



# RESOLUTION 1612

## **Making It Work for Children and Youth**

Report from a Workshop  
Sponsored by the  
Canadian Peacebuilding  
Coordinating Committee

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## **Acknowledgements**

This report was created by Kathy Vandergrift, Chair of the Children and Armed Conflict Working Group (CACWG). CACWG is a sub-committee of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC).

### **About the CPCC**

The Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC), is a network of Canadian non-governmental organizations and institutions, academics and other individuals from a wide range of sectors, including humanitarian assistance, development, conflict resolution, women's rights, peace, faith communities, peace operations, and human rights. CPCC has been working since 1994 to formulate policy and operational directions for Canadian NGOs involved in peacebuilding, in collaboration with other relevant actors.

The network is engaged in processes of dialogue with government and a broad range of individuals and civil society organizations to articulate Canadian directions in the area of peacebuilding, and to strengthen civil society input into peacebuilding policy and program development.

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## Introduction

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The goal of the Children and Armed Conflict Working Group (CACWG) is improved protection for the rights of children threatened by armed conflict. Progress has been made in strengthening international norms and policy statements.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 on children in armed conflict (July 2005) provides some new tools for implementation of international commitments on child protection. It presents an important, strategic opportunity to bridge the gap between international norms and the abusive reality that many children still face. Effective use of the measures in Resolution 1612 is a challenge.

As part of its advocacy efforts, the CACWG organized a workshop on March 8, 2006 to explore Resolution 1612 as a tool for child protection.

Four objectives were established:

- ◆ Better understand the components of Resolution 1612, the proposed mechanisms for implementation, and the implications for young people in specific situations;
- ◆ Contribute to effective implementation of Resolution 1612, including the proposed system for monitoring, reporting, and follow-up action;
- ◆ Identify points of influence for Canada in high priority situations; and
- ◆ Identify ways that civil society and government actors could pursue complementary or collaborative actions to achieve common goals in this area.

A panel of experts opened the day by sharing information on the current status of implementation (agenda and list of speakers and attendees attached in Appendix 1.) This was followed by presentations from youth leaders in Colombia and Sudan, who spoke from their experience in conflict countries. Then plenary and small group discussion allowed participants to dig deeper into what Resolution 1612 means and develop suggestions for implementation. Presentations and discussions were framed around three questions:

- ◆ What could Resolution 1612 mean for children and youth?
- ◆ What can be done to make it work for children and youth?
- ◆ What can Canada do for effective implementation?

This report will draw on the proceedings of the workshop to answer the three questions and provide suggestions that respond to the objectives for the event.

## I. What could Resolution 1612 mean for children?

Resolution 1612 was designed to put into action international commitments made in earlier resolutions, such as Resolution 1539 (2004) and 1460 (2003). Similar commitments are made in *A World Fit for Children* (outcome document of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, 2002), and other international agreements, going back to the Action Plan adopted at the *First International Conference on War-affected Children*, held in Winnipeg, Canada in 2000. (A copy of Resolution 1612 and a discussion paper for the workshop are included as Appendices 2 and 3).

The tools for implementation of Resolution 1612 include the establishment of a system for monitoring, reporting, and responding to violations of the rights of children in situations of armed conflict. Resolution 1612 establishes six violations for specific attention, which are indicative of the range of issues faced by youth in conflict situations. These are:

- a. killing and maiming of children;
- b. recruiting or using child soldiers;
- c. attacks against schools or hospitals;
- d. rape or other grave sexual violence against children;
- e. abduction of children; and
- f. denial of humanitarian access

A second tool is the use of action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers; plans are to be developed by listed parties to conflict in specific countries. Action plans include a combination of incentives for compliance and targeted sanctions if no progress is made. Once established, the intention is to expand their scope to include more violations and more countries.

The listing of specific armed forces who abuse children uses naming and shaming to encourage compliance with international norms and focuses attention on specific situations for follow-up activities. The list included in the Secretary General's 2005 report on Children in Armed Conflict is attached as an appendix.

Other provisions in the resolution address key priorities of the CACWG in the following areas:

### ◆ **Demilitarization, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Reconciliation (DRRR)**

The resolution calls for the implementation of specific, youth-focused programming that follows good practices, including early start, longer timeframes, and specific attention for girls associated with fighting forces. DRRR is an important element of action plans.

◆ **Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The Security Council commits to take action to stop the flow of arms to forces that violate the rights of children. While implementation is slow, this provision has significant potential for regional and international action.

◆ **Youth participation in Peace Processes**

Resolution 1612 calls on all parties to ensure that the rights of children are integrated into all peace processes, peace agreements, and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning. One of those rights is the right of participation. The benefits of youth participation are slowly being recognized, particularly in countries where young people are a high percentage of the population.

◆ **Girls associated with Fighting Forces**

Special attention is required to address the situation of girls, including steps to end gender-based violence as a tool of war.

If implemented, Resolution 1612 could result in substantial improvement in the lives of children caught in conflict zones. It could end the era of impunity for egregious violations of the rights of children, and lead to an increase in both preventive and remedial youth programming. The fact that reality has not changed significantly points to the challenge of effective implementation.



*Boys at refugee camp in Thailand*

## Challenges in Implementation

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The challenges of implementation were highlighted in the presentations and became the focus of discussion. Below are points of learning and points of concern for each instrument.

### Action Plans

#### **Points of Learning:**

- ◆ The focus of action plans is currently limited to the recruitment and use of child soldiers in five priority countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, and Cote d'Ivoire. It was noted that all these are African countries.
- ◆ If the first phase is successful, the scope will be expanded. Action plans will be linked to the systems for monitoring, reporting, and response, now under development.
- ◆ Action plans are being used in some other situations under the general mandate of the Special Representative to the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG) and UNICEF, e.g. Sri Lanka.
- ◆ In October, UN field offices in the five countries were informed about the specific components of an action plan. These include:
  - commitment to end immediately violations with regard to child soldiers;
  - commitment to release all children within the named parties' ranks;
  - commitment to cooperate with the established DDR system if it exists;
  - implementation of specific measures to prevent recruitment and re-recruitment of children;
  - designation of a high level focal point to liaise with the UN team during implementation of the plan;
  - agreed time-bound benchmarks for demobilization;
  - issuance of formal instructions by the political and military leadership to their respective chains of command reflecting commitments contained in the Action Plan; and
  - agreed arrangements for access by the UN team for monitoring and reporting, for verification of the Action Plan.
- ◆ It is not necessary to wait for a formal peace agreement or DDR plan to engage in action plans to separate children from armed forces.
- ◆ The donor community needs to support action plans quickly. This is a major problem. In the DRC it took three years for the World Bank pooled fund to get funds to the field; it is estimated that fifteen to twenty thousand children were "lost" during that time. Experience has shown that re-recruitment to other forces is a common outcome of the failure to demobilize youth properly.

