



Security Council

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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Conclusions on children and armed conflict in Yemen

1. At its 81st meeting, on 14 June 2019, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the second report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Yemen ([S/2019/453](#)), which was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group (see annex).
2. The members of the Working Group welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, submitted in accordance with Security Council resolutions [1612 \(2005\)](#), [1882 \(2009\)](#), [1998 \(2011\)](#), [2068 \(2012\)](#), [2143 \(2014\)](#), [2225 \(2015\)](#) and [2427 \(2018\)](#), and took note of the analysis and recommendations contained therein.
3. The members of the Working Group expressed grave concern over the scale, severity and recurrence of violations and abuses endured by children in Yemen, and strongly condemned all violations and abuses that continue to be committed against children in Yemen. They urged all parties to the conflict to fully implement the Stockholm Agreement, and to work towards a comprehensive negotiated political solution to end the conflict, as the only sustainable way to end the suffering of children in Yemen. The members of the Working Group underlined the importance of including child protection provisions in a future peace agreement. In addition, they welcomed the signing of a road map by the Government of Yemen on 18 December 2018 to revitalize the implementation of the action plan signed with the United Nations in 2014 to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by its forces. The members of the Working Group also welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen on 25 March 2019 and urged the other parties to the conflict to take steps to end and prevent violations and abuses against children. The members of the Working Group underlined the importance of accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of international human rights law and preventing impunity.
4. Further to the 81st meeting, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [1612 \(2005\)](#), [1882 \(2009\)](#), [1998 \(2011\)](#), [2068 \(2012\)](#), [2143 \(2014\)](#), [2225 \(2015\)](#) and [2427 \(2018\)](#), the Working Group agreed to the direct action as set out below.



Public statement by the Chair of the Working Group

5. The Working Group agreed to address the following message to all parties to the armed conflict in Yemen mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, in particular non-State armed groups, such as the Houthis, Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula/Ansar al-Sharia, pro-government militias including the Salafists and the popular committees, and the Security Belt Forces, as well as the Government forces, including the Yemeni Armed Forces, and the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen, through a public statement by its Chair:

(a) Expressing grave concern at the scale, severity and recurrence of violations and abuses endured by children in Yemen, strongly condemning all violations and abuses that continue to be committed against children in Yemen and urging them to immediately end and prevent all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children, abduction, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access and to comply with their obligations under international law;

(b) Stressing the importance of accountability for all violations and abuses against children in armed conflict and stressing that all those responsible must be brought to justice and held accountable without undue delay, including through timely and systematic investigations and, as appropriate, prosecution and conviction;

(c) Expressing deep concern at the high number of children verified as recruited and used in violation of international law, of which the majority were recruited and used by the Houthis; strongly urging all armed forces and groups to immediately release all children associated with them and end and prevent further recruitment and use of children, consistent with their obligations under international law and, as applicable, the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the declaration made by Yemen upon accession thereto in 2007; expressing concern about the deprivation of liberty of children, by both State and non-State actors, for their alleged association with armed forces and armed groups and urging all parties to the conflict to release those children and ensure their full reintegration through child protection programmes; and urging that children allegedly associated with parties to the conflict should be treated primarily as victims and that detention should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, in line with international law as well as guided by the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles) endorsed by the Government of Yemen in December 2012;

(d) Expressing deep concern at the alarmingly high number of children killed and maimed, including by airstrikes, ground fighting, including by small arms fire and shelling, which was prevalent in densely populated areas, mines and unexploded ordnance and suicide attacks, and urging all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality and the obligation to take all feasible precautions to avoid and in any event minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects;

(e) Expressing strong concern at the high number of children killed and maimed by mines, unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war and urging all parties to the armed conflict to take steps to prevent and reduce such killing and maiming, including by prioritizing the clearance of mines, unexploded ordnance and other explosives, as well as through risk education and risk reduction activities;

(f) Expressing deep concern at the cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against children and at the lack of appropriate services for survivors, expressing concern about the increase in early marriage of girls, strongly

urging all parties to the armed conflict to take immediate and specific measures to put an end to and prevent the perpetration of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children and stressing the importance of accountability for those responsible for sexual and gender-based violence against children;

