

Free Children

from War

Paris, february 5 and 6, 2007



*«Protect children
from unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces
or armed groups»*

«Some 250,000 children, maybe even 300,000, we aren't sure, are enlisted against their will in armed conflicts they don't understand. In 2007, these figures are appalling, the fate of these children is unacceptable and the indifference of some is worse than criminal, it is an offence.

Children, for whom fighting is the only thing they know, for whom war is a normal way of life, or their only way to earn the money they need to survive and to ensure their place in a group, are lost when it comes to the cause for peace and development. They are small time bombs that threaten the stability and growth of their countries, not to mention those of neighbouring countries and beyond.

Doing nothing to try to address this issue would be morally unacceptable and politically irresponsible.

But what can we do?

First, gather up these lost children, listen to them tirelessly, try to find a sign of their former selves buried so very deep inside.

Then, offer them possibilities for the future, show them that they can have a life after war, a life without AK-47s. Give them a family, teach them a trade.

Lastly, bring this issue to the forefront in the international arena to the attention of political decision-makers.

This is why I have been committed to this issue for the past two years, whether it be in New York, in Uganda or in Burundi. This is why we are meeting in Paris on 5 and 6 February with the hope and conviction that we can, provided we give ourselves the means to do so, "free these children from war.»

Philippe DOUSTE-BLAZY, French Minister of Foreign Affairs

«In many places around the world, children are being recruited unlawfully to participate in armed conflicts as soldiers, messengers, spies, porters, cooks or to provide sexual services. This is taking place every day, violating children's rights and compromising their futures.

Once children are recruited into conflict there is little they can do to protect themselves.

Children who have lived through this need appropriate services, a chance at an education, and the opportunity to determine their own futures. The capacity and resilience of the children and their families should not be underestimated in looking at reintegration strategies.

Through the Millennium Declaration of 2000, Heads of State and Government committed to spare no effort to protect children impacted by armed conflict. This conference is an important step in defining ways in which this commitment can be honoured.»

Ann M. VENEMAN, UNICEF Executive Director

“ [What is a child soldier ?]

A child soldier is «a child associated with an armed force or group –refers to any person below 18 years of age who is or has been recruited or used by an armed force or group in any capacity, including but not limited to, children used as a fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies, or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is or has taken a direct part in hostilities».

The “Paris Principles”, Protection and reintegration of children associated with armed forces or armed groups. ”

[Facts and figures]

The recruitment or use of children in armed conflict goes back to antiquity. In fact, the world “infantry” comes from the Latin “infans”, or child. The use of children seems to be the rule rather than the exception, and each new conflict poses a direct risk to children. Similarly, most conflicts that have recently ended often involved the massive use of children (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Angola, Afghanistan, and El Salvador are examples).

In 2006:

- ▶ Over **250,000 children were recruited or used by armed groups and armed forces;**
- ▶ There is evidence that **twelve countries** used child soldiers, often on a massive scale. The parties that recruit or use children in those 12 countries have been black-listed by the United Nations;
- ▶ **Six of these twelve countries** were referred to the United Nations Security Council;
- ▶ In some groups, **girls** comprised up to **40%** of the children recruited;
- ▶ **Since 2001**, almost **95,000** former child soldiers have participated in management or reintegration programmes.

[Why is this conference necessary]

It has been twenty years since the international community, UNICEF and child protection agencies first addressed this issue. Progress has been achieved on a normative level (see History). For the past 10 years, action in this area has taken place within the framework of the Capetown Principles. The Capetown Principles, the first set of standards on children in armed conflict, were developed in 1997 by UNICEF and NGOs during an international seminar convened in South Africa.

Based on their extensive experience, France, UNICEF, NGOs and the most committed countries deemed it necessary to update these “Principles”, to bridge the gap between commitments made by States and their concrete action, and to increase at the field-level the effectiveness of commitments made by States, NGOs, and international organizations.

In close cooperation with several agencies coordinated by UNICEF, and based on evaluations of completed and ongoing demobilization and reintegration programmes, a new framework of action has been defined: the Paris Principles. The Paris Principles update and clarify interventions to make them more effective. They will serve as a basis for the development of sustainable protection, release and reintegration programmes for children associated with armed groups and armed forces. They set priorities geared at:

- ▶ the prevention of recruitment and re-recruitment;
- ▶ sustainable reintegration;
- ▶ the specific needs of girls associated with armed groups and armed forces.