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◆ Resolution 1612 moves the locus of action from headquarters to the field. The UN Country Resident Coordinator has the final responsibility for the operation of the monitoring system in-country and for development of action plans.

◆ UN agencies report some promising use of action plans, e.g. Sri Lanka. A report on progress made is going to the Security Council in April.

**Points of Concern:**

◆ **Scope:** The narrow scope and limited number of countries seem inconsistent with the universality of the rights of children. Children in countries not on the list also need urgent attention.

◆ **Timing:** Delays have plagued implementation in most of the priority countries. In post-conflict situations, early attention to youth is essential. It was noted that action plans were first mandated in Resolution 1539 in 2004, but action by UN teams has been slow.

◆ **Resources:** Lack of resources for children, including livelihood alternatives and support networks, means that there are often few options for young people to make the transition from fighting forces to community life.

**Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRR System):**

**Points of Learning:**

◆ Implementation is progressing. UNICEF leads the process. The Security Council has requested an independent assessment of progress by June 2006.

◆ Emphasis is on monitoring and reporting; response hasn't been addressed.

◆ The template for a reporting mechanism in the SG's report is being revised and supplemented. A definitions document provided to field offices explains the six violations and the data to be reported. A template for the structure of a report was provided. While UNICEF recognizes that each situation is unique and requires a tailored approach, there is also an emphasis on commonality to facilitate analysis at headquarters.

◆ Two basic structures: Country level taskforces and a Headquarters Taskforce.

◆ Development of the headquarters structure is the most advanced. A UN Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict is composed of 11 agencies, chaired by the SRSG. This is the senior level decision-making body. A Steering Committee, composed of UNICEF, SRSG, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCR, DPKO, UNDP, and ILO provides guidance to field teams. It is co-chaired by UNICEF and SRSG.

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◆ No NGO participation at headquarters level. The Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict and the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers have made a joint proposal for a role for NGOs at the headquarters level. The importance of the NGO role is acknowledged, but there are no structures in place to facilitate it.

◆ Seven countries are pilot countries for country level reporting: Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Somalia, DRC, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. The UN Interagency Taskforce decided to add the last two in order to demonstrate the importance of the same issues in countries that are not already on the Security Council agenda.

More information on each country is provided in the section on specific countries.

**Points of Concern:**

◆ **Ownership, control, and use of information:** Youth and civil society groups are expected to submit information, which is then interpreted and used by UN agencies. Templates address collection of data, but not analysis and use of information. Who owns the information? Who makes decisions about its use? Who receives reports of actions taken? These questions remain unanswered. Flow of information is often one way, from local to UN; it needs to be two-way and in a continuous loop, not just high-level annual reports.

◆ **Accuracy of information:** Youth leaders and NGOs named as an issue the different interpretations put on events being reported. Who will decide how specific facts will be interpreted? How will reported information be verified?

◆ **Accountability** needs to include reporting back to the affected population, including youth, in addition to accountability at the headquarters level. Reporting cannot be an extractive industry. It must empower local child protection networks and youth groups, rather than putting them at risk. Information about Resolution 1612 needs to be widely distributed.

◆ **Response** strategies have not been developed (ie: advocacy, programmatic initiatives, policy dialogue, legislative change). Response is the intended purpose of reporting, but it is the least developed area. Early response is needed, and effective response strategies must include commitments and resources to implement the response. There will be little incentive for local groups to collect data for a system that focuses exclusively on providing information at the international level. To date the system has not addressed this. Without appropriate, early response, this process may endanger children and young people further and will result in low motivation for participation in future reporting.

◆ **Security and confidentiality:** Youth leaders named fear of reprisal as a major barrier to reporting. Security for those who report, for local child protection agencies, and for country UN staff needs to be addressed.

◆ **Role of civil society organizations:** Their importance is acknowledged in Security Council Resolution 1612, but their role is not clear. They are often treated as “eyes and ears” for reporting, but excluded from decision-making about the use of information and response strategies. The current mechanism does not include any involvement of children, young people, and civil society groups who supply information in the weighing of information, decisions on what information will be presented, and the overall analysis of how recommendations will be made. It does not spell out a role for NGOs or children and young people in decision-making or a feedback loop to ensure effective communication between UNICEF field offices, UN HQ in NY and local NGOs.



*Youth from Uganda*

◆ **Capacity building:** Investment at the country level is critical to ensure the sustainability of the monitoring and reporting system. UNICEF’s strategy calls for building the capacity of local NGOs, but it is not clear which NGOs will be involved and how that will be done.

◆ **Coordination with existing reporting mechanisms:** Where there are existing initiatives to monitor and report, it will be important for the UN mechanism to coordinate activities in order to avoid duplication and ensure effectiveness.

## **Security Council Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict**

### **Points of Learning:**

- ◆ It includes all Security Council members, under the chair of France. It has met twice.
- ◆ Mandate is four-fold:
  - Review reports from the monitoring and reporting mechanism;
  - Review progress on action plans;
  - Make recommendations to the SC and to parties to conflict on possible measures for child protection; and
  - Request action from other bodies within the UN system in support of Resolution 1612.
- ◆ Terms of reference and work plan are still in draft form and under discussion.
- ◆ April meeting will include initial reports on monitoring and reporting.
- ◆ June meeting will include a report on one of the five priority countries, and

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possibly one report on Nepal or Sri Lanka.

- ◆ Implementation of the first phase will be reviewed by the end of 2006.
- ◆ The Working Group was established because of the lack of implementation of Resolution 1539. Substantial progress this time is essential or some members will use weakness to delay further action on the CAC agenda.
- ◆ It was noted that no country or party to a conflict wants to be on the Security Council agenda. This is important leverage that can be used by the Working Group to persuade parties to end violations.

**Points of Concern:**

- ◆ Security Council is a political body; the political agendas of individual members affect both the priority and substance of actions taken in any specific situation.
- ◆ Information is “washed” or filtered to suit the political agendas of Security Council members.
- ◆ It is unclear how much transparency and accountability there will be, given the secretive history and political nature of Security Council deliberations.
- ◆ Targeted or graduated measures to be taken by the Security Council are unclear.