(g) Strongly condemning the attacks on schools and hospitals in violation of international law and calling upon all parties to the armed conflict to comply with applicable international law and to respect the civilian character of schools and hospitals, including their personnel, and to end and prevent disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks or threats of attacks against those institutions and their personnel as well as the military use of schools and hospitals in violation of applicable international law, and in this regard noting the endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration by the Government of Yemen in October 2017 and stressing the importance of accountability for attacks against those institutions in violation of international law;

(h) Strongly condemning the abduction of children, including for recruitment and use and other forms of exploitation, as well as ransom, and calling upon all concerned parties to cease the abduction of children and immediately release all abducted children;

(i) Expressing grave concern at the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, strongly condemning the number of incidents of denial of humanitarian access to children, including denial of humanitarian assistance and attacks on humanitarian personnel, facilities and assets, and calling upon all parties to the armed conflict, in particular the Houthis, to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unhindered access to children consistent with the United Nations guiding principles on humanitarian assistance, to respect the exclusively humanitarian nature and impartiality of humanitarian aid and to respect the work of all United Nations humanitarian agencies, and their humanitarian partners, without adverse distinction;

(j) Calling upon all parties who have not yet done so to enhance their engagement with the United Nations to develop and adopt appropriate standard operating procedures for the release and reintegration of children associated with parties to the conflict and grant immediate access to civilian child protection actors to facilitate their release and reintegration into their communities, and underlining that family and community-based reintegration of children formerly associated with parties to the conflict is essential to provide a future to these children and their families, as well as to prevent the risks of re-recruitment in violation of international law, and noting in this regard efforts undertaken by the Government of Yemen and the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen to reunite children formerly associated with armed groups with their families;

To the Government of Yemen

(k) Welcoming the signing of a road map on 18 December 2018 to revitalize the implementation of the action plan signed by the Government of Yemen on 14 May 2014 to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by its forces; welcoming the command order issued by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Yemeni Armed Forces in March 2018 which recalled that the recruitment and use of children by government forces was forbidden and which called for the immediate reporting of any violation of its provisions; welcoming, moreover, the endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration by the Government of Yemen in October 2017; urging the Government to proceed immediately with the implementation of its road map with the United Nations and to stop and prevent the recruitment and use of children, immediately release all those within its ranks and prioritize the establishment of effective age assessment mechanisms; and calling upon it to further implement the

previous conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen (S/AC.51/2013/3);

To the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen

(l) Welcoming the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen on 25 March 2019 to strengthen the protection of children affected by the armed conflict in Yemen; welcoming the development of a programme of specific time-bound activities by the Coalition with the United Nations on the basis of this memorandum of understanding and calling upon it to implement it; calling upon the Coalition to take all necessary actions to meet its obligations under international law; and calling upon Yemen and the Coalition to ensure that all incidents or allegations of incidents attributed to the Coalition are duly investigated, in line with international law, to ensure accountability;

To the Houthis

(m) Expressing grave concern and strongly condemning all violations and abuses that continue to be committed against children in Yemen by the Houthis; expressing disappointment at the failure of the Houthis to engage fully with the United Nations in Yemen on the protection of children affected by armed conflict; urging the Houthis to immediately take all necessary actions to meet their obligations under international law, to enhance their ongoing dialogue with the United Nations in Yemen and to develop and adopt an action plan to end and prevent the six grave violations against children; and calling upon them to implement the previous conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen;

To the other listed parties

(n) Calling upon all other parties to the conflict listed in the annexes of the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict to sign and implement an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the six grave violations against children, if they have not yet done so, and to this effect enter into a dialogue with the United Nations, and calling upon them to implement the previous conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen;

To all those concerned

(o) Encouraging those who are or will be engaged in peace talks and agreements to ensure that child protection provisions, including those relating to the release and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups, as well as provisions on the rights and well-being of children, are integrated into all peace negotiations, ceasefire and peace agreements, and into provisions for ceasefire monitoring, and taking into account children's views, where possible, in these processes;

(p) Calling upon Member States, United Nations entities, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and other parties concerned to ensure that the protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children affected by armed conflict are fully incorporated into and prioritized in all post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning, programmes and strategies as well as in efforts on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to encourage and facilitate consideration of the views of children in these processes;

(q) Expressing concern at the security, access and other challenges faced by United Nations personnel of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict and demanding that parties to the conflict facilitate their safe and unhindered access to territories for monitoring

and reporting purposes and immediately halt threats against mechanism personnel and communities where allegations of violations and abuses are being reviewed.

