

CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

UNICEF,

Noting with deep concern that children in armed conflict is the most blatant violation of the rights of the child,

Calls Attention to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which has guided UNICEF's actions since 1989,

Emphasizing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict as a guiding principle for overcoming the problem of children in armed conflict,

Recognizing the psychologically damaging effects of prolonged exposure of children to armed conflict,

1. Calls upon members of UNICEF to pool resources in a spirit of cooperation to deal with this issue;
2. Emphasizes that the issue of children in armed conflict is complex and entails both short and long-term initiatives, most distinctly the prevention of children's involvement in armed conflict, the deployment of resources during conflict and post-conflict reconstruction.
3. Strongly encourages UNICEF member-states to cooperate and further commit themselves to the issue of children in armed conflict by:
 - a) bringing the issue of children in armed conflict to the forefront of respective national and international agendas through such initiatives as awareness-raising campaigns
 - b) making tangible long-term commitments to eradicate the problem of children in armed conflict
 - c) working hand-in-hand with the NGO community, particularly those organizations affiliated with the Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - d) establishing an International Fund with the specific goal of funding initiatives that address issues of children in armed conflict, which shall be provided by member-states, NGOs, International Financial Institutions and any other like-minded willing donors.