**Points of Concern on Specific Issues:**

- ◆ **Small Arms:** Too little attention is being paid to the role of small arms in current reports. A more active approach to collecting and reporting information on the flow of small arms to forces that abuse children could allow the Security Council to implement the strong measures in Resolution 1612. This is currently one of the strongest policy statements on controlling small arms flows, based on human rights considerations. Strengthening the link between small arms and CAC issues is strategically significant this year, when the review conference on the Programme of Action for Small Arms and Light Weapons is being held.
- ◆ **Participation of children and young people:** The testimony of youth leaders from Colombia and Sudan illustrated the potential of monitoring and reporting initiatives undertaken by children and young people. Their initiatives may not meet the technical criteria under discussion in UN agencies, but they are effective in raising awareness and encouraging accountability, which are the goals of the system. The participation of children and young people needs to be supported and allowed to develop in creative ways, in order to meet the stated objectives of ending violations of their rights.

**DDRRR:** Delays in implementation of child-focused programming are a serious issue in some of the priority countries, e.g. Sudan, in spite of clear evidence about its importance and the consequences of failing to address it in a timely fashion.

## II. Recommendations: What can be done to make Resolution 1612 work for young people?

Suggestions were grouped under country level reporting and response and UN system and political action.

### Recommendations for Country Level Reporting and Response

◆ **Mass publicity about Resolution 1612 in child-friendly language in countries of focus should be a high priority.**

Non-traditional approaches are needed to help children and young people become aware of their rights and ways that they can use the Resolution 1612 mechanisms. Information needs to be distributed in places where children and young people gather, beyond schools and health clinics. Particular attention is needed for those who may be subject to marginalization, fear of reprisals, and threat of oppressive measures, such as the “social cleansing” of selected young people.

Broad-based awareness is a deterrent against elite capture and use of information. Anecdotal reports from some countries suggest that selected groups are engaged in the monitoring activities, without attention to inclusivity; this arouses concerns and fears about how information will be presented and used.



*Youth Street Theatre, Bogota, Colombia*

Public awareness could also contribute to increased security and accountability. Radio has been used effectively in some countries to engage local children and young people and build their networks.

◆ **Emphasize the response element in the proposed system.** Early response at all levels needs to be an integral part of the proposed system. Data will be incomplete and uneven; that should be accepted and not be used to stop or delay action. Accuracy of data is more important than comprehensive coverage, which will take time. A combination of quantitative and qualitative information should be used as the basis for action. Appropriate and effective response to reporting is essential for child-led and other civil society groups to justify the effort and risks involved.

Response strategies could include: advocacy; programmatic initiatives to address immediate needs identified by children and young people; appropriate dialogue with governing parties and forces engaged in the conflict; legislative changes; and capacity-building initiatives.

◆ **Flexibility and responsiveness to local conditions are needed in the design and use of mechanisms for monitoring and reporting.** While the templates being used for implementation may fit in some situations, other contexts, such as Colombia and Myanmar, have complex political situations, which require a more nuanced approach.

◆ **Support training and capacity-building initiatives for country-level child protection networks.** Training in data collection is needed to increase the accuracy of reporting, so it can be verified. There needs to be a context-specific understanding of what data is meaningful to collect. Child-and-youth friendly materials need to be developed for awareness raising and mobilization.



*Teen theatre performer, Colombia*

◆ **Security strategies need to be developed for those who speak out.** Technological options for reporting could be explored to provide anonymity, with verification done by officials.

◆ **Increase the level of medical, psychosocial and legal support available for victims in named countries.** Early and appropriate assistance for victims is needed to create confidence that reporting violations makes a difference.

◆ **Use Resolution 1612 as a tool to mobilize attention and resources for CAC initiatives.** The workshop discussion raised awareness about the limitations of relying on Security Council action. Children, young people, and NGOs need to work with the UN system, but also continue their own advocacy for greater protection of the rights of children.

◆ **Advocate for expansion of the scope of implementation to include all violations, all children,** and conflict situations that are not presently on the Security Council agenda for other reasons. In many situations, other violations are linked to recruitment and use of child soldiers and should be included in action plans.

◆ **Engage in advocacy for urgent action in conflict situations that are not presently on the Security Council agenda,** but clearly fall within the provisions of Resolution 1612, such as Colombia, northern Uganda, Nepal and Myanmar.

◆ **Child rights advocates can refuse to limit their own reporting and advocacy** to the narrow scope of current implementation, and persist in promoting respect for the universality of the rights of children and the need for all violations to be taken more seriously.

## **Recommendations for Action at UN Headquarters**

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◆ **UN agencies at headquarters and field level need to work closely with children and NGOs to develop early and appropriate response strategies at all levels.** The response element needs to be incorporated from the beginning in order for the reporting system to be productive and worthy of support.

◆ **UNICEF/UN should work closely with local NGOs to raise awareness of 1612.**

◆ **SRSO office should increase its advocacy efforts in focus countries.** Emphasis should be put on getting targeted parties to comply with international laws that protect children.

◆ **Clear and specific plans are needed to provide security and protect UN officials and NGOs.** Officials who take responsibility for reporting violations need strong support from the UN secretariat and member states, to prevent arbitrary dismissal from a country.

◆ **The UN Steering Committee should clarify methodologies and the role of NGOs,** at both field and headquarters level, and disseminate that information widely, with particular attention to the issues of ownership of information and accountability for response to it. Clarity is needed about who will make decisions about what is finally reported to the Security Council, and how responses will be communicated back to those who provided the information.

As much transparency as possible is needed, without sacrificing protection, in order to prevent “political washing” of information in transition from field to Security Council to the public.

UN agencies, at the headquarters level, should take responsibility for ensuring that clear communication is sent to country level staff with regard to awareness, importance, and expectations for implementing Resolution 1612.

◆ **Child protection advisors should be appointed for all multilateral peacekeeping, protection, and military missions, including NATO,** and should be part of the local task forces.

◆ **Additional resources are required for frontline support of country level child protection networks, as well as for UNICEF,** in order to have an effective reporting and response system. Donor agencies of countries that support Resolution 1612 might consider focusing on specific country action plans and monitoring systems to help ensure effective implementation.

In general it should also be noted that effective implementation would set an important precedent for other human security issues, such as women and small arms, by bridging the gap from thematic norm setting in the international arenas to genuine improvements in the reality on the ground. It is worth the investment to make it effective.

### III. What can Canada do?

Canadian government officials informed the workshop of continuing support for Children and Armed Conflict initiatives. A whole-of-government approach is being used on this file, with close cooperation between CIDA and FAC. Canada will persist in follow-up work at the UN level and through other international alliances, such as the upcoming Francophonie Summit. It was noted that progress on child protection could set important precedents for the larger Responsibility to Protect initiative.



*Children in Congo*

Government officials also expressed a willingness to work in cooperation with child-led organizations, NGOs and advocacy groups in order to advance the goals of child protection. Appreciation was expressed by several participants for the work done by the Canadian Ambassador to the UN and other Canadian diplomats to get Resolution 1612 passed and to advocate for children caught in specific conflicts that are not on the Security Council agenda, such as northern Uganda, Colombia, Nepal, and Myanmar.

