combatants to look at the causes of children's vulnerability such as poverty or lack of education.

Near the end of the session, two former child soldiers from Uganda spoke. One suggested creating strong laws prohibiting and punishing those who recruit children from schools for the purposes of combat. He wanted to protect access to schooling and schools as safe spaces. Another discussed the need for psychosocial, housing and other assistance for child soldiers who live as refugees in another country.

A youth advocate from Liberia reflected on how conflict has affected his family. He said the process and pace of action was moving too slowly. He suggested that sanctions and the naming-and-shaming strategy were not effective with dictators or authoritarian rulers. He also reiterated the need for the Security Council to listen to children's experiences and suggestions, perhaps in a parallel Security Council meeting of children. In response, one panelist acknowledged that naming and shaming was insufficient to combat abuses against children but is the main weapon used against many countries.

A representative from a Security Council member country closed the session by restating the need for NGOs to communicate with the Security Council with specific suggestions, clear links to the human security framework, and in brief, concrete statements.

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Panel Two--Human Security strategies related to the 1379 Resolution, one example in focus.

The rights and special needs of girls affected by armed conflict: Are they accounted for?

This panel focused on identifying girls' needs during and after a conflict and responding to those needs. The panel featured important research and analysis about girls' issues in conflict as combatants and as citizens.

The panel was moderated by Theo Sowa, a researcher. Panelists included:

- Ambassador Jerry Corr, Deputy Permanent Representative, Security Council, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations
- Angelina Acheng Atyam, Co-Founder Concerned Parents Organization, Uganda
- Fatmata Bintu Barrie and Abibatu Samba, adolescent researchers from Sierra Leone, affiliated with the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children
- Rachel Brett, Quaker UN Office
- Angela Raven-Roberts, Tufts University
- Kristen Chenier, Senior Policy Advisor, International Humanitarian Assistance Multilateral Programs Branch, Canadian International Development Agency

Ambassador Corr suggested a few points of action for the Security Council and other UN actors to address children's needs. He repeated the Security Council's need for serious but brief assessments by NGOs of children's needs in conflict, and NGOs' roles in reporting how child rights officers and gender advisers impact child protection in a conflict situation. He also pointed to the coordinating role of the Security Council in involving the World Bank, the IMF, and other donors in implementing Resolution 1379 and acknowledging children's and gender issues more generally. To ensure these issues are a regular feature of resolutions and reports, he suggested that the Secretariat request these issues for inclusion in a report framework, and that the framework include data provided by NGOs.

Ms. Acheng Atyam described some of the problems faced by the girl child in conflict, with a focus on Northern Uganda. Lack of protection leads to abduction. The vulnerable situation of abducted girls increases the likelihood of physical and sexual abuse, susceptibility to disease, and early, unwanted, motherhood – all of which put girls at risk of premature death. Lack of education due to mass displacement disproportionately affects girls. Initially, families may choose to invest in boys' education instead of girls'. And social or community structures reinforce that imbalance. Girls orphaned by war are less likely to go to school. The lack of education and skills increases girls' vulnerability to prostitution, sexual slavery and abduction or re-abduction. Once abducted or recruited into sexual slavery, girls are less likely to return.

Ms. Atyam described her organization, the Concerned Parents Organization. It works with young people and parents on a number of projects and preaches reconciliation, acceptance of mistakes, and apologies across tribes, religious groups, and leadership of traditional and political. She recommended these steps, and that youth participate at the forefront of peacebuilding. She also asked for improved and updated data collection, more consistent UN monitoring, and an HSN

mission to Northern Uganda where child abductions are still occurring. She repeatedly stressed the need for turning the principles of Resolution 1379 into action and designating the actors who will make the ideas real.

Two adolescent researchers from the Women's Commission research project in Sierra Leone presented their findings from a survey of more than 600 youth. Like Ms. Acheng Atyam, Ms. Barrie discussed problems that girl mothers face, the high incidence of girls in prostitution, and their exposure to sexually transmitted diseases and their babies' vulnerability to disease and death. Ms. Barrie and Ms. Samba both stressed the need for girls' access to education, the need for their reintegration into society, and the need for peacekeeping officers to protect, rather than abuse, girls. (Of particular concern, noted the young researchers, is the fact that UN Peacekeepers are customers of young prostitutes in Sierra Leone.) Girls need training for paid jobs, more information about health issues in schools and on the radio, better access to health services, and encouraging and training girls to work as peer educators. On the enforcement side, the research has highlighted some critical issues: police enforcement and apprehension of rapists, protection of girls' freedom to choose when and who they marry, and protection from coercion into secret societies.

