A summary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 1 (definition of the child)
Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

Article 2 (without discrimination)
The Convention applies to everyone, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

Article 3 (best interests of the child)
The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Article 4 (protection of rights) Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights.

Article 5 (Parental guidance) Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to direct and guide their child as they grow up, so that they enjoy their rights properly.

Article 6 (survival and development) Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

Article 7 (registration, name, nationality, care) Every child has the right to a legal name and nationality, as well as the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

Article 8 (preservation of identity) Governments must respect and protect every child’s right to an identity and preserve their name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully. If a child has been denied part of their identity illegally, governments must act quickly to protect and assist the child to re-establish their identity.

Article 9 (separation from parents) Children must not be separated from their parents unless it is in the best interests of the child (for example, if a parent is hurting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.

Article 10 (family reunification) Governments must respond quickly and sympathetically, if a child or their parents apply to live together in the same country. If a child’s parents live apart in different countries, the child has the right to visit both of them.

Article 11 (kidnapping and trafficking) Governments must do everything they can to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally or being prevented from returning.

Article 12 (right to be heard) Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

Article 13 (freedom of expression) Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion) Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give their children information about this right.

Article 15 (freedom of association) Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 16 (right to privacy) Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child’s home, family and home life.

Article 17 (access to information from mass media) Every child has the right to receive information from the media. This should be information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Article 18 (protection from child marriage) Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 19 (child marriage) Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 20 (children deprived of a family) If a child cannot be looked after by their family, governments must make sure that they are looked after properly by people who respect the child’s religion, culture and language.

Article 21 (adoption) If a child is adopted, the first concern must be what is best for the child. All children must be adopted and kept safe, whether they are adopted in the country where they were born or in another country.

Article 22 (refugee children) If a child is a refugee or seeking refuge, governments must ensure that they have the same rights as any other child. Governments must not be violent in trying to remove a child refugee from their parents. Where this is not possible, the child should be given protection.

Article 23 (children with disability) A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and independence, and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to provide support to disabled children.

Article 24 (health and health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy.

Article 25 (review of treatment in care) If a child has been placed away from home in care, hospital or prison, for example, they have the right to a regular check of their treatment and the way they are cared for.

Article 26 (social security) Governments must provide extra money for the children of families in need.

Article 27 (adequate standard of living) Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical, social and mental needs. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article 28 (right to education) Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Secondary education must be available to every child. All schools must respect children’s dignity. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29 (goals of education) Education must help develop each child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Article 30 (children of minorities) Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whatever or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

Article 31 (freedom, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32 (child labour) Governments must protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or education.

Article 33 (protection from exploitation) Governments must protect children from the use of illegal drugs.

Article 34 (protection from exploitation) Governments must protect children from exploitation and sexual exploitation.

Article 35 (protection from discrimination) Governments must ensure that children are not abandoned or sold.

Article 36 (protection from violence) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 37 (protection from violence) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 38 (protection from violence) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 39 (right to peace and security) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 40 (right to peace and security) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 41 (right to peace and security) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 42 (right to peace and security) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 43 (right to peace and security) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 44 (right to peace and security) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.

Article 45 (right to peace and security) Governments must protect children from all other forms of bad treatment.
Resolution 1612 (2005)
Adopted by the Security Council at its 5235th meeting, 26 July 2005

The Security Council,


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 Governments 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;

   […]

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 the 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 the Secretary-General’s report (S/2005/72), [...]  

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 pre-deployment 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; 

[...]

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 teams, 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; 

[...]

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Reinforcement Training Package on Child Protection for the United Nations Military
Resolution 1882 (2009)
Adopted by the Security Council at its 6176th meeting, 4 August 2009

The Security Council,

[...]

Deeply concerned that children continue to account for a considerable number of casualties resulting from killing and maiming in armed conflicts including as a result of deliberate targeting, indiscriminate and excessive use of force, indiscriminate use of landmines, cluster munitions and other weapons and use of children as human shields and equally deeply concerned about the high incidence and appalling levels of brutality of rape and other forms of sexual violence committed against children, in the context of and associated with armed conflict including the use or commissioning of rape and other forms of sexual violence in some situations as a tactic of war,

1. Strongly condemns all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks against schools or hospitals and denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict and all other violations of international law committed against children in situations of armed conflict;

[...]

3. Recalls paragraph 16 of its resolution 1379 (2001) and requests the Secretary-General also to include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, in situations of armed conflict, bearing in mind all other violations and abuses against children, and notes that the present paragraph will apply to situations in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 16 of its resolution 1379 (2001);

[...]

10. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that, in all his reports on country-specific situations, the matter of children and armed conflict is included as a specific aspect of the report, and expresses its intention to give its full attention to the information provided therein, including the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions and of the recommendations of its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, when dealing with those situations on its agenda;

[...]
Resolution 1998 (2011)
Adopted by the Security Council at its 6581st meeting, 12 July 2011

The Security Council,

[...]

Expressing deep concern about attacks as well as threats of attacks in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals, and protected persons in relation to them as well as the closure of schools and hospitals in situations of armed conflict as a result of attacks and threats of attacks, and calling upon all parties to armed conflict to immediately cease such attacks and threats;

[...]

1. Strongly condemns all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict, as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks against schools or hospitals and denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict and all other violations of international law committed against children in situations of armed conflict;

2. Reaffirms that the monitoring and reporting mechanism will continue to be implemented in situations listed in annex I and annex II (“the annexes”) to the reports of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, in line with the principles set out in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1612 (2005), and that its establishment and implementation shall not prejudice or imply a decision by the Security Council as to whether or not to include a situation on its agenda;

3. Recalls paragraph 16 of its resolution 1379 (2001) and requests the Secretary-General to also include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law;

   (a) in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals

   (b) in recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict, bearing in mind all other violations and abuses committed against children, and notes that the present paragraph will apply to situations in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 16 of its resolution 1379 (2001);

4. Urges parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children’s access to education and to health services and requests the Secretary-General to continue
to monitor and report, inter alia, on the military use of schools and hospitals in contravention of international humanitarian law, as well as on attacks against, and/or kidnapping of teachers and medical personnel;

[...]

Resolution 2225 (2015)
Adopted by the Security Council at its 7466th meeting, 18 June 2015

The Security Council,

[...]

Expressing grave concern over the abduction of children in situations of armed conflict, the majority of which are perpetrated by non-State armed groups, recognizing that abductions occur in a variety of settings, including schools, further recognizing that abduction often precedes or follows other abuses and violations of applicable international law against children, including those involving recruitment and use, killing and maiming, as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence, which may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, and calling on all Member States to hold perpetrators of abductions accountable,

Gravely concerned by the human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law committed by non-state armed groups, in particular violent extremist groups, including mass abductions, rape and other forms of sexual violence such as sexual slavery, particularly targeting girls, which can cause displacement and affect access to education and healthcare services, and emphasizing the importance of accountability for such abuses and violations,

[...]

3. Recalls paragraph 16 of its resolution 1379 (2001) and requests the Secretary-General also to include in the annexes to his reports on children and armed conflict those parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law, in patterns of abduction of children in situations of armed conflict, bearing in mind all other violations and abuses against children, and notes that the present paragraph will apply to situations in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 16 of its resolution 1379 (2001);

4. Calls upon those parties listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General’s report on children and armed conflict that commit violations and abuses against children in contravention of applicable international law, including abductions of children in
situations of armed conflict, to prepare and adopt without delay, concrete time-bound action plans to halt those violations and abuses in collaboration with the United Nations;

5. **Urges** for the immediate, safe and unconditional release of abducted children by all Parties to conflict and encourages Member States, United Nations entities, and regional and sub-regional organizations to undertake relevant efforts to obtain the safe release of abducted children, including through establishing standard operating procedures on the handover of children to relevant civilian child protection actors, as well as to seek to ensure their family reunification, rehabilitation and reintegration;

[...]

16. **Calls** for the continued implementation by United Nations peacekeeping operations of 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, reiterates its request to 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 continue taking appropriate preventive action, such as mandatory pre-deployment child protection training including on sexual exploitation and abuse, and to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

17. **Further urges** all United Nations entities, including peacekeeping missions, political missions, peacebuilding offices, United Nations offices, agencies, funds and programmes to give full attention to violations against children in the application of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to non-United Nations Security Forces;

[...]

**Resolution 2427 (2018)**
Adopted by the Security Council at its 8305th meeting, 9 July 2018

*The Security Council,*

[...]

15. **Strongly condemns** attacks as well as threats of attacks in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals, and protected persons in relation to them and reiterates its deep concern at the closure of schools and hospitals in situations of armed conflict as a result of attacks and threats of attacks and urges all
parties to armed conflict to refrain from actions that impede children’s access to education and to health services;

16. Expresses deep concern at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law, recognizing that such use may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering children’s and teachers’ safety as well as children’s education and in this regard:

(a) Urges all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools in accordance with international humanitarian law;

(b) Encourages Member States to take concrete measures to deter the use of schools by armed forces and non-State armed groups in contravention of applicable international law;

(c) Urges Member States to ensure that attacks on schools in contravention of international humanitarian law are investigated and those responsible duly prosecuted;

(d) Calls upon United Nations country-level task forces to enhance the monitoring and reporting on the military use of schools;

[...]
Legal Protection of Children in Armed Conflict

International humanitarian law provides broad protection for children. In the event of armed conflict, either international or non-international, children benefit from the general protection provided for civilians not taking part in the hostilities. Non-combatant civilians are guaranteed humane treatment and covered by the legal provisions on the conduct of hostilities. Given the particular vulnerability of children, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (hereafter GCIII and GCIV) and their Additional Protocols of 1977 (API and APII) lay down a series of rules according them special protection. Children who take direct part in hostilities do not lose that special protection. The Additional Protocols, the 1989 Convention on the rights of the child and its recent Optional Protocol, in particular, also set limits on children's participation in hostilities.