In addition to program initiatives in several countries, CIDA has provided funds for research projects and will host a conference in June to review the research findings for application to good practice in this field. In the new CIDA focus on country strategies and specific sectors, child protection will be incorporated into specific country strategies and integrated across the agency's work through the governance and education sectors. Appreciation was also expressed to CIDA for its continuing focus on awareness raising, such as the fact sheet on Resolution 1612; youth participation; and specific initiatives, such as its support for the Education in Emergencies project.

Workshop participants recognized that this is an area for productive cooperation between the Canadian government and Canadian NGOs and encouraged implementation of earlier CACWG recommendations to strengthen the mechanisms for regular and more strategic cooperation with civil society groups on this agenda.

## **Suggested Actions for Canadian Government and NGOs**

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- ◆ **Canadian government officials and NGOs should advocate for the expansion of the scope of action plans beyond child soldiers to the list of six violations in Resolution 1612.** This should be a high priority.
- ◆ **DFAIT, CIDA, and Canadian NGOs should all use their points of influence to advocate strongly for early and appropriate response** as a key element of the reporting system from the beginning. A second essential element is recognition that civil society partners must be more than providers of information in the system. Analysis of information, response strategies, decision-making on use of information, and feedback must be shared responsibilities to have an effective mechanism.
- ◆ **Canada should encourage development of the Friends of 1612 initiative at the UN,** to have a group of states who monitor progress, engage with Security Council members on a regular basis, advocate for action in specific situations, and report publicly on CAC issues. Canadian NGOs could consider developing strategic alliances with groups in other countries who are part of the Friends group.
- ◆ **Canadian NGOs should inform their field offices/colleagues in specific conflict countries about Resolution 1612,** support participation in country-level child protection networks, and use information and NGO alliances for complementary advocacy to help ensure timely and effective responses to reported violations of the rights of children.
- ◆ **Canadian government officials and Canadian NGOs should continue to advocate for action to help children caught in specific armed conflicts that are not on the priority list.** Examples include Colombia, northern Uganda, Myanmar, and Nepal.
- ◆ **Canadian government officials and Canadian NGOs should increase their use of Resolution 1612** outside of the Security Council context to advocate for more attention and marshal resources to provide support to children and youth in armed conflicts.
- ◆ **Canada should increase its diplomatic attention to CAC issues** in bilateral relations with listed countries and other members of the Security Council, in regional alliances, and in specific alliances for this purpose, such as working with the European Union, who have adopted a specific strategy on CAC.
- ◆ **Canada, through CIDA and FAC, should consider mobilizing support for country-level child protection networks,** including initiatives to inform youth of their rights and facilitate youth and civil society participation in all aspects of implementation.
- ◆ **Canada should consider developing a National Action Plan for Resolution 1612,** similar to what is being done for Resolution 1325, as a strategic tool to maintain the momentum that has produced results but has not yet achieved the objective.

## Notes on Specific Country Situations

The following notes on specific situations were gleaned from presentations and discussion. They do not present a thorough analysis of each situation. They are presented here because they illustrate different approaches to implementation of Resolution 1612. It is hoped that readers will use the information here as additions to other sources and analyses of the situation of children in these contexts.

### **Burundi**

According to UNICEF, a Child Protection Network, consisting of over 40 participants, including the UN country team members, local and international agencies and five government ministries, has established a Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting. The monitoring and reporting mechanism has been operational for two months, but it is still in early stages. The intention is to share regular information on child rights violations received through various sources. The next key step is to establish a database, which will facilitate the consolidation of information and report writing.

Burundi has an action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers, but there are significant challenges in implementation. Resources to develop alternative livelihoods for young people are a major need. Concerns have been raised about return to other armed groups or “gang-like” activities. Progress will be reported to the Security Council Working Group in April.

The Watchlist produced a report on the situation of children in Burundi in 2002.

### **Colombia**



Through a video, the workshop shared experiences of a grassroots youth reporting and advocacy initiative in Bogotá. A ceremony was organized for the city square, to draw attention to the large number of deaths of young people, whose names were on grave stones displayed for all to see, with documented stories available. Activities associated with the display drew public attention and encouraged everyone to think about what was happening to young people in the country. This example illustrated both active child/youth participation and a community-based approach to monitoring that involves advocacy designed to get action on the problems experienced by young people.

Colombia is one of the listed situations under Resolution 1612, but not a priority because it is not officially on the Security Council agenda for other reasons. Many child rights advocates include Colombia as one of the situations that should be a priority.

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As a case study, Colombia illustrates the complexities of implementing Resolution 1612. From a youth point-of-view, emphasis was put on mass publicity to make children aware of their rights and what Resolution 1612 means for them.

The workshop was reminded that young people fear reprisals and that the interpretation of incidents may be different for different actors. What the police may report as a “gang fight” may be an “assassination” from the perspective of targeted young people. Gathering information in an urban setting is difficult, while reprisal is common in more rural settings. Sometimes children are recruited by armed forces, but sometimes they join forces for survival or because of threats to their families. It was reported that little is known about what is happening for children who demobilize from paramilitary groups.

From a child/youth perspective, “social cleansing” of selected young people is as important as child soldier recruitment, and should be included in any action plan. The accuracy of reporting will depend on children knowing what their rights are and having enough security to participate in data collection. Children must also have a voice in how information is used, and be able to use the information themselves in ways that empower them locally.

Colombia is in the middle of a long election, which puts some decisions on hold. Interaction with the government is difficult and civil society groups cannot always speak openly about the difficulties. The peace process is being monitored by the OAS, but new armed groups are forming while some are being demobilized, and open combat has broken out in several places. All the stages and issues of an armed conflict are happening at the same time. This makes monitoring difficult and complex.

In Colombia a group has formed to implement 1612. The composition is broad, including all the UN agencies and several civil society organizations. The Colombia Office of the Ombudswoman for Youth, Children, Women, and Elderly People’s Rights and the Attorney General’s Office are also involved. It was reported that the different mandates of the different actors can be a challenge; effort is needed to develop a common language, a practical work plan, and consistent representation to prevent repetition, misunderstanding, and frustration. Civil society organizations in Colombia want to be part of the entire process, not just “eyes and ears” for UN agencies. Ownership and use of information collected is a significant issue in Colombia.

The Watchlist on Children in Armed Conflict produced a report on the situation of children in Colombia in 2004 and has worked with local groups for follow-up activities in country and with the Security Council.

## **Cote d'Ivoire**

In Côte d'Ivoire, UNICI, the peacekeeping operation, and UNICEF have established a dialogue on key aspects of implementation of 1612, including the modalities of the monitoring and reporting system. UNICI has a child protection unit working with the peacekeepers; they will be involved in the monitoring and reporting functions. UNICI has provided training to the peacekeepers and to the military and civilian police. For example, the civilian police and military observers have designated child protection focal points at all team sites to contribute to the monitoring and reporting function.