Ms. Rachel Brett presented her qualitative research on girl soldiers' experiences in Angola, Colombia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. In addition to the lack of economic opportunities, education and other social vulnerabilities that disproportionately affect girls, girls experienced conflict in different ways from boys. The research described found a correlation between abduction and systematic sexual exploitation. But not all girl combatants are sexually violated, she said. Girls are unfairly stigmatized as sexual slaves or sexual abuse victims. Some girls join armed forces to prove their equality with boys. Girls may join to seek protection from an abusive family situation or a growing sense of insecurity in the community. Sometimes, the best protection against armed violence in the community is to be armed themselves, she said. Girls need demobilization programs, not just victim survival programs. When girls return home, they desire a connection with their mother or a female relative. And girls are unlikely to seek revenge, though they feel deep guilt and regret over the decision. They are more focused on making amends with their mother and society. Acknowledging their identity by offering girls a space to describe their experiences may be a first step, she said.

Ms. Raven-Roberts discussed the gaps between policies and implementation. She suggested institutionalizing the needs of women and kids within all agencies, which means disaggregating data and ensuring accountability to women and children's needs. She also highlighted the role of donor institutions to work on the core commitments of UNICEF or women's issues to increase the available resources and attention on an issue. And she returned to the need for monitoring mechanisms at the country level. She suggested empowering different kinds of people to serve as monitors, such as nurses. And finally she asked what the role of the international community could be in relation to corporations that extract profits from conflict zones.

Kristen Chenier, Senior Policy Advisor, International Humanitarian Assistance Multilateral Programs Branch, CIDA, described some of Canada's responses to the issues at hand as an example of possible government responses. She described policy initiatives which included the country's child protection action plan, increasing investment for issues such as children and armed conflict. During Canada's tenure on the Security Council, it prioritized civilian protection and hosted a conference on war-affected children. They made special effort to ensure girls were involved and that they offered policy suggestions. Programmatically, CIDA conducted gender-

based training to strengthen the gender expertise within peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance operations and developed a course for ongoing use. They also provided and paid for a refugee women's adviser at UNHCR. Their donor assistance also supported projects that targeted girls, such as rehabilitation, reintegration and women's participation in peace processes.

Questions and comments:

An academic from Northern Ireland suggested presenting the recruitment of children as a security issue rather than a humanitarian issue, as a way to confer more gravitas and urgency to the issue. To this end she suggested framing children and armed conflict as both a humanitarian and a security issue. She also raised the questions of whether peace agreements had credibility if they didn't involve children, i.e. the next generation, in the process as signatories. Finally, she noted that the failure to demobilize many child combatants has left the community with new, pervasive forms of violence such as sexual violence.

A young woman from Canada suggested working with boys as a component of empowering girls. A possible method could be to strengthen local authority and autonomy to hear from young people and act on their suggestions.

A representative working on networking youth in peacebuilding around the world noted that girls and girl combatants are marginalized even within the peacebuilding process and impeded from participation.

An NGO representative working in the context of Sri Lanka suggested some unique opportunities for girls to participate in the post-conflict process in Sri Lanka. One-third to one-half of the rebel Tamil Tigers are women and many hold high positions within the Tiger administration, she noted. Women could play a stronger role in the peace process and sit on the negotiating team. The international community can direct money for reconstruction to girls' issues, health, education, and housing for them.

An academic suggested looking at conflict as an opportunity for change in society. Through the displacement and transitional society created via conflict norms (such as a family's recognition of girl soldiers and girl mothers) slowly change as do notions of social responsibility of men and marriageable ages for girls.

In response to these comments, Rachel Brett echoed the need for talking to boys as well as to girls to take advantage of the real opportunity for change. Ms. Barrie emphasized that involving girls in decision-making was absolutely essential to their well-being and the well-being of society.

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Presentation

Eric Hoskins, President of War Child Canada, and Krista Riley, Youth Advocate and Member of War Child Canada's Youth Advisory Board, presented a new project of War Child to connect youth in different areas, both conflict zones and non-conflict zones, to each other using the internet. The project relies on new uses of technology and involves children in multiple regions.

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Roundtable: “An Action Plan for Promoting the Security of War Affected Children”

This section of the event was set up differently from the panels and afforded opportunity for pointed comments on development of an action plan with regard to child protection.