General protection

In the event of an international armed conflict, children not taking part in the hostilities are protected by GCIV relative to the protection of civilians and by API. They are covered by the fundamental guarantees that these treaties provide, in particular the right to life, the prohibitions on coercion, corporal punishment, torture, collective punishment and reprisals (Art. 27-34 GCIV and Art. 75 API) and by the rules of API on the conduct of hostilities, including both the principle that a distinction must be made between civilians and combatants and the prohibition on attacks against civilians (Art. 48 and 51).

In the event of non-international armed conflict, children are also covered by the fundamental guarantees for persons not taking direct part in the hostilities (Art. 3 common to the GC and Art. 4 APII). They are further protected by the principle that «the civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack» (Art. 13 APII).

Special protection

GCIV guarantees special care for children, but it is API that lays down the principle of special protection: «Children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault. The Parties to the conflict shall provide them with the care and aid they require, whether because of their age or for any other reason» (Art. 77). This principle also applies to non-international armed conflict (Art. 4, para. 3 APII). The provisions setting out this protection may be summarized as follows:

- evacuation, special zones – Art. 14, 17, 24 (para. 2), 49 (para. 3) and 132 (para. 2) GCIV; Art. 78 API; Art. 4 (para. 3e) APII;
- assistance and care – Art. 23, 24 (para. 1), 38 (para. 5), 50 and 89 (para. 5) GCIV; Art. 70 (para. 1) and 77 (para. 1) API; Art. 4 (para. 3) APII;
- identification, family reunification and unaccompanied children – Art. 24-26, 49 (para. 3), 50 and 82 GCIV; Art. 74, 75 (para. 5), 76 (para. 3) and 78 API; Art. 4 (para. 3b) and 6 (para. 4) APII;
- education, cultural environment – Art. 24 (para. 1), 50 and 94 GCIV; Art. 78 (para. 2) API; Art. 4 (para. 3a) APII;
- arrested, detained or interned children – Art. 51 (para. 2), 76 (para. 5), 82, 85 (para. 2), 89, 94 and 119 (para. 2) and 132 GCIV; Art. 77 (para. 3 and 4) API; Art. 4 (para. 3d) APII;
- exemption from death penalty – Art. 68 (para. 4) GCIV; Art. 77 (para. 5) API; Art. 6 (para. 4) APII.

Participation in hostilities

The 1977 Additional Protocols

Participation by children in armed hostilities occurs too frequently. This participation may range from aiding combatants (bringing them weapons and munitions, carrying out reconnaissance missions, etc.) to the actual recruitment of children as combatants in national armed forces and other armed groups. The 1977 Additional Protocols were the first international treaties to cover such situations. Thus, API obliges States to take all feasible measures to prevent children under 15 from taking direct part in hostilities. It expressly prohibits their recruitment into the armed forces and encourages Parties to give priority in recruiting among those aged from 15 to 18 to the oldest (Art. 77). APII goes further, prohibiting both the recruitment and the participation – direct or indirect – in hostilities by children under 15 years of age (Art. 4, para. 3c).

Despite the above-mentioned rules, children who take direct part in international armed conflict are recognized as combatants and in the event of their capture are entitled to prisoner-of-war status under GCIII. The Additional Protocols provide that child combatants under 15 are entitled to privileged treatment in that they continue to benefit from the special protection accorded to children by international humanitarian law (Art. 77, para. 3 API and Art. 4, para. 3d APII).
The 1989 Convention on the rights of the child

This treaty, which has been almost universally ratified, covers all the fundamental rights of the child. Article 38 extends the field of application of Art. 77 API to non-international armed conflict. Article 38 urges States Parties to take all feasible measures to ensure that those aged of less than 15 years do not take a direct part in hostilities (para. 2) and that priority be given in recruitment to the oldest of those aged between 15 and 18 (para. 3). It thus falls short of the ban on direct or indirect participation laid down by APII.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child

The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, adopted on 25 May 2000, generally strengthens protection for children in armed conflict:

- the States Parties must take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not reached the age of 18 years do not take direct part in hostilities (Art. 1);
- compulsory recruitment into the armed forces of persons under 18 years of age is prohibited (Art. 2);
- the States Parties shall raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment from 15 years. This rule does not apply to military academies (Art. 3);
- armed groups distinct from the national armed forces should not, under any circumstances, recruit (whether on a compulsory or voluntary basis) or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years, and the States Parties must take legal measures to prohibit and criminalize such practices (Art. 4).

Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

The Statute, adopted in Rome on 17 July 1998, includes in its list of war crimes within the Court’s jurisdiction the active involvement in hostilities of children under 15 or their recruitment into national armed forces during an international armed conflict (Art. 8, para. 2b [xxvi]) or into the national armed forces or other armed groups during a non-international armed conflict (Art. 8, para. 2e[vii]).

According to the principle of complementarity, the Court has jurisdiction in situations where a State is unable or unwilling to prosecute. In order to take advantage of this principle and to ensure repression at the national level, States should adopt legislation enabling them to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes.

National implementation

Despite the rules laid down by international law, thousands of children are nevertheless taking an active part in hostilities and are themselves the innocent victims of those events.

States have the primary responsibility to put an end to this situation. They are therefore urged to ratify the treaties protecting children in armed conflict and to take national measures adapted to their legal systems in order to implement these treaties. Whether in legislative or other form, these measures are intended to enable States to respect and to ensure respect for the rules laid down by the treaties.

It is suggested that priority be granted to implementation of the following rules.

Participation in hostilities

- A State bound by the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child should take legislative measures prohibiting and punishing both compulsory recruitment into the armed forces of children under 18 years of age (Art. 2 and 6) and compulsory or voluntary recruitment – and any use of – children under 18 by armed groups distinct from the national armed forces (Art. 4).
- States Party to the Convention on the rights of the child (Art. 38, para. 3) or to API (Art. 77, para. 2) should take legislative measures prohibiting the conscription or enlistment in its armed forces of children under 15, and measures ensuring that priority in recruitment be given to the oldest among those aged between 15 and 18.
- States Party to APII shall take legislative measures prohibiting the recruitment of children under 15 and any participation by them in internal conflicts (Art. 4, para. 3c).
- In order to take advantage of the principle of complementarity, States party to the ICC Statute should ensure that their national criminal legislation makes it possible to prosecute persons who have recruited children under 15 years of age or who have used children as active participants in hostilities (Art. 8, para. 2f, xxvi, and e, vii).

Detention and internment

- States party to the 1977 Additional Protocols should take legislative or other measures to ensure that any child under 15 years of age who is arrested, detained or interned for reasons relating to conflict enjoys the special protection provided by international humanitarian law (Art. 77, para. 3 API and Art. 4, para. 3d APII).

Death penalty

- The States party to GCI and the Additional Protocols (Art. 77, para. 5 API and Art. 6, para. 4 APII) should take legislative measures under penal and military law to prohibit the pronouncement or execution of a death sentence against anyone aged less than 18 years at the time of the offence, when the offence is related to an armed conflict.

Dissemination

A large-scale effort to promote knowledge of and compliance with international humanitarian law is required in order to ensure true respect for children. States are legally obliged to engage in dissemination activities (Art. 47, 48, 127 and 144 of, respectively, GCI, GCII, GCIII and GCIV; Art. 83 API; Art.19 APII; and Art. 6 of the Optional Protocol of 2000).

Thus, States should include the concept of child-specific protection in peacetime training and exercises at all levels of the armed and national security forces.

Likewise, consideration should be given to introducing this subject into the curriculum of universities and specialized institutions, and to organizing campaigns to raise awareness among the general public, in particular among children and adolescents.
AIM
To improve learners’ understanding of the legal framework and its applicability in the context of child protection in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
▪ Identify the legal frameworks that provide for protection to children.
▪ Discuss how to apply these frameworks on child protection to situations in the mission area.

INSTRUCTIONS
▪ Working in assigned groups, learners should review the scenarios below in the context of the specific legal framework(s) applicable to each situation. The groups will discuss their solutions during the plenary session.
▪ Each group should prepare a 10-minute briefing for the plenary presentation, taking into account the following:
  1. List the type(s) of violations in each scenario.
  2. Identify the legal instrument(s) and associated provisions (articles) that apply to each scenario.

SCENARIOS

SCENARIO A
An elder of a village located close to your battalion HQ and in your battalion’s area of responsibility visits you. He informs you that his village has only one school where about 60 children study. It was built the previous year with assistance from UN agencies, and has good infrastructure and facilities.

The local elder explains that, the previous week, a local rebel commander came to his village accompanied by 15 to 20 fighters, and told him that they needed a place to live for a few months and wanted to use the school premises. The rebel commander stated that, in his opinion, the children were wasting their time studying and that it
would be more useful if they worked on farms or joined his group to fight the government forces. If the school premises are not given to him, the commander would destroy the school building and facilities, and warned the village of dire consequences.

The village elder has just heard that the rebel commander intends to come to the village tomorrow and forcibly occupy the school premises. He thinks that the rebels plan to take some boys and girls with them to fight and support their cause. He knows that some children already think of the rebel commander as a hero and would join the group quite willingly.

SCENARIO B
At a refugee camp in a UN peacekeeping mission area, a dispute broke out between the local camp authorities and refugee leaders over the fate of Maria, a 13-year-old refugee girl. As a separated child, she had been placed in the care of a foster family from her province of origin. When a refugee worker learned that the girl had been promised (against her will) as a second wife to an older refugee man, the worker went to the camp authorities to protest.

The camp authorities stated that this would be against the law of the host country, and would also change the current status of the girl as a separated child searching for her family. The refugee leaders noted that the girl had adult responsibilities in her foster home and was considered an adult, and that it was customary practice for a girl of her age and status to marry in her home district. They felt that the camp authorities were intruding on their culture and traditions and undermining their leadership in the community.