Cote d'Ivoire is one of the countries for which action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers are under discussion. It was reported that the Forces Nouvelles has made the required commitments. Progress will be reported to the Security Council Working Group in April.

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

UNICEF and MONUC have developed terms of reference for the country level task force, which should be finalized in the coming weeks. In the DRC, MONUC has a strong child protection unit, one of the largest in all peacekeeping operations. They have been doing considerable monitoring and reporting already. The aim is to review the existing system and consider expanding it to better meet the objectives of a reporting system. It should be noted that the government of the DRC has limited representation in the east of the country, where vast numbers of the violations are being committed.

While there is an action plan to end the recruitment of child soldiers in the DRC, delays in the implementation of child-focused DDRRR and the lack of support for community-based reintegration have been identified by NGOs as a significant concern. Funds from the World Bank-managed pool were slow to reach the field, with many children returning to villages without any assistance in the transition from military to community life. This has resulted in significant problems. Lack of resources is also a major challenge in the DRC.

Recent attention has focused on the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the DRC, as an extension of their activities in northern Uganda. The regional destabilization element of this long-standing CAC issue is being cited as a reason for the Security Council to end its long reluctance to take action in relation to the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda. The latest Security Council resolution on the Great Lakes Region, which includes the DRC, names child protection issues and the LRA; hopefully it will lead to greater UN attention to this long-standing problem.

The Watchlist is updating its comprehensive report on violations of the rights of children in the DRC. The earlier report is on the web site and staff can provide updates.

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## **Nepal**

Nepal is included in the list covered by Resolution 1612, but it is not one of the priority situations. The reason is not related to the severity of child rights abuses, which are of growing concern. The reason is that priority is given to countries that are already on the Security Council agenda for other reasons.

In Nepal, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has an impressive field presence. OHCHR will be taking the lead for the UN Task Force and using the existing human rights presence to further expand a monitoring and reporting process. The UN Country Team and Resident Coordinator have contacted the government; the situation is tenuous and sensitive, but there is considerable discussion underway with the government to ensure that the implementation of 1612 modalities can proceed.

The Watchlist has issued a comprehensive report on the situation of children in Nepal and is supporting local capacity-building work for monitoring, reporting and response.

## **Somalia**

UNICEF is considering how existing country programs could be expanded to meet the objectives of Resolution 1612. A task force similar to Sri Lanka or DRC would not be feasible. There are approximately 40 Child Protection Networks throughout Somalia, and UNICEF has over 200 people present in Somalia. The issue of security of UN staff was raised; there is reluctance to put staff at risk to engage in monitoring in Somalia just because it is on the agenda of the Security Council.

## **Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka has the most comprehensive database on underage recruitment to date. There is much to be learned from the way Sri Lanka has implemented a monitoring system on one particular aspect of the violations of the rights of children.

## **Sudan**

The workshop heard about efforts by civil society organizations to develop a network of child/youth groups who can engage directly in peace building activities. Some of the children were directly involved in the armed conflict before the peace agreement was signed; they are motivated to prevent a return to war in the south and to develop opportunities for young people to lead a better life in Sudan.

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The report of their activities includes monitoring functions and local, grassroots engagement with political and military leaders on issues of concern to children and young people.

Activities include monitoring issues related to the root causes of the conflict that forced some to become child soldiers, such as accountability by governing bodies for the use of revenues from natural resources, corruption, and development of a genuine democracy. Children are receiving training for their role as citizens, including preparation for upcoming elections and capacity building to monitor local elections and contribute to the development of a well-functioning democracy. While this kind of monitoring activity may not fit nicely within the definitions of the current mechanisms, it can be argued that it does contribute to achieving the goals of Resolution 1612.

UNICEF reported that it has just completed a comprehensive child protection situation analysis for Darfur, Sudan. In the context of the North-South Peace Agreement, UNMIS and UNICEF are engaging on how best to ensure that monitoring can include rights violations in the North as well as in the South, but at this stage there is an emphasis on what can be done in Darfur.

The Watchlist issued a report on the situation in Sudan before the Darfur crisis broke, and is gathering information for an updated report. The earlier report is on the website and staff can provide information on plans for the update.

## **Uganda**

Uganda is one of the listed countries under Resolution 1612, but not on the priority list. The need for stronger international action on the situation in northern Uganda has been a common advocacy point for many members of the CACWG and the Canadian government. The workshop took notice of the recent letter on Uganda sent by Canada to members of the Security Council with appreciation. It provides a good overview of the CAC issues and possible actions that could be taken under Resolution 1612.

There is general agreement on the severity and longevity of the harm done to children, the need for Security Council action, and the need for continuing advocacy to make this a higher priority for action under Resolution 1612.

## **Appendices:**

- 1. Workshop Agenda and Speakers**
- 2. Resolution 1612**
- 3. Discussion Paper on Resolution 1612**
- 4. List of Countries and Forces**



## **Appendix 1: Agenda and Speakers for CAC Workshop on Security Council Resolution 1612**

### ***Introduction***

The workshop will be an opportunity to learn about Security Council Resolution 1612 and identify ways that we can help to make it effective for children and youth. A brief discussion paper will be distributed in advance. Following the workshop, a report will be prepared with suggestions for both government and civil society actors. Specific objectives are:

- ◆ Better understand the components of Resolution 1612, the proposed mechanisms for implementation, and the implications for young people in specific situations;
- ◆ Contribute to effective implementation of Resolution 1612,
- ◆ Identify points of influence for Canada in high priority situations; and
- ◆ Identify ways that civil society and government actors could pursue complementary or collaborative actions to achieve common goals in this area

### ***Speakers***

#### **Session I: Understanding Resolution 1612 and Plans for Implementation**

1. Hazel De Wet, Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy, Office of Emergency Programs, UNICEF, New York.
2. Alec Wargo, Program Officer, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, United Nations
3. Julia Freedson, Executive Director, Watchlist for Children and Armed Conflict
4. Heather Jeffrey, Deputy Director, Human Security Programme, Foreign Affairs Canada
5. Amy Baker, Acting Director, Human Rights and Participation Division, Policy Branch, Canadian International Development Agency

## **Session II: In-country Perspectives on Effective Protection**

1. Jose Alexei Ubaque Obando, National Network of Youth as Peacebuilders, Columbia
2. Eleanor Douglas, Director, Save The Children, Colombia
3. Samuel Okomi, Southern Sudan Youth Participation Agency