[The «Free Children from War» conference will make it possible to:]

- ▶ Present these «Paris Principles», which supplement and update the Capetown Principles, to partners and delegates from governments in attendance, whether they come from countries affected by conflict or from countries that financially and politically support peace and demobilization processes throughout the world.
- ▶ Reaffirm the States' active support of the resolutions of the Security Council, and particularly Resolution 1612 (see History).
- ▶ Convince as many countries as possible represented at the Paris Conference to adhere to the «Paris Commitments». By backing this text with their names, these countries vow to put an end to the illegal and unacceptable use of children in conflict and to enable child protection agencies to perform their work in the best possible conditions.
- ▶ Define the framework of more effective action in the field.

[Three themes will be discussed during the conference]

▶ **Release:**

An unconditional duty

The illegal recruitment of children is an unacceptable violation of their rights. As such, the release of children is an unconditional necessity. It does not hinge on any condition and must therefore be implemented without delay.

▶ **Reintegration:**

Emergency and development

Helping children reintegrate and find their place in society is a duty and an emergency and a question of mutual interest. The capacities of countries to accomplish sustainable progress towards rehabilitation, development and conflict prevention depends on our determination to support reintegration. This effort must be sustained over time and factor in the high cost of implementing demobilization and reintegration programmes.

▶ **Strategies for the future:**

Duty and commitment

Programmes targeting children affected by armed conflict must foster a more protective environment for children, provide them with real socio-economic opportunities –in the long term, this means income-generating activities -- and diminish the social and economic attraction that armed groups and armed forces may have.

[Conference Program]

International conference «Free children from war»

Protection and reintegration of children associated with armed forces or groups

Monday, February 5: 8:45am – 8:30 pm

————— 8h45 am-12h30 pm Opening —————

8h45-9h45 am Welcoming of guests

9h45-11h30 am

Opening session, followed by a press briefing
(from 11:00 to 11:30)

- ▶ Mr. Philippe DOUSTE-BLAZY
French Minister of Foreign Affairs
- ▶ Ms. Ann M. VENEMAN
Executive Director of UNICEF
- ▶ Ms. Radhika COOMARASWAMY
Special Representative of the Secretary General
for children and armed conflict

11h30-12h45 pm

Addresses by government leaders and
prominent witnesses

12h45 pm Group picture

12h45-2h30

Lunch break at the International Conference
Center

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

Children associated with armed forces or groups

————— 2h30-4h00 SESSION 1 —————

Release: An unconditional duty

2h30-4h00

The release of children associated with armed
forces or groups

4h00-4h30 Break

————— 4h30-6h00 SESSION 2 —————

Reintegration: Emergency and Development

4h30-6h00

The reintegration of children associated
with armed forces or groups

————— 7h00-8h30 —————

Reception

at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
37 Quai d'Orsay

7h00

Awarding by M. Philippe DOUSTE-BLAZY of prizes
to young winners of the drawing competition
organized by Le Petit Quotidien (Ed. Play Bac)

7h15

Presentation of the petition of UNICEF France
(235,500 signatures)
to Mr. Philippe DOUSTE-BLAZY
and to Ms. Radhika COOMARASWAMY.

7h30-8h30 Cocktail reception

Tuesday, February 6: 8:00 – 12:00

8h30-9h00 am

Welcoming of guests

————— 9h00-10h30 am SESSION 3 —————

Strategies for the future: Duty and commitment

9h00- 10h30 am

Strategies to prevent the recruitment or the use
of children by armed forces or groups

10h30 11h00 am

Break

— 11h00-11h30 am Summary of discussions —

————— 11h30-12h00 am Closing Sessions —————

Presentation of the «Paris Principles»

Guidelines on the protection and reintegration
of children associated with armed forces
or armed groups.

Approval on the «Paris Commitments»

Commitments to protect children unlawfully
recruited or used by armed forces or armed
groups.

*Each session, chaired by a moderator,
will give the floor to countries
that have been witnesses to the child soldier
phenomenon or contributors
to assistance programmes and to representatives
of NGOs and intergovernmental bodies.*

*Addresses during sessions will last 10 minutes each,
followed by a debate with the audience.*





[The action of France on the normative level]

France is a party to the international legal instruments used to fight the phenomenon of children in armed conflict. It has made this issue a priority of its work at the Security Council and has chaired the Security Council Working Group in charge of this issue since its inception in November 2005.

A public meeting of the Security Council took place on this matter in New York, under the French presidency on 24 July 2006. Upon closing, member States reaffirmed their support to the Working Group and renewed their commitment to cooperate intensively on this issue.

On the occasion of this meeting, France announced that it would make a new contribution of 5 million euros to UNICEF. Overall, France's grant to UNICEF in 2006 reached 13.8 million euros – an increase of almost 35% in two years. In particular, France supports the NGO coalition «Stop the use of child soldiers» and the French coalition created in 2004, as well as UNICEF's Innocenti Research Center in Florence, which researches the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups and armed forces.

France has initiated several resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council, and especially Resolutions 1379, 1539 and 1612. However, many efforts must still be made to ensure that these resolutions are observed by all parties involved in armed conflicts. In this context, France considers that the Security Council must be ready to adopt practical, targeted measures towards parties that would refuse to cooperate with the United Nations for the release of all child soldiers.

[France's involvement in the field]

French Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy went to Uganda and Burundi in February 2006 with UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ms. Rimah Salah to highlight the value France attaches to the fight against children's involvement in armed conflict.

France intervenes in the field, in collaboration with UNICEF, and contributed to a 3-year cooperation programme mainly devoted to children in armed conflict (education, media awareness, and support to better regional coordination). This programme, which amounted to 2.3 million euros, was completed in January 2006. It was implemented in Congo, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone. Results have already been noted, even though the programme is still being evaluated: in Congo, 8,000 children benefited from it. In Guinea Bissau, about 1,930 people took part in training, advocacy and awareness-raising activities in the context of demobilizing and reintegrating former child soldiers. In Sierra Leone, this programme enabled UNICEF to fight against sexual exploitation and domestic violence against children.

Other projects should soon be launched, such as support to UNICEF in the Democratic Republic of Congo to work locally on this set of issues. The initiative takes place within the framework of the follow-up to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612. In Uganda, several projects are being reviewed for implementation in the course of 2007.

New measures to fund projects in line with the priority given by France to issues linked with the reintegration of child soldiers should be adopted shortly. The «Free Children from War» conference will give France an opportunity to make these commitments public.



[UNICEF action on the normative level]

For 60 years, UNICEF has been the leading global agency devoted to children. UNICEF works in 156 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood to the end of adolescence. The first world supplier of vaccines to developing countries, UNICEF works for the health and nutrition of children, quality basic education for all boys and all girls, their access to water and sanitation services and their protection from violence, exploitation and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF is entirely funded by the voluntary contributions of private individuals, companies, foundations and governments.

For UNICEF, the protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse is an integral part of the defense of children's rights to survival, growth and development.

"It is important to say that these are not lost generations. 90% of children who were involved in serious acts of violence are able to make progress in their lives if they are reintegrated into a protective environment and if they have access to school and other basic services. When they are given all these options, the great majority of children can recover physically and psychologically."

Manuel Fontaine,
Child Protection Division at UNICEF.

[UNICEF's involvement in the field]

Over the last ten years, UNICEF has led programmes to manage and reintegrate children associated with armed groups and armed forces in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Uganda, the democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Sri Lanka.

These programmes aim to:

- ▶ Get children out of the armed groups and armed forces;
- ▶ Ensure their access to essential social and health services;
- ▶ Reconnect these children with their family and community environment;
- ▶ Offer sustainable alternatives to them through schooling, vocational training, psychosocial support, family mediation and support to communities;
- ▶ Offer specific projects to girls who have been victims of sexual violence and to child mothers.

For instance, in Burundi, the programmes supported by UNICEF have made it possible, since 2003, to release and reintegrate more than 3,000 children associated with armed forces and armed groups, while providing them with psychosocial support.

[The involvement of UNICEF France]

The contribution of UNICEF France, which has been steadily increasing for several years, will amount to 39 million euros in 2006 according to the latest estimates. UNICEF France devotes a part of its resources to the direct funding of programmes in the field.

Since 2000, UNICEF France has been supporting programmes assisting children, and especially girls, who have been associated with armed groups and forces. UNICEF France has allocated 5.54 million euros to these programmes in ten countries: Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Salvador, and Sudan to support the demobilization, reintegration, return to school, enrollment prevention and vocational training for children.

In 2004, which was the 40th anniversary of UNICEF France, the association focused on the issue of child soldiers and expressly called on civil society to put pressure on the countries highest authorities to address this problem. It managed to mobilize more than 235,000 individuals, among whom numerous French personalities, to sign a petition. The "Free Children from War" conference will be an opportunity to symbolically hand all the signed forms to the Government of France and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children in Armed Conflict



History of international mobilization against the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict

1949

Adoption of the Geneva Conventions (and in 1977 its additional protocols, Article 77).

1989

The Convention on the Rights of the Child bans the recruitment and use of children under 15 in armed conflict and imposes that States ensure the physical and psychological rehabilitation of child victims of war.

1996

Publication of the report of Ms. Graça Machel, independent expert, former Minister of Education of Mozambique, entitled: «**The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children**».

1997

Appointment of the first Special Representative of the Secretary General for children and armed conflict, Mr. Olara Otunu. Since February 7, 2006, this position has been filled by Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, lawyer and former President of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.

1997

Adoption of the Capetown Principles by UNICEF and several NGOs in South Africa on 30 April.

1998

Creation of the “Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers» whose founding members are: Amnesty International, Terre des Hommes, Human Rights Watch, the Save the Children Alliance, the Jesuit Refugees Service and the Quaker United Nations Office.

1999

Adoption of Convention 182 of the International Labor Organization (ILO), defining the military use of children under 18 as one of the worst forms of child labor and a form of exploitation. To this day Convention 182 has been ratified by 163 States.

2002

Coming into effect of the additional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, bringing to 18 the minimum recruitment age by a party to a conflict. This Protocol has been ratified by 110 countries.

2002

The International Criminal Court defines as a war crime the drafting or involvement of children under 15 in armed conflict and the fact that they are forced to participate in combat. It also defines sexual violence against children as a war crime. The first Session of the Assembly of State Parties, which took place in September 2002, established the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims.

Since 1999, the Security Council has been particularly mindful of the fate of children in wars. It has adopted six resolutions pertaining to children in armed conflict, and particularly child soldiers:

- ▶ Resolutions **1261 and 1314**, adopted in 1999 and 2000; call all parties to conflict to respect international applicable law to the protection of children, including girls, in armed conflict;
- ▶ Resolution **1379**, adopted in 2001, requests that the UN Secretary General put on a black list –the parties to an armed conflict recruiting children;
- ▶ Resolutions **1460 and 1539**, adopted in 2003 and 2004; call on inclusion of children in DDR, and consider imposing country specific targeted measures against parties to conflict;
- ▶ Resolution **1612 adopted on April 22, 2005**, initiated by France and Benin, which created a monitoring and information dissemination mechanism on six types of child rights violations as well as a Security Council Working Group in charge of following up, notably by recommending measures on a per situation basis. It urges parties that use children in conflict to set up action plans for their release and their reintegration.



Testimonies

«The use of children in war is not a new thing, but it is perpetuated in today's conflicts, despite breakthroughs in children's rights. It is often connected with interests that have nothing to do with those of children, such as the thirst for power, access to natural resources or weapon trafficking.»

Manuel Fontaine, UNICEF Child Protection Division.

[Forced enrollment, voluntary enlistment]

«They beat up my father and arrested him. They did not really force me to follow them – they just asked me if I wanted to join them. I said yes.»

John, Libéria.

«I decided to follow them, I did not know where else to go.»

Fatimata, Sierra Leone.

«My elder sister was sick. One of my brothers was too young, the other had just gotten married. That's why I volunteered. Someone had to make this sacrifice, and I was the least indispensable.»

Betty, Sri Lanka.

«After this, the rebels became my family, and I did whatever I could to please my father [the commander].»

Daniel, Libéria.

[Various realities, a common agony and a difficult return to civilian life]

«My role was first to carry a torch for adult rebels. I was later shown the use of hand grenades. Less than a month later, I was carrying an AK47 rifle and even a G3.»

Georges, Burundi.

«I saw people getting their hands cut off, a 10-year old little girl who got raped and died, and so many men and women burnt alive... So many times I just cried in my heart because I did not dare to cry in the open.»

Sarah, Sierra Leone.

«We thought no civilian had the right to tell us what to do.»

James, Sierra Leone.

«They would give us tons of drugs, all the time, to make us feel strong and courageous and to obey all their orders, no matter what. I often took opium and valium. I think there are many things I do not remember because of the drugs they gave us. It was as if demons controlled me. But I know I am the one who did it all, and I feel bad when I think of all the things I did. There is nothing worse than war.»

Henri, Libéria.

«The first time, it is hard to kill. Then it becomes easier, you are less afraid... Even now, when I am angry, I think: why not just kill him?»