The situation was finally resolved when a local traditional religious leader intervened and the marriage was cancelled. The girl was placed with a different foster family and a women's association in the camp monitored her situation. It was noted that, although the girl's wishes were known, she was not asked about her thoughts on the matter.

SCENARIO C
During the civil war in the country in the late 1990s, hundreds of orphanages sprang up in the mission areas. Humanitarian agencies in the country were working hard to reunite children with their families and assist families in caring for them. One contingent raised money to purchase clothes and mattresses for the children in one particular orphanage. During the ceremony, the children at the orphanage were gathered to receive the donations from the contingent officers and thanked them with songs and food.
Within a week, all the donated items had been sold at the local market, and once again, the children were sleeping on the floor and wearing ragged clothes; fresh appeals were made to donors for assistance. Soon after, it was reported that the owner of the orphanage had opened a second orphanage. Fundraising and publicity documents stated that the orphanage had received donations totalling over half a million US dollars from two church groups, in addition to the UN mission’s support.

Later, rumours broke out that the orphanages in the area were clearing houses for male children who were sent to fight for one of the warring factions and for illegal adoptions.

SCENARIO D
In the southern part of the mission area, about 75 kilometres north of the border and just outside the provincial capital city, a UN patrol, consisting of two jeeps, comes across a heavily armed convoy of two trucks and four sport utility vehicles (SUVs).

The trucks are full of young women — some even look like children. One girl is being pushed up into the truck by two armed men and, across the field, another armed man is pulling a girl along. Both girls seem terrified and one is bleeding from a scalp wound.

SCENARIO E
Last year, the Head of a UN Mission was made aware of rumours that local women seeking jobs with the civilian administration — e.g., as cleaners or receptionists — had to have sex with international staff in the administration division, including senior staff, in order to be hired.

The Head of Mission sent the allegation to the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). It was investigated and found to be true. The Head of Administration, as well as several others in the civilian administration section, including senior staff, were dismissed.

Following the sex-for-jobs scandal in the mission, yesterday you saw some girls and boys hanging around Force HQ premises and the Force deployment sites. You had heard from several military and civilian colleagues and the civilian police that they are often accosted by aggressive locals, both women and men, proffering young women and children for sex in exchange for money, food or other supplies.

You request basic fact-checking of the situation by relevant mission personnel and offices, including the Conduct and Discipline Team, Child Protection Section, Gender Adviser, Security Section, Human Rights, Force Provost Marshall, etc. The fact-checking team identifies a possible serious problem: it confirms that there are several rumours of peacekeeping personnel buying sex, not only from adult prostitutes, but also from children.
SCENARIO F

Your battalion is deployed close to an international border and has seen a number of conflicts and skirmishes between the opposing factions in the past 30 to 40 years. Both sides have used anti-personnel mines extensively during the conflict, most of which have still not been removed or cleared.

You are aware that, in the past few years, there has been several civilian casualties in your area of responsibility owing to landmines and explosive remnants of war. A number of children have been maimed and/or killed. One of your patrols has just reported that a landmine exploded in a field near a village where some children were playing. One girl lost both legs, and one boy is seriously injured. The patrol has requested medical evacuation for the injured children.
## Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC Resolution</th>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
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<tr>
<td>SC Resolution 1291 (2000) (establishing MONUC)</td>
<td>4. <em>Authorizes</em> the expansion of MONUC to consist of up to 5,537 military personnel, including up to 500 observers, or more, provided that the Secretary-General determines that there is a need and that it can be accommodated within the overall force size and structure, and appropriate civilian support staff in the areas, inter alia, of human rights, humanitarian affairs, public information, child protection, political affairs, medical support and administrative support, and requests the Secretary-General to recommend immediately any additional force requirements that might become necessary to enhance force protection;</td>
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<td>7. <em>Decides</em> that MONUC, in cooperation with the JMC, shall have the following mandate:</td>
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<td>(g) to facilitate humanitarian assistance and human rights monitoring, with particular attention to vulnerable groups including women, children and demobilized child soldiers, as MONUC deems within its capabilities and under acceptable security conditions, in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies, related organizations and non-governamental organizations;</td>
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<td>SC Resolution 1355 (2001)</td>
<td>14. <em>Calls</em> on all relevant parties to ensure that urgent child protection concerns, including DDRR of child soldiers, the plight of girls affected by the conflict, the protection and safe return of refugee and internally displaced children, and the registration and reunification of unaccompanied or orphaned children, are addressed in all national, bilateral and regional dialogues, and that solutions are designed in accordance with international best practice;</td>
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<td>18. <em>Condemns</em> the use of child soldiers, <em>demands</em> that all armed forces and groups concerned bring an end to all forms of recruitment, training and use of children in their armed forces, <em>calls upon</em> all parties to collaborate with the United Nations, humanitarian organizations and other competent bodies to ensure the expeditious demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of children abducted or enrolled in armed forces or groups and to allow their reunification with their families, and <em>urges</em> Member States to ensure adequate and sustained resources for long-term reintegration;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19. <em>Calls on</em> all parties to ensure, in accordance with relevant international law, the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel to all those in need and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to all children affected by the conflict, and recalls that the parties must also provide guarantees for the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated humanitarian personnel;</td>
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| SC resolution 1698 (2006) | 12. **Recalls** the terms of paragraph 13 of resolution 1493, and **once again strongly condemns** the continued use and recruitment of children in the hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;  
13. **Decides** that, for a period expiring on 31 July 2007, the provisions of paragraphs 13 to 16 of resolution 1596 shall extend to the following individuals, operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and designated by the Committee:  
   - Political and military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law;  
   - Individuals committing serious violations of international law involving the targeting of children in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement;  
17. **Requests** the working group of the Security Council on children in armed conflict, the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for children in armed conflict, as well as the Group of Experts, within its capabilities and without prejudice to the execution of the other tasks in its mandate, to assist the Committee in the designation of the individuals referred to in paragraph 13 above, by making known without delay to the Committee any useful information; |
| SC resolution 1856 (2008) | 3. **Decides** that MONUC shall, from the adoption of this resolution, have the mandate, in this order of priority, working in close cooperation with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to:  
   (g) Coordinate operations with the FARDC integrated brigades deployed in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and support operations led by and jointly planned with these brigades in accordance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law with a view to:  
   - Disarming the recalcitrant local armed groups in order to ensure their **participation in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process** and the release of children associated with those armed groups;  
   - Disarming the foreign armed groups in order to ensure their participation in the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration process (DDRRR) and the release of children associated with those armed groups; |
(k) Provide military training, including in the area of human rights, international humanitarian law, child protection and the prevention of gender-based violence, to various members and units of the FARDC integrated brigades deployed in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of international broader efforts to support the security sector reform;

4. Decides that MONUC will also have the mandate, in close cooperation with the Congolese authorities, the United Nations Country Team and donors, to support the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law and, to that end, to:

(c) Assist in the promotion and protection of human rights, with particular attention to women, children and vulnerable persons, investigate human rights violations and publish its findings, as appropriate, with a view to putting an end to impunity, assist in the development and implementation of a transitional justice strategy, and cooperate in national and international efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law;

24. Demands, recalling its resolution 1698 (2006), that all armed groups, in particular the forces of Laurent Nkunda, the FDLR and the LRA immediately stop recruiting and using children and release all children associated with them;

SC resolution 1906 (2009)

11. Demands that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in furtherance of resolution 1888 (2009), immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children, from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses, including all forms of sexual violence; urges the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure the full implementation of its “zero-tolerance policy” with respect to discipline and human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, committed by elements of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and further Urges that all reports of such violations be thoroughly investigated, with the support of MONUC, and that all those responsible be brought to justice through a robust and independent process;

15. Demands that all armed groups, in particular the FDLR and LRA, immediately stop recruiting and using children and release all children associated with them and calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to work with MONUC, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and other relevant actors to finalise the elaboration of an Action Plan to release children present in FARDC and to prevent further recruitment;

24. Urges MONUC, in close cooperation with other partners, including the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme, to contribute further to the implementation of DDR of Congolese combatants and their dependents, with particular attention to children, by monitoring the disarmament process and providing, as appropriate, security in some sensitive locations, as well as supporting reintegration efforts pursued by the Congolese authorities in cooperation with the United Nations Country Team and bilateral and multilateral partners;

31. Further requests MONUC to provide military training, including in the area of human rights, international humanitarian law, child protection and the prevention of gender-based and sexual violence, to the FARDC, including to the integrated brigades deployed in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of broader international efforts to support security sector reform;
| SC resolution 1925 (2010) (extending mandate of mission under a different title) | 12. **Decides** that MONUSCO shall have the following mandate in this order of priority:

(e) Work closely with the Government to ensure the implementation of its commitments to address serious violations against children, in particular the finalization of the Action Plan to release children present in the FARDC and to prevent further recruitment, with the support of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism;

14. **Calls upon** the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to build on its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflicts and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; |
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<td>SC resolution 2021 (2011)</td>
<td>13. <strong>Demands</strong> that all armed groups, in particular the FDLR, the LRA, Mai Mai Yakutumba, the Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) lay down their arms and immediately cease all forms of violence, human rights abuses and international humanitarian law violations against the civilian population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, in particular against women and children, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and demobilize;</td>
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| SC resolution 2076 (2012) | 3. **Strongly condemns** the M23 and all its attacks on the civilian population, MONUSCO peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, as well as its abuses of human rights, including summary executions, sexual and gender based violence and large scale recruitment and use of child soldiers, **further condemns** the attempts by the M23 to establish an illegitimate parallel administration and to undermine State authority of the Government of the DRC, and **reiterates** that those responsible for crimes and human rights abuses will be held accountable;