## **Session III: Plenary Discussion: Challenges of Implementing Resolution 1612**

1. Nigel Fisher, President and CEO, UNICEF Canada, facilitator

**Workshop Chairperson:** Kathy Vandergrift

**Organizing Committee:** Linda Dale, Children as Peacebuilders  
Eric Hoskins, War Child Canada  
Marlen Mondaco, Save the Children Canada  
Lisa De Moor, CPCC  
Kathy Vandergrift, Convenor, CAC Working Group

## **Appendix 2: Resolution 1612**

### *The Security Council,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, 1379 (2001) of 20 November 2001, 1460 (2003) of 30 January 2003, and 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, which contribute to a comprehensive framework for addressing the protection of children affected by armed conflict,

*While noting* the advances made for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, particularly in the areas of advocacy and the development of norms and standards, *remaining deeply concerned* over the lack of overall progress on the ground, where parties to conflict continue to violate with impunity the relevant provisions of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict,

*Stressing* the primary role of national governments in providing effective protection and relief to all children affected by armed conflicts,

*Recalling* the responsibilities of States to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children,

*Convinced* that the protection of children in armed conflict should be regarded as an important aspect of any comprehensive strategy to resolve conflict,

*Reiterating* its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this connection, its commitment to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children,

*Stressing* its determination to ensure respect for its resolutions and other international norms and standards for the protection of children affected by armed conflict,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General of 9 February 2005 (S/2005/72) and stressing that the present resolution does not seek to make any legal determination as to whether situations which are referred to in the Secretary-General's report are or are not armed conflicts within the context of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto, nor does it prejudge the legal status of the non-State parties involved in these situations,

*Gravely concerned* by the documented links between the use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and stressing the need for all States to take measures to prevent and to put an end to such trafficking,

1. *Strongly condemns* the recruitment and use of child soldiers by parties to armed conflict in violation of international obligations applicable to them and all other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict;

2. *Takes note* of the action plan presented by the Secretary-General relating to the establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict as called for in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1539 (2004) and, in this regard:

(a) underlines that the mechanism is to collect and provide timely, objective, accurate and reliable information on the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and on other violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict, and the mechanism will report to the working group to be created in accordance with paragraph 8 of this resolution;

(b) underlines further that this mechanism must operate with the participation of and in cooperation with national government and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country-level;

(c) stresses that all actions undertaken by United Nations entities within the framework of the monitoring and reporting mechanism must be designed to support and supplement, as appropriate, the protection and rehabilitation roles of national governments;

(d) also stresses that any dialogue established under the framework of the monitoring and reporting mechanism by United Nations entities with non-state armed groups in order to ensure protection for and access to children must be conducted in the context of peace processes where they exist and the cooperation framework between the United Nations and the concerned government;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement without delay, the above-mentioned monitoring and reporting mechanism, beginning with its application, within existing resources, in close consultation with countries concerned, to parties in situations of armed conflict listed in the annexes to Secretary-General's report (S/2005/72) that are on the agenda of the Security Council, and then, in close consultation with countries concerned, to apply it to parties in other situations of armed conflict listed in the annexes to Secretary-General's report (S/2005/72), bearing in mind the discussion of the Security Council and the views expressed by Member States, in particular during the annual debate on Children and Armed Conflict, and also taking into account the findings and recommendations of an independent review on the implementation of mechanism to be reported to the Security Council by 31 July 2006. The independent review will include:

(a) an assessment of the overall effectiveness of the mechanism, as well as the timeliness, accuracy, objectivity and reliability of the information compiled through the mechanism;

(b) information on how effectively the mechanism is linked to the work of the Security Council and other organs of the United Nations;

(c) information on the relevance and clarity of the division of responsibilities;

(d) information on the budgetary and other resource implications for United Nations actors and voluntary funded organizations contributing to the mechanism;

(e) recommendations for the full implementation of the mechanism;

4. *Stresses* that the implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism by the Secretary-General will be undertaken only in the context of and for the specific purpose of ensuring the protection of children affected by armed conflict and shall not thereby prejudice or imply a decision by the Security Council as to whether or not to include a situation on its agenda;

5. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by UNICEF and other United Nations entities to gather information on the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and on other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict and invites the Secretary-General to take due account of these initiatives during the initial phase of implementation of the mechanism referred to in paragraph 3;

6. *Notes* that information compiled by this mechanism, for reporting by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and the Security Council, may be considered by other international, regional and national bodies, within their mandates and the scope of their work, in order to ensure the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict;

7. *Expresses* serious concern regarding the lack of progress in development and implementation of the action plans called for in paragraph 5 (a) of its resolution 1539 (2004) and, pursuant to this, calls on the parties concerned to develop and implement action plans without further delay, in close collaboration with United Nations peacekeeping missions and United Nations country teams, consistent with their respective mandates and within their capabilities; and requests the Secretary-General to provide criteria to assist in the development of such action plans;

8. *Decides* to establish a working group of the Security Council consisting of all members of the Council to review the reports of the mechanism referred to in paragraph 3 of this resolution, to review progress in the development and implementation of the action plans mentioned in paragraph 7 of this resolution and to consider other relevant information presented to it; *decides further* that the working group shall:

(a) make recommendations to the Council on possible measures to promote the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including through recommendations on appropriate mandates for peacekeeping missions and recommendations with respect to the parties to the conflict;

(b) address requests, as appropriate, to other bodies within the United Nations system for action to support implementation of this resolution in accordance with their respective mandates;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 5 (c) of its resolution 1539 (2004), and reaffirms its intention to consider imposing, through country-specific resolutions, targeted and graduated measures, such as, inter alia, a ban on the export and supply of small arms and light weapons and of other military equipment and on military assistance, against parties to situations of armed conflict which are on the Security Council's agenda and are in violation of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict;

10. *Stresses* the responsibility of United Nations peacekeeping missions and United Nations country teams, consistent with their respective mandates, to ensure effective follow-up to Security Council resolutions, ensure a coordinated response to CAAC concerns and to monitor and report to the Secretary-General;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by United Nations peacekeeping operations to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of their personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of misconduct involving their personnel;

12. *Decides* to continue the inclusion of specific provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the deployment, on a case-by-case basis, of child-protection advisers (CPAs), and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the need for and the number and roles of CPAs are systematically assessed during the preparation of each United Nations peacekeeping operation; welcomes the comprehensive assessment undertaken on the role and activities of CPAs with a view to drawing lessons learned and best practices;

13. *Welcomes* recent initiatives by regional and subregional organizations and arrangements for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, and encourages continued mainstreaming of child protection into their advocacy, policies and programmes; development of peer review and monitoring and reporting mechanisms; establishment, within their secretariats, of child-protection mechanisms; inclusion of child-protection staff and training in their peace and field operations; sub- and interregional initiatives to end activities harmful to children in times of conflict, in particular cross-border recruitment and abduction of children, illicit movement of small arms, and illicit trade in natural resources through the development and implementation of guidelines on children and armed conflict;

