

CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

UNICEF,

Deeply concerned with the increasing number of children participating in armed conflict today,

Deeply disturbed by the growing statistics concerning the destructive effects on children physically, emotionally, socially, psychologically, and otherwise,

Acknowledging that the causes that lead to armed conflict should be directly addressed, including but not limited to: poverty, dissatisfaction with the current government, lack of access to education, political injustice, racism and prejudice, the proliferation of light weight weapons and small arms,

Determined to put an end to any form of involvement of children under 18 years of age, and to the act of involuntary conscription to those above this age,

Deeply concerned that humanitarian funds and resources are ultimately given to the sectors supporting the inhumane action of armed children,

Affirming that with strong political will and cooperation, the international community can eradicate this problem,

Confident that consensus can be reached in a friendly and supportive environment,

1. Requests using the Committee of the Rights of the Child as a medium to secure that the allotted funds and resources are essentially going to those organizations and sectors in the country that discourage the use of children in armed conflict;
2. Strongly urges compulsory and comprehensive birth registration to emphasize the need not to involve children under 18 years of age in any form of armed conflict;
3. Calls upon all States to disallow compulsory or forceful involvement of children under 18 years of age in any form of combat;
4. Urges all States to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child (OP-CRC-CAC) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on May 25th, 2000;
5. Urges all national governments, and if need be, the international community, to take the necessary steps to prosecute those in violation of this resolution, through their domestic courts, and if need be, the International Criminal Court (ICC);
6. Calls upon UNICEF to strengthen family ties within local communities as they are the core of any nation, through the establishment of social and cultural programs and community centres;
7. Further recommends all States to ensure the protection of children in the midst of armed conflict through the establishment of rehabilitation and education centres and to promote their reintegration into society in the aftermath;
8. Encourages cooperation amongst states and non-governmental organizations to provide educational materials to children unable to attend traditional schools;
9. Strongly urges that the human rights of girls, as well as their protection and welfare be incorporated in the development of policies and programs, including those for prevention, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration;
10. Encourages all States to support and build on this proposed Draft Resolution.