12. **Calls upon** all parties to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and internally displaced persons sites and **stresses** the need to prevent any forced recruitment of individuals, including children by parties to the conflict; |
| SC resolution 2078 (2012) | 3. **Decides** to renew, for the period specified in paragraph 1 above, the financial and travel measures imposed by paragraphs 9 and 11 of resolution 1807 (2008) and **reaffirms** the provisions of paragraphs 10 and 12 of that resolution regarding the individuals and entities referred to in paragraph 4 of resolution 1857 (2008) and reaffirms the provisions of paragraphs 10 and 12 of resolution 1807 (2008) in relation to those measures;

4. **Decides** that the measures referred to in paragraph 3 above shall apply to the following individuals, and, as appropriate, entities, as designated by the Committee:

(d) Political and military leaders operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recruiting or using children in armed conflict contrary to applicable international law;

(e) Individuals or entities operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and committing serious violations involving the targeting of children or women in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, and forced displacement;

6. **Strongly condemns** the M23 and all its attacks on the civilian population, MONUSCO peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, as well as its abuses of human rights, including... |
summary executions, sexual and gender based violence and large scale recruitment and use of child soldiers, *further condemns* the attempts by the M23 to establish an illegitimate parallel administration and to undermine State authority of the Government of the DRC, and *reiterates* that those responsible for crimes and human rights abuses will be held accountable;

7. *Demands* that the M23 and other armed groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), Mai Mai militias, the Forces Nationales de Liberation (FNL) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) cease immediately all forms of violence and other destabilizing activities and release immediately all child soldiers and permanently lay down their arms;

23. *Decides* that, when appropriate and no later than 1 February 2014, it shall review the measures set forth in this resolution, with a view to adjusting them, as appropriate, in light of the security situation in the DRC, in particular progress in security sector reform including the integration of the armed forces and the reform of the national police, and in disarming, demobilizing, repatriating, resettling and reintegrating, as appropriate, Congolese and foreign armed groups, with a particular focus on child soldiers;

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<th>SC resolution 2098 (2013)</th>
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| 8. *Strongly condemns* the M23, the FDLR, the ADF, the APCLS, the LRA, the National Force of Liberation (FNL), the various Mayi Mayi groups and all other armed groups and their continuing violence and abuses of human rights, including summary executions, sexual and gender based violence and large scale recruitment and use of children, *demands* that all armed groups cease immediately all forms of violence and destabilizing activities and that their members immediately and permanently disband and lay down their arms, and *reiterates* that those responsible for human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law will be held accountable and should not be eligible for integration into the FARDC or other elements of state security forces;

11. *Decides* that future reconfigurations of MONUSCO and its mandate should be determined on the basis of the evolution of the situation on the ground and, in the context of implementation by the Government of the DRC and all other signatories of the PSC Framework, progress towards the following objectives:

(a) Reduction of the threat posed by Congolese and foreign armed groups, including through the operations by the Intervention Brigade, violence against civilians, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children to a level that can be effectively managed by the Congolese justice and security institutions;

12. *Authorizes* MONUSCO, through its military component, in pursuit of the objectives described in paragraph 11 above, to take all necessary measures to perform the following tasks, through its regular forces and its Intervention Brigade as appropriate;

(a) *Protection of civilians*

(iii) Work with the Government of the DRC to identify threats to civilians and implement existing response plans to ensure the protection of civilians from abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and grave violations against children, and *requests* MONUSCO to ensure that child protection concerns are integrated into all operations and strategic aspects of MONUSCO’s work and accelerate the implementation of monitoring, analysis and
reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence as called for in resolution 1960 (2010), and employ Women Protection Advisers to engage with parties to conflict in order to seek commitments on the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence;

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<tr>
<th>SC resolution 2147 (2014)</th>
<th>4. <strong>Authorizes</strong> MONUSCO, in pursuit of the objectives described in paragraph 3 above, to take all necessary measures to perform the following tasks;</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) <strong>Protection of civilians</strong></td>
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<td>(iii) Work with the Government of the DRC to identify threats to civilians and implement existing prevention and response plans and strengthen civil-military cooperation, including joint-planning, to ensure the protection of civilians from abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children, and <strong>requests</strong> MONUSCO to ensure that child protection and gender concerns are integrated into all operations and strategic aspects of MONUSCO’s work...;</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Authorizes</strong> MONUSCO, in support of the Congolese authorities and their efforts to deliver the reforms called by the PSC Framework and stabilization in eastern DRC, to contribute to the following tasks, in coordination with the UNCT and other actors, including through the SRSG’s good offices;</td>
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<td>(g) Provide good offices, advice and support to the Government of the DRC for the design and implementation of DDR and DDRRR plans for foreign and Congolese combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or gross violations of human rights, aimed at integration into a peaceful civilian life contributing to stable communities in eastern DRC, while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;</td>
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<td>(l) Continue to collaborate with the Government of the DRC in the swift and vigorous implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against children by FARDC, and continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of time bound action plans to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law and other violations of international humanitarian law;</td>
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<td>17. <strong>Strongly condemns</strong> all armed groups operating in the region and their violations of international humanitarian law as well as other applicable international law, and abuses of human rights including attacks on the civilian population, MONUSCO peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, summary executions, sexual and gender based violence and large scale recruitment and use of children, and reiterates that those responsible will be held accountable;</td>
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<td>18. <strong>Demands</strong> that the FDLR, the ADF, the LRA, the Bakata-Katanga and various Mayi Mayi groups cease immediately all forms of violence and other destabilizing activities and that their members immediately and permanently disband, lay down their arms and demobilize children from their ranks;</td>
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<td>22. <strong>Notes</strong> that former M23 combatants, including individuals designated by the Security Council, fled from the DRC into Rwanda and Uganda, especially following the defeat of M23 in DRC, <strong>encourages</strong> the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant international organizations, to continue to ensure that these</td>
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combatants are permanently demobilized, that Congolese combatants are returned to the DRC to complete a DDR process, as appropriate, and are dealt with according to relevant international law, with special attention to children and women among them, and **recalls** Member States’ obligations under the PSC Framework and the sanctions regime as renewed by resolution 2136 (2014);

28. **Requests** MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in security sector reform in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children.

| SC resolution 2211 (2015) | 11. **Requests** MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation of children from the FARDC and armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, including those involving detention, including temporary, of children by the FARDC;

13. **Authorizes** MONUSCO, in support of the Congolese authorities and their efforts to stabilize eastern DRC, to contribute to the following tasks, including through the SRSG’s good offices;

(f) Continue to collaborate with the Government of the DRC in the swift and vigorous implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against children by the FARDC, and continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of action plans to prevent and end violations and abuses against children;

29. **Urges** the Government of the DRC to arrest and hold accountable those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, in particular those that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as those involving violence or abuses against children and acts of sexual and gender-based violence, **stresses the importance** to this end of both regional cooperation and cooperation with the ICC, and **urges** the Government of DRC to undertake the necessary judicial reform to ensure that the DRC effectively addresses impunity;

32. **Calls upon** the Government of the DRC to pursue the full implementation, with the support of MONUSCO as appropriate, of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by the FARDC, and to strengthen its efforts to combat impunity for conflict-related sexual violence, including sexual violence committed by the FARDC, noting that failure to do so may result in the FARDC being named in the Secretary-General’s report on sexual violence, and to provide all necessary services and protection to survivors and victims; |

| SC resolution 2277 (2016) | 14. **Calls upon** the Government of the DRC to continue its efforts to combat impunity for conflict-related sexual violence, including sexual violence committed by the FARDC at all levels, noting that failure to do so may result in the FARDC being named again in future Secretary-General’s reports on sexual violence, and to provide all necessary services and protection to survivors and victims, and **further calls upon** the Government of the DRC to take |
the necessary steps to ensure full compliance of its security forces with the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuses, and to take steps to institutionalize the mechanisms put in place to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by the FARDC;

15. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children by the FARDC, and calls upon the Government of the DRC to take all necessary steps to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, including those involving enlistment or detention of children by the FARDC.

37. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation of children from the FARDC and armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

**SC resolution 2348 (2017)**

13. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children by the FARDC, and *calls upon* the Government of the DRC to take all necessary steps to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, and to ensure that children are not detained for their alleged association with armed groups and are handed over to child protection actors in line with the Ministry of Defence and the National Intelligence Agency Directives issued in 2013;

36. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation of children from armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

**SC resolution 2409 (2018)**

17. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children by the FARDC and the subsequent delisting of the FARDC for child recruitment and use, and *calls upon* the Government of the DRC to urgently ensure the gains of this Action plan are sustained and to take all necessary steps to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, and to ensure that children are not detained for their alleged association with armed groups and are handed over to child protection actors, in line with the Ministry of Defence and the National Intelligence Agency Directives issued in 2013;

26. *Notes with deep concern* the limited progress in those fields essential for the DRC’s stabilization and *reiterates* its call to the Government of the DRC to take further steps in particular to uphold its national commitments to Security Sector Reform (SSR), and to readjust and implement fully and immediately the national Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme, ensuring the protection of children’s rights is an integral part of those processes;

36. *Decides* that the mandate of MONUSCO shall include the following priority tasks:

(i) **Protection of civilians**

(b) Work with the Government of the DRC to identify threats to civilians and implement existing prevention and response plans and strengthen civil-military cooperation, including
joint planning, to ensure the protection of civilians from abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and violations and abuses committed against children and persons with disabilities, and requests MONUSCO to accelerate the coordinated implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on sexual violence in conflict and to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict;

37. *Further authorizes* MONUSCO to pursue the following tasks, in a streamlined and sequenced manner…:

(i) **Stabilization and DDR**

(b) Continue to collaborate with the Government of the DRC in the swift and vigorous implementation of the Action Plan to Prevent and end the Recruitment and Use of Children and Sexual Violence by the FARDC, and continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of action plans to prevent and end violations and abuses against children;

(c) Provide good offices, advice and assistance to the Government of the DRC, in close cooperation with other international partners, in the DDR of Congolese combatants not suspected of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or abuses of human rights, into a peaceful civilian life in line with a Community Violence Reduction (CVR) approach through community-based security and stabilization measures and flexible disarmament and demobilization approach, coordinated under the framework of the ISSSS, while paying specific attention to the needs of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups;