14. *Calls upon* all parties concerned to ensure that the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict are specifically integrated into all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning and programmes;

15. *Calls upon* all parties concerned to abide by the international obligations applicable to them relating to the protection of children affected by armed conflict as well as the concrete commitments they have made to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to UNICEF and other United Nations agencies and to cooperate fully with the United Nations peacekeeping Missions and United Nations country team, where appropriate, in the context of the cooperation framework between the United Nations and the concerned government, in the follow-up and implementation of these commitments;

16. *Urges* Member States, United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and other parties concerned, to take appropriate measures to control illicit subregional and cross-border activities harmful to children, including illicit exploitation of natural resources, illicit trade in small arms, abduction of children and their use and recruitment as soldiers as well as other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict in violation of international applicable law;

17. *Urges* all parties concerned, including Member States, United Nations entities and financial institutions, to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions and local civil society networks for advocacy, protection and rehabilitation of children affected by armed conflict to ensure the sustainability of local child-protection initiatives;

18. *Requests* that the Secretary-General directs all relevant United Nations entities to take specific measures, within existing resources, to ensure systematic mainstreaming of CAAC issues within their respective institutions, including by ensuring allocation of adequate financial and human resources towards protection of war-affected children within all relevant offices and departments and on the ground as well as to strengthen, within their respective mandates, their cooperation and coordination when addressing the protection of children in armed conflict;

19. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that, in all his reports on country-specific situations, the protection of children is included as a specific aspect of the report, and expresses its intention to give its full attention to the information provided therein when dealing with those situations on its agenda;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report by November 2006 on the implementation of this resolution and resolutions 1379 (2001), 1460 (2003), and 1539 (2004) which would include, inter alia:

- (a) Information on compliance by parties in ending the recruitment or use of children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law and other violations being committed against children affected by armed conflict;
- (b) Information on progress made in the implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism mentioned in paragraph (3);
- (c) Information on progress made in the development and implementation of the action plans referred to in paragraph (7) of the present resolution;
- (d) Information on the assessment of the role and activities of CPAs;

21. *Decides* to remain actively seized of this matter.

## **Appendix 3: Discussion Paper**

### **Making Resolution 1612 Work for Children and Youth: Discussion Points**

#### **I. Introduction**

Improving protection for the rights of children threatened by armed conflict remains the goal of the Children and Armed Conflict Working Group. Progress has been made in:

- a. stronger international norms and commitments, e.g. Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers, a series of Security Council Resolutions culminating in 1539 and 1612, and specific commitments in a *World Fit for Children*.
- b. policy tools for encouraging compliance

Effective implementation remains the challenge: to close the gap between policy statements and reality on the ground for children and youth. Resolution 1612 is designed to be the bridge to action. The following components are highlighted for discussion.

#### **II. Use of action plans for progressive, measured improvement**

1. The CAC resolutions set an important precedent in the use of action plans for improvement as a response to identified violations of child protection laws.
2. Listed parties to armed conflict in the CAC resolutions are asked to submit action plans with measurable targets for improvement. Incentives can be used to achieve progress. If there is no progress, then targeted disciplinary measures are mandated.
3. A Security Council Working Group is established to monitor progress and propose appropriate actions.

#### ***Questions for the workshop:***

What progress has been made in the use of action plans?

How can child advocates support the use and success of such plans?

#### **III. Six violations identified for focus in action plans and monitoring**

Six violations are named in Resolutions 1539 and 1612 for special focus:

- a. killing and maiming of children;
- b. recruiting or using child soldiers;
- c. attacks against schools or hospitals;
- d. rape or other grave sexual violence against children;
- e. abduction of children; and
- f. denial of humanitarian access.

This approach provides a measurable, reasonable basis for action. The list includes issues faced by all children rather than isolating the child soldiers. On the other hand, the limited number of egregious violations addresses the concern that child rights are so comprehensive that they are difficult to enforce in conflict situations. One concern is the lack of awareness in affected countries.

**Question for Workshop:** What could be done to expand awareness of Resolution 1612?

#### IV. Monitoring System

Child protection networks in affected countries, anchored by country UN mission staff, are proposed as a mechanism for monitoring and reporting violations. Security is one concern. Another is use of the information collected. There is some tension between using reports to get early and quick action to stop abuses and accumulating data for the purposes of accurate global reports. Youth participation in monitoring is essential.

Questions for Workshop: How can we help ensure that early action follows monitoring and reporting? How can child advocates work with partners at the country level to help ensure that this system works, including links between local and international response?

#### V. Specific components of Resolution 1612

Resolution 1612 includes measures for a wide range of issues affecting children and youth. Some of the issues are on-going themes of the CAC Working Group:

a. **Girls:** The resolution calls for recognition of the fact that girls are affected differently by armed conflict, but often programmes still miss that factor. What can be done in each area to ensure that the situation of girls is addressed and appropriate actions taken?

b. **Youth DDRRR:** Good practices, listed in the Secretary General's reports, are known but often not practiced. Delay in implementing DDRRR after peace agreements is an issue identified by members of the CAC Working Group, as is the need for longer timeframes to achieve successful reintegration and reconciliation. What can we do to help ensure that adequate attention is paid to DDRRR for youth and resources are allocated early and long enough to support successful transition and participation in peace-building?

c. **Youth Participation in peace processes:** Youth participation is recognized as important in principle, but in practice it is often treated as a dispensable extra. It is essential for the success of peace agreements and of benefit for everyone. What can we do to advance this objective? Are there models that can help to promote it? How can blocks to youth participation be removed?

d. **Small Arms and Youth:** Resolutions 1539 and 1612 include strong provisions to stop the flow of arms to military forces that abuse children, but these provisions are not carried over into the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms, where youth receive barely a mention. How can we promote a stronger link between small arms control and action on CAC resolutions, through action plans, monitoring mechanisms, and preventive programmes?

## VI. Canadian Engagement with CAC issues

### Introduction

As a result of advocacy, Children and Armed Conflict is specifically named in the International Policy Statement as an area of focus for Canada. Commitments are also included in *A Canada Fit for Children*, a cabinet-approved national action plan for children. The challenge is to implement these commitments in new policy frameworks and modes of programming.