This session was moderated by Iain Levine, Chief, Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy, Office of Emergency Programmes. The speakers included:

- Ambassador Dr. Georg Mautner-Markhof, Director for Human Rights, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Austria
- Randolph Carter, Liberian youth representative
- Kathy Vandergrift, Senior Policy Analyst, World Vision Canada; and Co-Chair, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
- Rory Mungoven, Global Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch; Representative from the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers
- Marie Smyth, Chief Executive and founder director of the Institute for Conflict Research in Northern Ireland; Currently Senior Fellow, Jennings Randolph Program at United States Institute of Peace

Mr. Carter opened the session with some suggestions drawn from his experiences in Liberia. He stressed that youth suggestions should be carefully considered. The participation of young people in decisions that affect them is crucial because they can make decisions from experience, and participation ensures that power isn't being undermined or taken away from them. Mr. Carter described his work with a UNICEF-funded peer mediation program in Liberia. Though the program is no longer formally underway, youth are still organizing and working together because they recognize their opportunity to change their environment.

Ambassador Mautner-Markhof described the Human Security Network's action plan for children and prioritization of children and armed conflict. A first step is ensuring that NGOs have access to relevant meetings and a chance to be heard prior to the event. As chair of the HSN, Austria is taking the additional step of disseminating a child rights curriculum for governments and international agencies. A key objective is to create a pool of knowledgeable monitors and child-centered prevention experts, he said. The hope is that these experts can then build capacity in local regions, because the key to success in many conflicts is sensitive local monitors. Another objective is successful and effective rehabilitation of children. In addition, the HSN can serve as a conduit of information to the UN and others regarding newly emerging crisis situations and places where not enough steps or inadequate steps are being taken.

Ms. Kathy Vandergrift highlighted the impact of terrorism on young people and labeling children as terrorists. She discussed the need for a problem-solving approach with coordination at all levels and the need for quick-response teams and reports about emerging conflict situations. She also suggested pursuing the role of corporate actors mentioned in Resolution 1379 to explore the link between corporate actors and children, and small arms and children.

Mr. Rory Mungoven echoed the idea that addressing corporate actors is the new agenda. He suggested using the list of countries and actors that rely on children in conflict as a basis for dialogue with corporations in those conflict areas, modeled on the corporate social responsibility process. The list could also be a basis for sanctions against countries. He suggested a collective monitoring process in which the different HSN missions assemble monitoring reports with local NGOs. He returned to the idea of regional security to suggest cross-border solutions developed by regional organizations.

Ms. Marie Smyth focused her comments on preventing war and how to minimize the damage to children's lives. She echoed the points in gender panel about educational vulnerability as a cause of children's vulnerability. Although this is a priority for children, according to her research, she said she rarely sees war-torn countries prioritizing education. Mental health services are also critical for refugee children. Beyond services, though, she stressed that children's participation is not just nice, but necessary. She noted that democratic institutions are not prepared to hear or seek the views of children. Children's exclusion can create a foundation for chaos and conflict during peace time, she said, when children don't feel a sense of ownership in any peace agreement that excluded them. Children must be partners in research, in peacebuilding, and prevention of war, she suggested.

Questions and comments:

Some described strategies for successful youth participation. Examples include training street children to be human rights monitors and peer mediators; creating training programs where children train adults in children's rights and needs during conflict; and youth-driven peace processes. Monitoring must involve children, which requires youth access to information and media.

Some focused on the links between children's needs and financial issues. One suggestion was to encourage companies working in war-torn countries to earmark some portion of their profits or programs for reintegration of young women and men. Several people also suggested examining the role of financial institutions in children's well-being. Some suggested a specific focus on IMF and World Bank policies and how those impact war-affected children.

The youth researchers focused on ensuring youth access to education, job training and participation in peace processes. They noted that relevance and meaning is critical. Current job training programs teach skills that are not in demand or available, or do not pay well. Yet productive jobs are crucial for child combatants' reintegration and development. Participation must offer choices and methods to prevent war, they suggested

A recurrent issue focused on security for children and children's organizations who speak out about abuses children suffer.

The comments in the final question period addressed two broader issues: the issue of child rights and its role in conflict resolution and prevention; and the resources and processes required for a sustainable peace. For the former, Mr. Levine pointed to youth participation in peace processes and access to education as key measures. For the latter, he highlighted the role of financial assistance, and links between financial institutions and governments, NGOs and youth organizations in monitoring. The emerging need to link corporate responsibility with measures to protect children in conflict areas was also a recurring theme throughout this final session. In closing, Mr. Levine, also emphasized the idea that ran through all the panel discussions of a regional approach to building security. In short, measures that link local organizations, monitoring, and policies received high priority.

Mr. Richard Kuehnel thanked all participants for the stimulating debate and informed them of the future steps to be taken by the Human Security Network. On 12 November, the HSN experts in New York will meet in order to discuss the results of and follow-up to the symposium. As chair of the HSN, Austria will deliver a statement during the Security Council debate on children and armed conflict which will take into account the recommendations made.