38. *Requests* MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation of children from armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

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<th>SC resolution 2502 (2019)</th>
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<td>6. Urges the Government of the DRC to hold accountable those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights, as applicable, including those involving targeted attacks against civilians, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of children, the forced displacement of significant numbers of civilians, extrajudicial executions and arbitrary arrests, and in particular those that may amount to genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and stresses both regional cooperation and the DRC’s cooperation with the International Criminal Court following the DRC’s referral of the situation in the DRC in 2004, as well as cooperation with the African Court of Human and People’s Rights;</td>
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<td>11. <em>Welcomes</em> the progress made by the Government of the DRC to consolidate the gains of the Action Plan to End and Prevent the Recruitment and Use of Children and expedite its implementation, including aspects of the plan related to sexual violence against children, and to take all necessary steps to end and prevent all violations and abuses against children, and to ensure that children are not detained for their alleged association with armed groups and are handed over to child protection actors, in line with the Ministry of Defence and the National Intelligence Agency Directives issued in 2013, and <em>calls upon</em> the Government of the</td>
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DRC to continue its efforts, in particular by prosecuting perpetrators within security forces for child recruitment and use and by ensuring that perpetrators of all violations and abuses are held accountable, and recalls the importance of cooperating with the SRSG for children in armed conflicts;

13. **Demands** that all armed groups cease immediately all forms of violence and other destabilising activities, the illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources, and further demands that their members immediately and permanently disband, lay down their arms, reject violence, end and prevent violations perpetrated against children and release children from their ranks, **recalls** in this regard that recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in the DRC may lead to sanctions under paragraph 7(d) of resolution 2293 (2016);

31. **Requests** MONUSCO to take fully into account child protection as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Government of the DRC in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR processes and in SSR as well as during interventions leading to the separation of children from armed groups in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children, and **acknowledges** the crucial role of United Nations Child Protection Advisers deployed as a standalone capacity in MONUSCO in that regard, requests MONUSCO to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanisms on children and armed conflict;

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<th>SC resolution 1996 (2011) (establishing UNMISS)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Decides</strong> to establish as of 9 July 2011 the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) for an initial period of one year with the intention to renew for further periods as may be required and further decides that UNMISS will consist of up to 7,000 military personnel, including military liaison officers and staff officers, up to 900 civilian police personnel, including as appropriate formed units, and an appropriate civilian component, including technical human rights investigation expertise; and further decides to review in three and six months whether the conditions on the ground could allow a reduction of military personnel to a level of 6,000;</td>
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<td>3. <strong>Decides</strong> that the mandate of UMISS shall be to consolidate peace and security... authorizes UNMISS to perform the following tasks;</td>
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<td>(c) Support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, in accordance with the principles of national ownership, and in cooperation with the UN Country Team and other international partners, in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors through;</td>
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<td>(ii) Supporting the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing and implementing a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategy, in cooperation with international partners with particular attention to the special needs of women and child combatants;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(v) Facilitating a protective environment for children affected by armed conflict, through implementation of a monitoring and reporting mechanism;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SC resolution 2057 (2012) | 9. **Demands** that all parties, in particular rebel militias and the LRA, immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights abuses against the civilian population in South Sudan, in particular gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse as well as all violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming and abduction with a view to specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolution 1960 and violence and abuses against children;  

10. **Calls upon** the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLA to renew the action plan (signed between the UN and SPLA on 20 November 2009) to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers that expired in November 2010, and requests UNMISS to advise and assist the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in this regard; further requests the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in UN system activities in the Republic of South Sudan and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children;  

| SC resolution 2109 (2013) | 10. **Demands** that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights abuses against the civilian population in South Sudan, in particular gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence as well as all violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law such as their recruitment and use, intentional killing and maiming, abduction and attacks against schools and hospitals and calls for specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolution 1960;  

12. **Welcomes** the signing of a new action plan to end child recruitment by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan on 12 March 2012 reaffirming the commitment to release all children from the SPLA, acknowledges the measures taken by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to implement the new action plan, calls for the further implementation of this action plan, **requests** UNMISS to advise and assist the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in this regard; **further requests** the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in United Nations system activities in the Republic of South Sudan and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children, and **welcomes** the establishment in September 2011 of the United Nations country task force on the monitoring and reporting mechanism;  

14. **Demands** that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights violations and abuses against the civilian population in South Sudan, in particular gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence as well as all violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, abduction and attacks against schools and hospitals and calls for specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolution 1960;  

17. **Welcomes** the progress made on the demobilization of child soldiers, and the signing of an action plan to end child recruitment by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan on 12 March 2012 reaffirming the commitment to release all children from the SPLA, acknowledges the measures taken by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to implement the action plan, **calls for** the further implementation of this action plan, **requests** UNMISS to advise and assist the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in this regard; **further requests** the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in United Nations system activities in the Republic of South Sudan including through the continued deployment of child protection advisors within UNMISS, and ensure continued monitoring and reporting |
of the situation of children, and welcomes the work of the United Nations country task force on the monitoring and reporting mechanism established in September 2011;

24. Calls upon the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to refine and fully implement the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) strategy, including for women and child soldiers, to expedite an effective DDR program in a coherent manner;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC resolution 2155 (2014)</th>
<th>4. Decides that the mandate of UNMISS shall be as follows, and authorizes UNMISS to use all necessary means to perform the following tasks:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) <strong>Protection of civilians:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission’s Child Protection and Women Protection Advisers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(v) To exercise good offices, confidence-building, and facilitation in support of the mission’s protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, including to facilitate inter-communal reconciliation in areas of high risk of conflict as an essential part of long-term State-building activity;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) <strong>Monitoring and investigating human rights</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by accelerating the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for grave violations against children;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. Further demands that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence, human rights violations and abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, including gender-based violence, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law such as those involving their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, abduction and attacks against schools and hospitals, strongly urges the Government to the fully and immediately implement its action plan to end and prevent child recruitment signed on 12 March 2012 further strongly urges the opposition forces to fully and immediately implement their commitment to end grave violations against children signed on 10 May 2014, and calls for specific and time bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolution 1960 and 2106;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC resolution 2223 (2015)</th>
<th>4. Decides that the mandate of UNMISS shall be as follows, and authorizes UNMISS to use all necessary means to perform the following tasks:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) <strong>Protection of civilians:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission’s Child Protection and Women Protection Advisers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC resolution 2327 (2016)</td>
<td>7. Decides that the mandate of UNMISS shall be as follows, and authorizes UNMISS to use all necessary means to perform the following tasks:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) Protection of civilians:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission’s Child Protection and Women Protection Advisers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(vi) To exercise good offices, confidence-building, and facilitation in support of the mission’s protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, including to facilitate inter-communal reconciliation in areas of high risk of conflict as an essential part of long-term State-building activity;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Monitoring and investigating human rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by accelerating the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for grave violations against children;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24. Condemns all violations of applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights committed by all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
parties to the conflict, in particular against children, and strongly urges parties to implement conclusions and commitments as described in paragraph 25 of resolution 2252 (2016) to end violations and abuses against children, including the immediate release of all children in their ranks;

### SC resolution 2406 (2018)

7. *Decides* that the mandate of UNMISS shall be as follows, and *authorizes* UNMISS to use all necessary means to perform the following tasks:

(a) **Protection of civilians:**

(i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission’s Child Protection and Women Protection Advisers;

(ii) To exercise good offices, confidence-building, and facilitation in support of the mission’s protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, including to facilitate inter-communal reconciliation in areas of high risk of conflict as an essential part of long-term State-building activity;

(c) **Monitoring and investigating human rights**

(ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by accelerating the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for grave violations against children;

25. *Condemns* all violations of applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights committed by all parties to the conflict, in particular against children, *strongly urges* all parties to the conflict to implement the actions called for in The Conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict in South Sudan adopted by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on 8 May 2015, including the immediate release of all children in their ranks, *welcomes* the recent release of children by some groups, *calls on* all armed groups to swiftly release other children in their ranks, *strongly urges* the Government of South Sudan to fully and immediately implement all provisions to the recommittal agreement to the revised action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and other violations, signed with the UN on 24 June 2014, and *further strongly urges* the SPLA-IO to fully and immediately implement its action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and the killing and maiming of children signed with the UN on 7 January 2016, and *underlines* the importance of the Government of South Sudan providing timely and appropriate reintegration and rehabilitation assistance to children affected by armed conflict, while ensuring that the specific needs of girls as well as children with disabilities are addressed, including access to health care, psychosocial support, and education programmes that contribute to the well-being of children and to sustainable peace and security, and *calls on* the international community to assist these efforts;
### SC resolution 2459 (2019)

7. **Decides** that the mandate of UNMISS shall be as follows, and **authorizes** UNMISS to use all necessary means to perform the following tasks:

**(a) Protection of civilians:**

(i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission’s Child Protection and Women Protection Advisers, the positions for which should be filled expeditiously;

(vi) To exercise good offices, confidence-building, and facilitation in support of the mission’s protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, ... implementing gender-sensitive community violence reduction (CVR) programs, in cooperation and coordination with development partners and community representatives, especially women and youth;

**(c) Monitoring and investigating human rights**

(ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including those involving all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by accelerating the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for violations and abuses against children;

27. **Condemns** all violations of applicable international law committed by all parties to the conflict, in particular against children, **strongly urges** all parties to the conflict to implement the actions called for in The Conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict in South Sudan adopted by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on 17 December 2018, including the immediate release of all children in their ranks and steps to end and prevent the killing and maiming of children, **welcomes** the release of children by some groups, **strongly urges** the GoSS to develop and implement a comprehensive action plan addressing all violations and abuses against children, and **further strongly urges** the SPLA-IO to implement its action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and the killing and maiming of children, and **underlines** the importance of the GoSS providing timely and appropriate reintegration and rehabilitation assistance to children affected by armed conflict and minimize the risk of re-recruitment, while ensuring that the specific needs of girls as well as children with disabilities are addressed, including access to health care, psychosocial support, and education programmes and **calls on** the international community to assist these efforts;