Using input from the workshop, an advocacy document will be prepared for discussion with the new government at the political level and with officials in FAC and CIDA. During the workshop we hope to identify ways that Canada can support implementation of Resolution 1612, including discussion of the following avenues:

#### **a. Inclusion in new strategies for weak, fragile, and failing states**

CIDA and FAC are developing policy frameworks for Canada's engagement in weak, fragile, and failing states. Priority seems to be given to anti-terrorism aspects of security, with human rights a lower priority. It does not appear that youth receive much focused attention. The reality, however, is, the objectives of this new area of work are unlikely to be successful without paying attention to youth – often a significant portion of the population.

***What specific measures could we advocate to include a youth focus?***

#### **b. Specific country strategies**

Afghanistan, Haiti, and Sudan have been named as priorities for Canada; there are a variety of engagements in the other countries on the list. The level of attention paid to youth issues varies by country strategy. What means can we use to ensure that the priority given to CAC in the IPS is transferred into specific country strategies?

#### **c. Prevention**

Prevention is a goal that has received little attention in past CAC Working Group initiatives. Greater attention to realization of the rights of children in the main programming tools of CIDA and through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy at FAC could contribute to the conflict prevention objective of Canada's international policy. What steps could we take to help promote greater attention to the rights of children in the all areas of Canada's international policy and programming?

## **Appendix 4**

### **List of offending parties that recruit or use children in situations of armed conflict**

Extract from the report of the Secretary-General (S/2005/72)

On Children and Armed Conflict

#### **VI. Annexed lists**

166. The present report contains two annexes. Annex I lists parties that recruit or use children in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council, bearing in mind other violations and abuses committed against children. Annex II lists parties that recruit or use children either in situations of armed conflict not on the agenda of the Security Council or in other situations of concern, also bearing in mind other violations and abuses committed against children.

167. The other grave violations and abuses taken into account are the killing or maiming of children; rape and other grave sexual violence against children; attacks on schools and hospitals; and abduction.

168. It should be noted that the annexes do not list countries as such. The purpose of the annexed lists is to identify particular parties to conflict which are responsible for specific grave violations against children. In this respect, the names of countries are referred to only in order to indicate the locations or situations where offending parties are committing the violations in question.

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#### **Annex I**

### **List of parties that recruit or use children in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council, bearing in mind other violations and abuses committed against children**

#### **Parties in Burundi**

1. Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD) of Leonard Nyangoma

2. Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD) of Pierre Nkurunziza

3. Parti de libération du peuple hutu-Forces nationales de libération (PALIPEHUTU-FNL)-Agathon Rwasa

This party has also been responsible for the killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals in the reporting period.

#### **Parties in Côte d'Ivoire**

1. Forces armées des forces nouvelles (FAFN)

(a) Mouvement pour la paix et la justice (MPJ)

(b) Mouvement populaire ivoirien pour le Grand Ouest (MPIGO)

(c) Mouvement patriotique de Côte d'Ivoire (MPCI)

2. LIMA *force supplétive*

### **Parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

1. Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC)  
This party has also been responsible for rape and other grave sexual violence against children and attacks on schools and hospitals in the reporting period.
2. Laurent Nkunda and Jules Mutebutsi, dissident elements of FARDC  
This party has also been responsible for killing, maiming and committing rape and other grave sexual violence against children in the reporting period.
3. Force démocratique de libération du Rwanda (FDLR)  
This party has also been responsible for the killing and maiming of children in the reporting period.
4. Forces armées populaires congolaises (FAPC)  
This party has also been responsible for the killing and maiming of children in the reporting period.
5. Front nationaliste et intégrationniste (FNI)  
This party has also been responsible for the killing and maiming of children in the reporting period.
6. Mai-Mai in the Kivus, Maniema and Katanga  
This party has also been responsible for the killing and maiming of children in the reporting period.
7. Mudundu-40
8. Parti pour l'unité et la sauvegarde du Congo (PUSIC)
9. Union des patriotes congolais (UPC)-Thomas Lubanga and Floribert Kisembo factions

### **Parties in Somalia**

1. Lower Shabelle Administrationa
2. Juba Valley Alliancea
3. Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRA/SNSC) of Mohamed Ibrahim Habsadea
4. United Somali Congress/Somali Salvation Alliance (USC/SSA)-faction of Muse Sudi Yalahow)a
5. Middle Shabelle Administrationb
6. Puntland Administrationb
7. Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRA/SRRC) of Mohamed Nir "Sharti gadud"b
8. Somali Patriotic Movement/Somali Reconciliation and Restoration Council (SPM/SRRC)b
9. United Somali Congress (USC) of Mohamed Kanyare Afrahc
10. United Somali Congress/Somali Salvation Alliance (USC/SSA) of Omar Mohamedc

### **Parties in the Sudan**

1. Janjaweed  
This party has also been responsible for killing, maiming, abducting and committing rape and other grave sexual violence against children in the reporting period.
2. Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)
3. South Sudan Unity Movement (SSUM)
4. Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A)
5. Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A)  
a Alliance member factions of the Somali National Salvation Council (SNSC).  
b Alliance member factions of the Somali Reconciliation and Restoration Council (SRRC).  
c Alliance member factions of the Group 8.

## **Annex II**

### **List of parties that recruit or use children either in situations of armed conflict not on the agenda of the Security Council or in other situations of concern, bearing in mind other violations and abuses committed against children**

#### **Parties in Colombia**

1. Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC)
  - (a) Autodefensas Unidas del Sur del Casanare (AUSC)
  - (b) Autodefensas Campesinas de Córdoba y Urabá (ACCU)
  - (c) Autodefensas de Magdalena Medio (ACMM)
  - (d) Autodefensas del Meta (AM)
  - (e) Autodefensas Campesinas del Sur del Cesar (ACSC)
  - (f) Autodefensas del Puerto Boyaca (APB)
  - (g) Autodefensas de Cundinamarca (AC)
  - (h) Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia — Bloque Centauros
  - (i) Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia — Bloque Norte
  - (j) Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia — Bloque Mineros
  - (k) Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia — Bloque Pacífico
2. Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN)
3. Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC)

#### **Parties in Myanmar**

1. Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)<sup>a</sup>
2. Karenni Army (KA)<sup>b</sup>
3. Tatmadaw Kyi (Government army)

#### **Parties in Nepal**

Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist)

This party has also been responsible for killing, maiming and abducting children in the reporting period.

#### **Parties in the Philippines**

1. Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)
2. New People's Army (NPA)

<sup>a</sup> KNLA is the military wing of the Karen National Union (KNU), named in the 2003 report.

<sup>b</sup> KA is the correct name for the “Karenni National Liberation Army (KNLA)”, named in the 2003 report.

#### **Parties in Sri Lanka**

1. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

This party has also been responsible for the abduction of children in the reporting period.

#### **Parties in Uganda**

1. Local Defence Units (LDUs)
2. Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

This party has also been responsible for killing, maiming, abducting and committing rape and other grave sexual violence against children in the reporting period.

3. Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF)