



Policy

Prohibition of child labour in UN Peacekeeping Operations

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**DPKO/DFS POLICY
ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE CHILD LABOUR IN UN PEACEKEEPING
OPERATIONS**

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A. PURPOSE

1. This policy is issued to ensure that no children are used for labour in UN peacekeeping operations and to promote comprehensive protection of children from all forms of exploitation.
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B. SCOPE AND DEFINITION

2. For the purposes of the present policy, the term “children” refers to any person under the age of 18.
 3. The term “child labour” refers to any work or provision of services by a person under the age of 18 irrespective of its duration, frequency, compensation, or the nature of the underlying agreement.
 4. This policy applies to all UN peacekeeping operations and all categories of UN peacekeeping personnel including military, the police and civilian staff.
 5. Compliance with this policy is mandatory. Senior mission leadership shall ensure that all peacekeeping personnel are informed of this policy.
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C. RATIONALE

6. Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the United Nations, requires the highest standards of integrity from staff members. Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous, interferes with the child’s education, harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. Moreover, Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child creates obligations to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

7. The UN General Conditions of Contract (UNGCC) prohibits the use of child labour by all UN contractors and their affiliates and expressly provides for the termination of any contract in the event that the contractor, or its affiliates, engages in any practice that is inconsistent with the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
8. The use of child labour by UN peacekeeping operations and/or UN peacekeeping personnel is deemed to be hazardous within the meaning of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Moreover, under the Paris Commitments and Paris Principles on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (2007) the prohibition of association of children to armed groups and forces is broadly interpreted to include association through work and performance of labour and other tasks such as cooking, cleaning, carrying goods etc.¹

D. POLICY

9. The use of children under the age of 18 for purposes of labour or other rendering of services by UN peacekeeping operations is strictly prohibited, regardless of the minimum age of child labour stipulated under the national law in the mission's area of operation, and irrespective of the involvement of compensation (in the form of a salary, food or other benefits).
10. No funds of a UN peacekeeping operation shall be disbursed, or claims reimbursed, for payments for the provision of labour or the rendering of any services by children under the age of 18.
11. Children are not allowed on the premises, camps or facilities of any UN peacekeeping operation for the purpose of the provision of labour or the rendering of any services. All means must be taken to ensure they do not access such premises, camps or facilities for these purposes, including the proper use of access control, strict identity verification measures and the non-issuance of access or ID cards to children for the purpose of any form of child labour.
12. All UN peacekeeping personnel must at all times, adhere to the highest standards of integrity envisaged in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations the standards provided for in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.

E. REFERENCES

Normative or Superior References

- Charter of the United Nations
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000)

¹ The principles and guidelines on children associated with armed forces or armed groups (Paris Principles) (2007), paragraph 2.1.

- International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999).

Relevant Inter-agency UN guidelines

- The principles and guidelines on children associated with armed forces or armed groups (Paris Principles) (2007);

Related Policies

- DPKO/DFS policy on mainstreaming the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict within UN Peacekeeping Operations
- ST/SGB/2003/13 Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse
- UN General Conditions of Contracts

F. MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

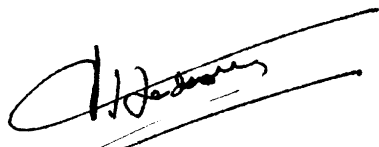
13. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General/ Head of Mission is obliged to ensure compliance with and accountability for this policy.
14. All managers and commanders at all levels have a particular responsibility to raise awareness of this policy through training and briefing programmes and to support and develop systems to promote its implementation.

G. CONTACT

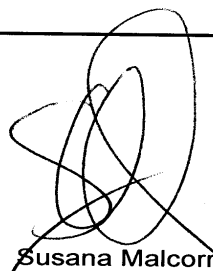
15. The contact for this policy is the Child Protection Focal Point within the Policy and Best Practices Services in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

H. HISTORY

16. This is a new policy and has not been amended.



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