### SC resolution 2514 (2020)

8. **Decides** that the mandate of UNMISS shall be as follows, and **authorizes** UNMISS to use all necessary means to perform the following tasks:

**(a) Protection of civilians:**

(i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission’s Child Protection Advisers, Women Protection Advisers, and uniformed and civilian Gender Advisers, the positions for which should be filled expeditiously;
(vi) To exercise good offices, confidence-building, and facilitation in support of the mission’s protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, including to facilitate the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of intercommunal conflict through, inter alia, mediation and community engagement in order to foster sustainable local and national reconciliation as an essential part of preventing violence and long-term state-building activity;

(d) Monitoring and investigating human rights:

(ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including those involving all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict, and accelerate implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for violations and abuses against children;

29. Condemns all violations of applicable international law committed by all parties to the conflict, in particular against children, strongly urges all parties to the conflict to implement the actions called for in The Conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict in South Sudan adopted by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict on 17 December 2018, including the immediate release of all children in their ranks and take steps to end and prevent the killing and maiming of children, welcomes the release of children by some groups, strongly urges the GoSS to develop and implement a comprehensive action plan addressing all violations and abuses against children, and further strongly urges the SPLA-IO to implement its action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children;

30. Requests UNMISS continue to engage in dialogue with the parties to the conflict regarding the development and implementation of action plans, in line with resolution 1612 (2005) and subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict and to support efforts aimed at releasing children associated with armed groups and forces in all parts of the country;

Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC resolution 2149 (2014) (establishing MINUSCA)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict in the CAR, including former Seleka elements and anti-Balaka elements, to issue clear orders prohibiting all violations and abuses committed against children, in violation of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, rape and sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals and further calls upon the Transitional Authorities to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged violations and abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable and to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Reiterates its demands that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Decides to establish the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) as of the date of adoption of this resolution and for an initial period until 30 April 2015;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SC resolution 2217 (2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Requests the Secretary-General to subsume the presence of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) into MINUSCA as of the date of the adoption of this resolution and to ensure a seamless transition from BINUCA to MINUSCA;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Demands that all militias and non-State armed groups lay down their arms, cease all forms of violence and destabilizing activities immediately and release children from their ranks;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict in the CAR, including former Séléka elements and anti-Balaka elements, to issue clear orders prohibiting all violations and abuses committed against children, in violation of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, rape and sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals and further calls upon the Transitional Authorities to investigate swiftly alleged violations and abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable and to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Reiterates its demands that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Decides that the mandate of MINUSCA shall include the following immediate priority tasks:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Protection of civilians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through the deployment of Child Protection Advisers, Women Protection Advisers and Gender Advisers;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Promotion and protection of human rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) To monitor, help investigate and report on violations and abuses committed against children, women as well as persons with disabilities, including rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict, and to contribute to efforts to identify and prosecute perpetrators, and to prevent such violations and abuses;</td>
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<tr>
<td>[...]</td>
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<tr>
<td>(h) Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration (DDR) and Repatriation (DDRR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) To support the Transitional Authorities and subsequent elected authorities in developing and implementing a revised strategy for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and, in case of foreign elements, Repatriation (DDRR), of former combatants and armed elements to reflect new realities on the ground, while paying specific attention to the needs of children associated with armed forces and groups;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Requests MINUSCA to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the Transitional Authorities in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR and DDR/R processes and in SSR in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SC resolution 2301 (2016)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Demands</strong> that all militias and armed groups lay down their arms, cease all forms of violence and destabilizing activities, and release children from their ranks, immediately and unconditionally;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. <strong>Calls upon</strong> all parties to armed conflict in the CAR, including ex-Seleka elements and anti-Balaka elements, to end all violations and abuses committed against children, in violation of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, rape and sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals and further calls upon the CAR Authorities to investigate swiftly alleged violations and abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable and to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. <strong>Reiterates</strong> its demands that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. <strong>Decides</strong> that the mandate of MINUSCA shall include the following immediate priority tasks:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Promotion and protection of human rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) To monitor, help investigate and report on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. <strong>Decides</strong> that MINUSCA’s strategic objective is to ... and includes the following core priority tasks:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration (DDR) and Repatriation (DDRR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) To support the CAR Authorities in developing and implementing an inclusive and progressive programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and, in case of foreign elements, Repatriation (DDRR), of members of armed groups, based on the Principles of DDR and Integration into the Uniformed Corps, signed at the Bangui Forum on 10 May 2015, while paying specific attention to the needs of children associated with armed forces and groups;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. <strong>Requests</strong> MINUSCA to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the CAR authorities in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR and DDR/R processes and in SSR in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SC resolution 2387 (2017)</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Demands</strong> that all militias and armed groups lay down their arms, cease all forms of violence and destabilizing activities, including attacks against peacekeepers and humanitarian workers as well as incitement to hatred and violence, and release children from their ranks, immediately and unconditionally, and urges all political and institutional actors in the CAR to strongly condemn and hinder such acts;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. <strong>Urges</strong> all parties to armed conflict in the CAR, including ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka elements, to end all violations and abuses committed against children, in violation of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, rape and</td>
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Reinforcement Training Package on Child Protection for the United Nations Military
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC resolution 2448 (2018)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. Urges all militias and armed groups throughout the country to lay down their arms, cease all forms of violence and destabilizing activities, including attacks against peacekeepers and humanitarian workers, incitement to hatred and violence and restrictions on freedom of movement of people, and release children from their ranks, immediately, permanently and unconditionally, and urges all political and institutional actors in the CAR to strongly condemn and counter such acts;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Urges all parties to armed conflict in the CAR, including ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka elements, to end all violations and abuses committed against children, in violation of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, rape and sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals and further calls upon the CAR Authorities to swiftly investigate alleged violations and abuses in order to hold those responsible accountable and to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Reiterates its demands that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
39. **Decides** that the mandate of MINUSCA shall include the following priority tasks:

(a) Protection of civilians

(iii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through the deployment of Child Protection Advisers, Women Protection Advisers and Gender Advisers;

40. **Further authorizes** MINUSCA to pursue the following tasks of its mandate:

(c) Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration (DDR) and Repatriation (DDRR)

(i) To support the CAR Authorities in developing and implementing an inclusive and progressive programme for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) ... while paying specific attention to the needs of children associated with armed forces and groups and the need to prevent rerecruitment;

(d) Promotion and protection of human rights

(ii) To monitor, help investigate and ensure reporting on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict, in connection with the UMIRR;

56. **Requests** MINUSCA to take fully into account child protection as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the CAR Authorities in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in DDR and DDR/R processes and in SSR in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC resolution 2499 (2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12. Urges</strong> the CAR authorities to address the presence and activity of armed groups in the CAR by implementing a comprehensive strategy that prioritises dialogue and the urgent implementation of an inclusive, gender-sensitive and effective DDR as well as repatriation (DDRR) in the case of foreign fighters, including children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, as well as continuing the implementation of community violence reduction projects;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24. Urges</strong> all parties to armed conflict in the CAR, including armed groups, to end all violations and abuses committed against children, in violation of applicable international law, including those involving their recruitment and use, rape and sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals, <strong>further calls upon</strong> the CAR authorities to respect their obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict that they ratified on 21 September 2017, and to swiftly investigate alleged violations and abuses in order to fight against impunity of those responsible and to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector, <strong>calls for</strong> the full and immediate implementation of action plans signed by some armed groups in 2018 and 2019 and for other armed groups to sign such action plans, <strong>reiterates</strong> its demands that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, in particular by establishing standard operating procedures for the rapid handover of these children to relevant civilian child protection actors, and emphasises the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegation of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
32. **Decides** that the mandate of MINUSCA shall include the following priority tasks:

(a) Protection of civilians

(iii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through the deployment of Child Protection Advisers, Women Protection Advisers and Gender Advisers and by adopting a gender-sensitive, survivor-centred approach in this regard, especially to provide the best assistance to survivors of sexual violence;

33. **Further authorizes** MINUSCA to pursue the following tasks of its mandate...:

(c) Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration (DDR) and Repatriation (DDRR)

(i) To support the CAR authorities in implementing an inclusive and progressive programme for the DDR... while paying specific attention to the needs of children associated with armed forces and groups, the need to ensure the separation of children from these forces and groups, and the need to prevent re-recruitment, and including gender-sensitive programmes;

(d) Promotion and protection of human rights

(ii) To monitor, help investigate and ensure reporting on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict, in connection with the UMIIRR;

43. **Requests** MINUSCA to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the CAR authorities in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in the DDR and SRR processes in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

**SC resolution 2552 (2020)**

11. **Urges** the CAR authorities to address the presence and activity of armed groups in the CAR by implementing a comprehensive strategy that prioritises dialogue and the urgent implementation of an inclusive, gender-sensitive and effective DDR process, ... including children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, as well as continuing the implementation of community violence reduction projects...;

23. **Urges** all parties to armed conflict in the CAR, including armed groups, to end all violations and abuses committed against children, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals, **further calls upon** the CAR authorities to respect their obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict that they ratified on 21 September 2017, **welcomes** the adoption of the child protection code, underlining the importance of its full implementation, and **calls upon** the CAR authorities to swiftly investigate alleged violations and abuses in order to fight against impunity of those responsible, to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector and that all victims have access to justice as well as to medical and support services, **calls for** the full and immediate implementation of action plans signed by some armed groups and for other armed groups to sign such action plans, **reiterates** its demands that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, in particular by establishing standard operating procedures...
for the rapid handover of these children to relevant civilian child protection actors, recalls that the Peace Agreement contains several child protection provisions and urges the signatories to it to reinforce their efforts to implement those, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed forces and armed groups;

31. **Decides** that the mandate of MINUSCA shall include the following priority tasks:

(a) Protection of civilians

(iii) To provide specific protection for women and children affected by armed conflict, including through the deployment of Child Protection Advisers, Women Protection Advisers and Gender Advisers and by adopting a gender-sensitive, survivor centred approach in this regard, especially to provide the best assistance to survivors of sexual violence;

32. **Further authorizes** MINUSCA to pursue the following tasks of its mandate...