6. The Working Group agreed to address a message, through a public statement by the Chair of the Working Group, to community and religious leaders:

(a) Emphasizing the important role of community and religious leaders in strengthening the protection of children affected by armed conflict;

(b) Urging them to strengthen community-level protection and to condemn publicly and continue to advocate the ending and prevention of violations and abuses against children, notably the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks and threats of attacks on schools and hospitals, abductions and denial of humanitarian access, and to engage with the Government, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to support the reintegration and rehabilitation of children affected by armed conflict in their communities, including by raising awareness to avoid stigmatization of these children.

Recommendations to the Security Council

7. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter addressed to the Government of Yemen:

(a) Welcoming the signing of a road map on 18 December 2018 to revitalize the implementation of the action plan signed by the Government of Yemen on 14 May 2014 to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by its forces, and calling upon the Government to proceed immediately with the implementation of its road map with the United Nations and to stop and prevent the recruitment and use of children, immediately release all those within its ranks and prioritize the establishment of effective age assessment mechanisms;

(b) Welcoming the command order issued by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Yemeni Armed Forces in March 2018, which recalled that the recruitment and use of children by government forces was forbidden and which called for the immediate reporting of any violation of its provisions;

(c) Expressing concern about the detention of children for their alleged association with the Houthis, but welcoming that all children held by the Government of Yemen were subsequently released and reunited with their families following the advocacy of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and of the United Nations in Yemen;

(d) Reminding the Government of Yemen that children associated with parties to conflict should be treated primarily as victims of recruitment and use, that detention should be considered only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, in line with international law and guided by the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles), which the Government of Yemen endorsed in December 2012, and calling upon the Government to consider non-judicial measures as alternatives to detention and prosecution that focus on the rehabilitation and reintegration for children;

(e) Encouraging the Government of Yemen to focus on comprehensive and sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation opportunities, including those that are family- and community-based, for children affected by armed conflict that are gender- and age-sensitive, including equal access to health care, psychosocial support and education programmes, as well as on raising awareness and working with communities to avoid stigmatization of these children, facilitate their return and minimize the risk of re-recruitment in violation of international law, while taking into account the specific needs of girls and boys, including those of children with

disabilities, in order to contribute to the well-being of children and to sustainable peace and security;

(f) Expressing deep concern at children being killed and maimed by Government forces, urging the Government forces to continue to take concrete and effective measures to avoid and prevent child casualties during the conduct of hostilities and urging them to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality and the obligation to take all feasible precautions to avoid and in any event minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects, and urging the Government to hold accountable those who are responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of international human rights law;

(g) Expressing deep concern that children are at high risk of being killed and maimed by mines, unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war, and urging the Government to take concrete steps to prevent and reduce their impact on children by prioritizing the clearance of mines, unexploded ordnance and other explosives, as well as by conducting risk education and risk reduction activities;

(h) Expressing deep concern at the sexual violence against children attributed to Government forces and urging the Government to take immediate and specific measures to put an end to and prevent the perpetration of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children and to facilitate access for humanitarian assistance, including services for survivors of sexual violence against children;

(i) Commending the Government for its endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration in October 2017 and encouraging the Government to implement it and to ensure that attacks on schools are investigated and that those responsible are duly prosecuted;

(j) Urging the Government to make every effort to avoid further attacks on schools, hospitals and humanitarian actors and urging the Government not to use schools for military purposes and to comply with its obligation under international humanitarian law to respect and protect hospitals and other medical facilities;

(k) Urging all parties to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access to children consistent with the United Nations guiding principles on humanitarian assistance, including by lifting any impediments that could delay, reduce or prevent the delivery of humanitarian assistance without discrimination;

(l) Reminding the Government that monitors of the monitoring and reporting mechanism and community members should be protected from repercussions for documenting and denouncing violations and abuses against children;

(m) Urging the Government to ensure that child protection provisions, including the release and reintegration of children, as well as provisions on the rights and well-being of children, are integrated into all peace negotiations, ceasefire and peace agreements and into provisions for ceasefire monitoring, and to take into account children's views, where possible, in these processes, and to ensure that the protection, rights, well-being and empowerment of children affected by armed conflict are fully incorporated into and prioritized in all post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning, programmes and strategies as well as in efforts on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and to encourage and facilitate consideration of the views of children in these processes.

8. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the Chair of the Working Group transmit a letter addressed to the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen:

(a) Welcoming the establishment of a child protection unit in 2017 and the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the

Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen on 25 March 2019 to strengthen the protection of children affected by the armed conflict in Yemen, and welcoming the development of a programme of specific time-bound activities by the Coalition with the United Nations on the basis of this memorandum of understanding and calling upon the Coalition to implement it;

(b) Expressing deep concern at children being killed and maimed, in particular as a result of airstrikes, and at the high number of verified attacks on schools and hospitals, calling upon the Coalition to continue to take concrete and effective measures with a view to avoiding and preventing child casualties during its operation and to prevent further attacks on schools and hospitals and calling upon the Coalition to ensure that all incidents or allegations of incidents attributed to the Coalition are duly investigated, in line with international law, to ensure accountability;

(c) Underscoring the importance of allowing and facilitating safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access to children, consistent with the United Nations guiding principles on humanitarian assistance, including by lifting any impediments that could delay, reduce or prevent the delivery of humanitarian assistance, without discrimination.

9. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter to the Secretary-General:

(a) Calling upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the protection of children is included in all peace negotiations, ceasefire and peace agreements, and in provisions for ceasefire monitoring;

(b) Calling upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations continues its efforts to develop an action plan with the Houthis to end and prevent the six grave violations against children, as well as engagement with other parties to the conflict for the purpose of signing and implementing action plans;

(c) Encouraging the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations continues its engagement with the Government of Yemen and with the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen;

(d) Strongly encouraging the Secretary-General to ensure that relevant activities foreseen in the action plans with parties to the conflict are mainstreamed within the peacebuilding activities of the United Nations in Yemen, in particular the reintegration and rehabilitation of children and the development of sustainable livelihood opportunities, in order to empower them and prevent their recruitment and use by parties to armed conflict in violation of international law;

(e) Calling upon the Secretary-General to ensure that child protection expertise is available in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen to mainstream child protection into all peace negotiations, ceasefire and peace agreements, and into provisions for ceasefire monitoring, to ensure that the need for child protection advisers is systematically assessed during the preparation and renewal of the political mission, and to encourage briefings to the Security Council on Yemen to take into account the situation of children in Yemen.

10. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) concerning Yemen:

(a) Recalling paragraph 9 (c) of resolution [1998 \(2011\)](#), in which the Security Council requested enhanced communication between the Working Group and relevant Security Council sanctions committees, including through the exchange of pertinent information on violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict,

and also recalling the listing criteria in paragraph 18 (c) of resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) and in paragraph 19 of resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#);

(b) Encouraging the Committee to consider the designation for sanctions of individuals and entities, in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the Committee, and in this regard also encouraging the continued exchange of pertinent information between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Committee;

(c) Welcoming in this regard the briefings to the Committee by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on 18 September 2015 in a joint meeting with the Working Group.

Direct action by the Working Group

11. The Working Group agreed to send letters from the Chair of the Working Group to the World Bank and donors:

(a) Requesting them to ensure long-term financial support for the implementation of child protection programmes, which are indispensable for the rehabilitation and the reintegration of children affected by the conflict in Yemen, including psychosocial support;

(b) Requesting them to support, through the provision of sustained resources, the continuing work of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on violations and abuses against children affected by armed conflict in Yemen.

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Statement of the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations before the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

14 June 2019

I would like to thank His Excellency Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations and Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, for convening this meeting of the Working Group in order to discuss the report on Yemen, and for inviting us to attend.

I also wish to thank Ms. Gamba for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Yemen covering the period from 2013 to 2018.

We thank the representatives of members of the Security Council and the Secretariat for their interest and for attending.

My delegation wishes to make the following comments on the report of the Secretary-General.

- In the report, it is stated that 47 per cent of the fatalities were a result of air strikes. Unfortunately, the report does not point out that most of those victims were children who were recruited by Houthi militias and brought to the front lines or to military training camps. It is unclear whether or not they were recruits, and that state of affairs provides cover for the coup militias as they continue to recruit greater numbers of children. It ensures that they are not held accountable for recruiting thousands of children who have become casualties on the front lines.
- In paragraph 16, reference is made to the difficulty of monitoring and verifying violations. It is well-known that the Houthi coup militias are constantly working to hamper the monitoring teams. However, the reports issued by the competent agencies of the United Nations fail to hold those militias directly responsible for their obstructionism and the arbitrary treatment meted out to the monitoring teams.
- The Ministry of Defence, on behalf of the Yemeni Government, rejects the claims made in the draft report concerning its recruitment of children. The National Army has issued strict instructions requiring compliance with international law and the instruments to which the Yemeni Government is a party. The Government therefore requests that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General specify which military units are claimed to have child recruits so that it can investigate the claims and take the necessary action against anyone responsible for child recruitment, in the event that the claims were confirmed.
- In paragraph 19, it is stated that families allow their children to be recruited because of increasing poverty and limited access to education, vocational training and livelihood opportunities, all of which are key drivers for children to join the front lines. Reference is also made to religious beliefs and ideologies. The Houthi militias have indeed exploited the needs and poverty of the Yemeni people. They have been sending children to the front lines in return for a little food or money for their families. It is therefore important for United Nations humanitarian assistance programmes to include productive and income-generating projects in order to create sustainable solutions enabling poor families to earn a livelihood.

- It is stated in paragraph 21 that children are forced to join armed groups in order to secure basic necessities for their families, and that there is some degree of social acceptance in the areas under Houthi control regarding the recruitment of children to militias. Awareness-raising campaigns should be intensified in order to curb that alarming trend.
- In paragraph 22, reference is made to the recruitment of girls by the Houthi militias in 2018. However, that trend was not limited to 2018. The militias have established the so-called Zaynabiyyat battalions, which consist of girls and participate in certain military operations. They have raided homes and recruited growing numbers of girls. They are also seeking to recruit children from orphanages and juvenile shelters.
- Paragraph 28 fails to mention that the Houthis have detained three monitors. That fact supports our contention that the statistics from the areas under Houthi militia control are inaccurate, and that the numbers set out in the report account for only a small portion of the militias' violations. From the outset, the Yemeni Government has asked the United Nations to update the monitoring mechanisms on which it relies.
- In paragraph 31, reference is made to the fact that the children detained by the Yemeni Government have been handed over to their families through the International Committee of the Red Cross. This fact shows that the Yemeni Government is genuinely making every effort to eliminate the trend of child detention, which imperils future generations in Yemen.
- In paragraph 33, it is stated that 146 children have been killed or injured since 2013. However, the responsible parties and the locations of the incidents are not specified.
- In paragraph 38, reference is made to casualties caused by mines, but most of those incidents are cited as unattributed. However, the Houthi coup militias have planted over 1 million mines and explosive ordnances, which continue to kill or maim hundreds of Yemenis, most of whom are women and children. The report fails to mention that the militia has committed crimes by storing weapons and ammunition in public places and schools. Most recently, an explosion took place at a girls' school in the Sa'wan area of Sana'a in April 2019, killing 16 girls.
- The Yemeni Government asks that the Secretary-General remove its name from annex B¹ in view of the efforts it has made. Yemen has signed the workplan and plan of action to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration and implemented the protocol on child protection. It has cooperated unreservedly with the relevant United Nations entities, particularly the regional team, and is committed to the international instruments that it has signed.
- The Special Representative has met many times with the Yemeni Government and the Coalition to Support Legitimacy. Every avenue is open for efforts to eradicate the trend of child recruitment. It should, however, be noted that the Yemeni Government is often equated with the Houthis. The use of the term "all parties" implies that there is in some sense an equivalence between the Government and the militias. That notion is unacceptable. It contravenes and undermines the principles of international humanitarian law, human rights law and all international norms. The Government is legitimate and internationally recognized. It has signed agreements with the United Nations and is doing everything in its power to cooperate in protecting children. We wish to

¹ Note by the translator: an apparent reference to annex I, section B of [A/72/865-S/2018/465](#).

emphasize that if you encounter any violations or any endeavour to hinder the delivery of assistance, it is essential that you contact the Government directly so that action can be taken to overcome the difficulties facing international organizations and ensure that all beneficiaries can be reached, particularly women and children.

- We reiterate that the Yemeni Government is fully prepared to continue cooperating with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and to coordinate on an ongoing basis with a view to protecting children, preventing their recruitment and working to create an environment conducive to the future they deserve.
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