(c) Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration (DDR) and Repatriation (DDRR)

(i) To support the CAR authorities in implementing an inclusive and progressive programme for the DDR and, in case of foreign elements, repatriation, of members of armed groups, based on the Principles of DDRR and Integration into the Uniformed Corps, signed at the Bangui Forum in May 2015, while paying specific attention to the needs of children associated with armed forces and groups, the need to ensure the separation of children from these forces and groups, and the need to prevent re-recruitment, and including gender-sensitive programmes;

(d) Promotion and protection of human rights

(ii) To monitor, help investigate and ensure reporting on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict, in connection with the UMIRR;

43. **Requests** MINUSCA to take fully into account child protection as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to assist the CAR authorities in ensuring that the protection of children’s rights is taken into account, inter alia, in the DDRR and SRR processes in order to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;
DIRECTIVE ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

BY UNMISS MILITARY FORCES

Approved by:

LTGEN FRANK MUSHYO KAMANZI
Force Commander
United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Contact: Military Gender and Protection Advisor, FHQ, UNMISS
Review Date: February 2020
DIRECTIVE ON THE
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN BY UNMISS MILITARY FORCES

References
A. 2017 DPKO-DFS-DPA Policy on Child Protection in UN Peace Operations
B. UNMISS FORCE OPERATIONS ORDER (OPORD) 01/18
C. UNMISS SOP for FHQ, 2018 – Volume 2
D. UNMISS/FHQ/MILGENAD/17/001, Tactical Guidelines on Integrating a Gender Perspective

Background
1. Grave violations are being committed against children by armed actors in all sectors of the UNMISS Area of Responsibility (AOR). The recruitment and use of children by armed groups is common and sexual violence against children, predominantly but not only girls, is widespread.

2. Both national security forces and armed opposition groups in South Sudan have been listed by the UN Secretary General for consistently perpetrating grave violations against children. For all parties, this includes recruiting and using children in armed groups, abduction, killing and maiming children, and sexual violence against children.¹

3. The UN Security Council in Resolution 2406 directs UNMISS to protect children under threat of physical violence and to monitor violations against them.² This is a whole of mission task, supported by Force. Reference A requires the issue of Force Commander’s direction on child protection (para 20.1). The Mission Child Protection Unit, based in Juba HQ and in field offices, is the civilian substantive lead for child protection, supported by Force. The Senior Child Protection Advisor on mission is the principal interface and intermediary between UNMISS and external partners on child protection concerns, as well as the lead adviser on mandate implementation in the mission. Within Force, a network of Child Protection Focal Points, as mandated in this directive, provides a specialist supporting network and channel for information flow.

Aim
4. This Directive mandates tasks and reporting to ensure that FHQ, Sectors, TCCs and UNMOs contribute to the effective protection of children in the execution of references B and C.

² UN Security Council Resolution 2406 (2018), paragraphs 7(a)(i) and 7(c)(ii).
Tasks

5. Child protection is to be mainstreamed into the protection of civilians, including early warning and prevention, and military actions should be integrated as much as possible with police and civilian components of the mission.

6. **All Members.** Each military member of UNMISS, regardless of rank, must be aware of the six grave violations identified by the UN and understand the risks faced by children in South Sudan. All members must act in the best interests of the child when dealing with children. Key definitions and applicable legal principles are in Annex A.

7. UNMISS military forces must act robustly and promptly to protect children before, during and after operations, in accordance with the mandate. Accurate and prompt reporting of violations against children is to be done first for the purpose of ensuring rapid response by UNMISS, specifically the Child Protection Unit and military forces. Reporting data for monitoring purposes is important but is secondary to the requirement for action.

8. All members are to apply the general principle of **Plan-Act-Alert-Protect.**

   a. **Plan.** All members must be proactive in preventing the commission of any grave violations against children.

      i. At Force HQ level, all CONPLANS must include effective steps to mitigate the risk of harm to children, whether caused by Force or by other actors. In general, intelligence-led planning must be based on analysis of the specific risks to children in different parts of the AOR. Planning of operational priorities and force disposition must take into account these risks.

      ii. At sector and TCC level, all plans must be proactive in protecting children, including plans for rapid response to emerging reports of children being abducted or attacked. Planners must not wait for CPU to request force protection for an activity but ensure CPU and FIOC are integrated into setting military patrol priorities regarding children.

   b. **Act.** If an imminent or actual risk of death, serious harm or disappearance of a child is identified, the first duty of all members is to take immediate action to protect the child. This may include:

      i. Use of force in accordance with ROE to protect the child;

      ii. Providing basic medical aid if asked or needed, in accordance with current UNMISS policies on providing medical assistance to civilians;

      iii. Securing the area until CPU or a humanitarian organisation can arrange assistance for the child, if humanitarian assistance is needed or requested; and/or

      iv. Providing emergency transport to the child in accordance with current UNMISS policies on provision of emergency transport.

   c. **Alert.** After a member has taken any necessary immediate action to protect the child, then the member must alert their chain of command and the unit/sector Child Protection
Focal Point. The urgency of the situation will determine whether this occurs as part of standard incident reporting process or as a special report following the procedure in Annex B. For example, if children are seen in the camp of an armed group or in a barracks, but do not appear to be immediately at risk of violence, the patrol should observe and then alert the unit/sector Child Protection Focal Point. Examples of early warning indicators to be considered for alert reporting are in Annex C.

d. **Protect.** Lessons learned, information about early warning indicators and best practices must be identified and collected on an ongoing basis. That information must then be included into military tactics, techniques and procedures to improve the overall task of protecting civilians, including children. All members have a role to play.

9. **Commanders and UNMOs** are to reinforce international obligations to protect children, especially from the six grave violations, when conducting key leadership and community engagement at all levels. When requested by the CPU, Commanders and UNMOs should assist in follow-up engagement with key leaders and the community regarding violations that have already occurred.

10. It is essential to credible leadership engagement that Commanders and UNMOs ensure that UNMISS personnel do not commit grave violations or engage in conduct that might be mistaken as a risk to children. Use of schools or hospitals as temporary operating bases for UNMISS military personnel is prohibited.

11. UNMOs have a key role to play in observing and reporting on the situation/environment of children in the community. This includes the six grave violations, but also early warning indicators that children may be at risk (see Annex C). To do this, UNMOs on patrol must:

   a. engage the local population consistently with UNMISS’s community engagement framework;

   b. observe the location and general activities of children;

   c. observe the location and activities of armed children, whether co-located with armed groups or engaged in other tasks such as cattle-keeping;

   d. report the atmospheres in relation to the standing information collection plan published by the U2, differentiating observations by gender (see reference D);

   e. avoid interviewing/interrogating children; and

   f. where the patrol was integrated with civilian mission components, conduct an integrated debrief prior to submitting their own report to facilitate information sharing and lessons learned.

12. **U/G2** staff are to:

   a. identify information in daily reporting that indicates that violations against children are occurring and analyse trends;

   b. identify the reported perpetrators, where possible;
c. maintain, with support from the Military Gender and Protection Advisor (MGPA), an ongoing analysis of the prevailing threats against children in the AOR; and

d. publish a standing risk analysis with respect to grave violations against children in the AOR, which is to be available to all military personnel online on an appropriate forum.

13. **U/G3** staff are to ensure Force personnel are positioned and tasked to monitor risks to and children, which may be different between boys and girls.

   a. At Sector and TCC level, G3 staff are to route an adequate number of patrols near concentration areas of children such as schools and hospitals, including at times when children are at heightened risk, such as dusk as they return home, or, for girls, when they are collecting supplies for the household. Patrol planning is also to include events at which children could be expected to congregate. For example, while it is not a Force task to organize the distribution of humanitarian assistance, this activity could attract children; staff officers should consider this when planning the times and locations of patrols in the area.

   b. At Force HQ, U3 staff are to be prepared to coordinate operational responses to a crisis involving children. In addition, the MOC Duty Officer must be prepared to receive, forward and respond to reports of violations against children (see Annex B).

   c. At Sector, TCC and Force level, staff are to assess the potential risks of UNMISS operations for children, including the likelihood that children:

      i. may be harmed directly;

      ii. may unwittingly be taken into detention, e.g. if an adolescent looks like an adult and is detained by UNMISS, or misidentified as associated with an armed group if they carry weapons for tribal reasons such as cattle-keeping;

      iii. may become panicked and lost/separated from their caregivers (and therefore at greater risk of harm);

      iv. may actively seek protection from UNMISS;

      v. may seek to oppose UNMISS activities, e.g. by throwing stones; or

      vi. may be forced to or choose to participate in acts of violence.

14. **U/G4** staff must coordinate with MSD to support tactical units with the supplies that will allow them to plan and act (see paragraph 8 above). G4 staff must be familiar with UNMISS policy regarding provision of assistance to civilians and assist in equipping patrols to provide approved emergency assistance where it is needed or requested by a child who has suffered a grave violation, and there is no humanitarian agency available.

15. **U/G5** planning must include consideration of the risks to children, including in contingencies, by

   a. incorporating into all deliberate planning a section identifying relevant risks to children and means of responding to and mitigating those risks; and
b. planning force disposition and basing to include consideration of the prevailing threats against children in each sector.

16. Contingency planning should usually be done in conjunction with the CPU, Sector Focal Points and Contingent Focal Points, for FHQ, sectors and TCCs respectively. Where a risk to children is identified in contingency planning, and cannot be mitigated effectively, planners must seek the advice of the CPU.

17. U/G9, All CIMIC activity must plan for positive effects and assess the risk of detrimental effects (under “do-no-harm” principles) in the protection of children and plan for such contingencies. Where an MCDA request would advance the protection of children, it should be considered a priority. If G/U9 staff have access to information that indicates that violations against children are occurring, and may identify reported perpetrators, they must consolidate that information with the ongoing assessment maintained by G/U2 staff.

**Reporting**

18. All incidents involving actual or suspected violations against children are to be reported in accordance with Annex B.

**Monitoring and Compliance**

19. Child Protection Focal Points are to be appointed in FHQ and in all sector and unit headquarters. Commanders must ensure Child Protection Focal Points are able to complete their responsibilities in this directive, whether or not they are also assigned other duties.

20. Child Protection Focal Points are responsible for ensuring that this directive is complied with by all military personnel in their unit or HQ, and for passing information promptly in accordance with Annex B. A statement of responsibilities is in Annex D.

21. FHQ. The MGPA is the FHQ Child Protection Focal Point and is responsible for ensuring that information is communicated to the CPU promptly, including all reports of grave violations against children. The MGPA will also keep the FC and DFC informed, as appropriate to the circumstances, and will lead the mainstreaming of child protection under this directive throughout FHQ.

22. **Sector and Unit Child Protection Focal Points.** Every sector HQ, and formed unit, is to identify an individual to be the Child Protection Focal Point *within one week of beginning their contingent rotation or following a vacancy.* Where a Gender and Protection Advisor is posted to the headquarters, that person shall be the Child Protection Focal Point.

23. The Child Protection Focal Point and their email, Tetra and cellphone details are to be emailed promptly to the FHQ MGPA (unmiss-fhq-genad@un.org).

**Training**

24. Induction and continuation training are critical in maintaining child protection standards in UNMISS.

a. **Induction.** Each incoming military member or formed contingent must be briefed on child protection generally, and on this directive, during their induction. U7 staff will
develop the training material, in coordination with the MGPA and Mission CPU, and monitor its effectiveness through regular reviews and knowledge spot checks of key personnel in all locations. MGPA will deliver the induction training during the weekly UNH Induction Training program; contingents conducting their own training will be responsible for including the U7-approved brief. Force members who are identified as Child Protection Focal Points are to contact the Force MGPA regarding training needs for that role.

b. **Continuation Training.** G/U7 is to enable unit and sector Child Protection Focal Points to train their own units on a continuing basis. All sector and unit focal points are to maintain situational awareness of the UNMISS approach to child protection. They are also to conduct quarterly seminars with command personnel and provide remedial training where U7 spot checks (see preceding paragraph) identify deficiencies. As a minimum, continuation training must include the six grave violations, Plan-Act-Alert-ProTECT and the reporting structure in this directive.

**Evaluation**

25. The Military Gender and Protection Advisor, in conjunction with unit and sector Child Protection Focal Points, will evaluate the effectiveness of this directive quarterly from the date of implementation, assessing the currency of the Child Protection Focal Point network, the adequacy of reporting, currency of training and adequacy of implementation in operational planning activities. Recommendations for improvement should be made to the relevant FHQ Section Chief.

26. The Military Gender and Protection Advisor will review this Directive annually in January. Proposed amendments are to be forwarded to unmiss-fhq-genad@un.org.

**Implementation**

27. This directive is effective immediately on receipt. All sector and TCC commandos are to acknowledge receipt to unmiss-fhq-genad@un.org no later than 1 March 2019.

**Distribution:**

DFC  
Sector Commanders  
Contingent Commanders  
FCOS  
DCOS OPS/SUP/PET  
FHQ Section Chiefs  
CMO  
Sector HQs

**For Information:**

SRSR  
DSRSGs  
MCOS  
Mission Child Protection Adviser
KEY DEFINITIONS AND LEGAL PRINCIPLES

Definitions

1. **Definition of a Child.** A child is anyone under the age of 18. In cases of doubt, or if a person claims to be below 18, he or she should be given all of the special protections due to children until advised otherwise by the civilian UNMISS Child Protection Unit.

2. **Six Grave Violations against Children.** The UN Security Council’s universally recognized six grave violations against children in armed conflict are:
   b. Recruitment and/or use of children by armed groups. This includes but is not limited to child soldiers; both girls and boys may be used by armed forces and groups in many supporting roles, including as ‘wives’ for soldiers, porters, messengers, cooks, etc.
   c. Rape and other forms of sexual violence against children.
   d. Abduction of children.
   e. Attacks against schools and/or hospitals.
   f. Denial of humanitarian access to children.

Legal Principles

3. This summary of legal principles is a set of legal references to guide UNMISS military personnel when implementing this Directive. Any question or ambiguity must be referred to the Force LEGAD in the first instance.

4. **Core Principles.** Further to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), all personnel must observe these principles when planning and conducting operations that affect children:
   a. **Best interest of the child.** The best interest of children must always be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them (article 3, CRC).
   b. **Seek and Respect for the views of the child.** When a member of UNMISS is making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinion taken into account (article 12, CRC). For example, a child who reports a violation must have the chance to say what they think should happen.
   c. **Right to privacy.** Information relating to a child’s life, history, name, families, homes, medical conditions etc. fall within the child’s right to privacy. They should therefore be kept confidential, even when reporting grave violations (article 16, CRC). Sharing personal details of a child victim with third parties may endanger the child’s life and that of their family and should be avoided at all costs by UNMISS military personnel.
d. **Right to freedom from discrimination.** All children benefit from the same rights and obligations. No child may be discriminated against because of his/her status (e.g. as a child soldier), race, religion, abilities, language etc. (article 2 CRC).

5. **Obligations under ROE and the UNMISS Mandate.** UNMISS ROE provide for the use of force where there is an imminent risk of serious harm, including when that risk is posed by children. A member of UNMISS may use force, including deadly force, against a child who demonstrating hostile intent or a hostile act only when the threat of violence is imminent from that child, and force is necessary to protect the UNMISS member, other UNMISS or protected personnel, or civilians. Children in South Sudan may be armed as a result of association with an armed group or for other reasons, such as their responsibilities to protect their family’s cattle.

6. If deadly force is used, pursuant to the obligation to use only minimal and proportionate force, the UNMISS member must aim to disarm and neutralize the threat from the child. Prohibitions and Graduation of Force as mentioned in UNMISS ROE- 2014 must be followed.\(^3\)

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\(^3\) UNMISS ROE – 2014 para 3, para 7.
REPORTING OF INFORMATION REGARDING VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN

Note: Information relating to a child's life, history, name, families, homes, medical conditions etc fall within the child's right to privacy. They should therefore be kept confidential, even when reporting grave violations.

**Child Protection Issue Occurs --**
**If in Doubt, Report any of the Six Grave Violations**

**Do**
- Report any grave violation
- Take enough detail to report, but protect privacy
- Provide protection if asked or needed
- Provide medical aid if asked or needed

**Do not**
- Turn anyone away
- Interview children or use information provided by children for military intelligence purposes
- Separate children from parents
- Place children at risk of harm

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**Plan** - What orders/CONPLAN do I have?
**Alert** - Follow this flow chart
**Act** - What do I need to do now to protect children?
**Protect** - Think about life, safety, and freedom

Inform unit Child Protection Focal Point and commander for immediate action *(within one hour)*

Draft incident report as required by unit SOP (copy to Child Protection Focal Point)

Support unit in taking action in response, eg QRF (if not already dispatched)

Consider preserving scene/evidence until arrival of CPU/UNPOL

Review current ops with G3
Consider enacting CONPLANs

Engage G2/5 once immediate reporting is complete for assessment of trends

Inform Sector Child Protection Focal Point *(within two hours)*

Inform UNMISS MOC Duty Officer *(within four hours)*

MOC DO to inform JOC etc in accordance with SOP

Information copy to FHQ MGPA

CPA/CPU will monitor any subsequent investigation

Inform CoC, Legad, PIO, U3/5 as necessary
WARNING INDICATORS OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN

Indicators of abnormal conditions/environment that could pose a risk to children, or to other vulnerable sections of population, may include:

a. Presence of children in areas controlled by armed groups, where children are used for different purposes.

b. Presence of elders and children only may indicate that armed groups have taken (abducted/recruited) the middle age set

c. Ratio of gender in a village (how many men and women, boys and girls, as a proportion)

d. Whether schools are operational or are used for military purposes

e. Whether trade activities (markets, shops) are occurring alongside the roads, and whether children are visible in these public trade activities

f. Presence of military/weaponry in civilian areas

g. Movement of unaccompanied children over long distances.

h. Changes in movement patterns, for example, if boys and girls have previously been observed walking without adults to school, and this changes to a pattern of children always being accompanied by adults or of girls no longer walking to school.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECTOR/UNIT CHILD PROTECTION FOCAL POINTS

Sector and Unit Child Protection Focal Points are to:

a) Make contact immediately on being appointed with the Force Military Gender and Protection Advisor (unmiss-fhg-gened@un.org);

b) Maintain a current Child Protection contact list for their sector/unit, which includes Tetra and telephone contact numbers for the Sector Child Protection Unit, the Military Gender and Protection Advisor and the UNMISS MOC Duty Officer;

c) Understand and implement reporting requirements and timelines in this directive;

d) Maintain situational awareness of the UNMISS approach to child protection, as set out in references to this directive;

e) Conduct quarterly child protection workshops with sector or unit personnel on this directive, and provide remedial training when staff deficiencies are identified. As a minimum, continuation training must include the six grave violations, Plan-Act-Alert-Protect and the reporting structure in this directive; and

f) Advise staff officers, where necessary, on the execution of their roles and responsibilities under this directive.