**Marie, Ouganda,
Interviewed by reporter Karin Badt.**

«To kill people and see them killed destroys this human thing which makes you take care of others.»

Oscar, Sierra Leone.

[The suffering of girls who were victims of sexual violence]

«They are ashamed and in their families' eyes they are impure.»

**Memunatu Bangura,
who runs a Caritas/UNICEF programme in Sierra Leone.**

[Hope for reintegration]

«I want to become somebody in Government – a politician, so I can take care of my country and my people.»

Philipp, Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée.

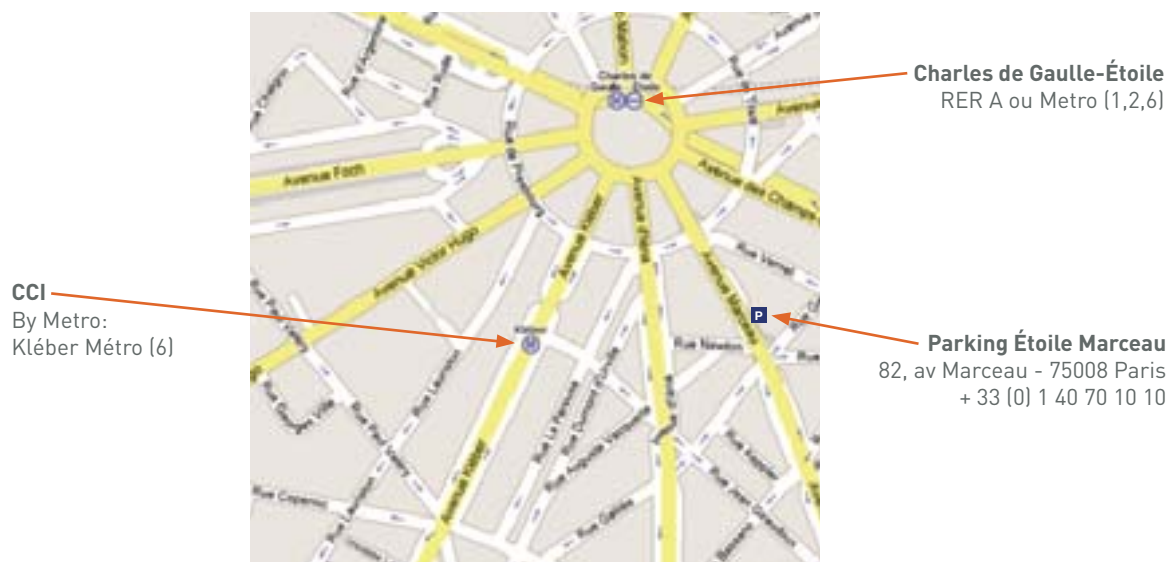
«I will never neglect or abandon my sisters. Their welfare is the top priority in my mind. I learned a lot of things, here at the Center: gardening, construction. And I am studying here. Now I want to complete my studies so I can get a job. I want to be a teacher, this is what I hope. I realize that I can change my life. I want to have a peaceful life.»

Sylvia, Philippines.

Practical information

1 Place of conference

Centre des Conférences Internationales, CCI : 19 avenue Kléber - 75016 Paris - Tel.: + 33 (0) 1 43 17 68 17.
Avenue des Portugais is the main entrance for the Conference.



2 Conference timetable

Monday February 5th 2007

8:30-9:45 a.m.: welcome

9:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: opening session

12:45-2:30 p.m.: lunch break at the Centre International des Conférences, Paris

2:30-6:00 p.m.: conference

6:00-7:00 p.m.: transfer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 37 Quai d'Orsay

7:00-8:30 p.m.: reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 37 quai d'Orsay

Tuesday February 6th 2007

8:00-9:00 a.m.: welcome

9:00-12:00 a.m.: conference

11:30 a.m.-12 noon: closing sessions. Statement on the «Paris Commitments» and endorsement session

3 Useful numbers

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Cape Town Principles [1997]

Adopted at the symposium on the prevention of recruitment of children into the armed forces and on demobilization and social reintegration of child soldiers in Africa

As part of the effort to deal with the tragic and growing problem of children serving in armed forces, the NGO Working Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF conducted a symposium in Cape Town (South Africa) from 27 to 30 April 1997.

[Prevention of child recruitment]

- 1** A minimum age of 18 years should be established for any person participating in hostilities and for recruitment in all forms into any armed force or armed group.
- 2** Governments should adopt and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, raising the minimum age from 15 to 18 years.
- 3** Governments should ratify and implement pertinent regional and international treaties and incorporate them into national law.
- 4** Governments should adopt national legislation that sets a minimum age of 18 years for voluntary and compulsory recruitment and should establish proper recruitment procedures and the means to enforce them. Those persons responsible for illegally recruiting children should be brought to justice.
- 5** A permanent International Criminal Court should be established with jurisdiction covering, inter alia, the illegal recruitment of children.
- 6** All parties to a conflict should conclude written agreements that include a commitment to the establishment of a minimum age for recruitment. (The SPLM/Operation Lifeline Sudan Agreement on Ground Rules [July 1995] is a useful example.)
- 7** Monitoring, documentation and advocacy are fundamental to eliminating child recruitment and to informing programmes to this end. Community efforts to prevent child recruitment should therefore be developed and supported.
- 8** Programmes to prevent recruitment of children should be developed in response to children's expressed needs and aspirations.
- 9** In programmes for children, particular attention should be paid to those most at risk of recruitment: children in conflict zones, children (especially adolescents) separated from or without families, including those in institutions; other marginalized groups (e.g., children living or working on the streets, certain minorities, refugees and the internally displaced); and economically and socially deprived children.
- 10** All efforts should be made to keep or reunite children with their families or to place them within a family structure.
- 11** Birth registration, including for refugees and internally displaced children, should be ensured, and identity documents should be provided to all children, particularly to those most at risk of recruitment.
- 12** Access to education, including secondary education and vocational training, should be promoted for all children, including refugee and internally displaced children.
- 13** Special protection measures are needed to prevent recruitment of children in camps for refugees and internally displaced persons.
- 14** The international community should recognize that children who leave their country of origin to avoid illegal recruitment or participation in hostilities are in need of international protection. Children who are not nationals of the country in which they are fighting are also in need of international protection.
- 15** Controls should be imposed on the manufacture and transfer of arms, especially small arms. No arms should be supplied to parties to an armed conflict that are recruiting children or allowing them to take part in hostilities.



[Demobilization of child soldiers]

- 16** All persons under the age of 18 should be demobilized from any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group.
- 17** Priority should be given to children in any demobilization process.
- 18** In anticipation of peace negotiations or as soon as they begin, preparations should be made to respond to the needs of children who will be demobilized.
- 19** The issue of demobilization of children should be included in the peace process from the beginning.
- 20** Where children have participated in armed conflict, peace agreements and related documents should acknowledge this fact.
- 21** The demobilization process should be designed as the first step in the social reintegration process.
- 22** The duration of the demobilization process should be as short as possible and should take into account the child's dignity and the need for confidentiality.
- 23** Family tracing, contacts and reunification should be established as soon as possible.
- 24** Priority should be given to health assessment and treatment.
- 25** Monitoring and documentation of child involvement in hostilities, as well as advocacy for demobilization and release of children, should be undertaken throughout the armed conflict. Community efforts to this end should be supported.
- 26** The special protection needs of children who leave any armed force or group during ongoing hostilities must be addressed.
- 27** Illegally recruited children who leave the armed forces or armed groups at any time should not be considered as deserters. Child soldiers retain their rights as children.
- 28** Special assistance and protection measures must be taken on behalf of children and those adults who were recruited as children. (See, for example, 'Basic Rights Recognized for the Angolan Under-aged Soldiers').
- 29** To the extent possible, the return of demobilized children to their communities under conditions of safety should be ensured.
- 30** With regard to services and benefits for demobilized soldiers, non-discrimination of demobilized children should be ensured.
- 31** The rights of children involved in the demobilization process must be ensured and their rights must be respected by the media, researchers and others.

[Reintegration into family and community life]

- 32** Family reunification is the principal factor in effective social reintegration.
- 33** Programmes should be developed with the communities, build on existing resources and take account of the context and community priorities, values and traditions.
- 34** The capacity of the family and community to care for and protect the child should be developed and supported.
- 35** Programmes targeted at former child soldiers should be integrated into programmes for the benefit of all war-affected children.
- 36** Provision should be made for educational activities that reflect: the loss of educational opportunities as a consequence of participation in hostilities; the age and stage of development of the children; and the potential of these activities for promoting the development of self-esteem.
- 37** Provision should be made for relevant vocational training and opportunities for employment, including for children with disabilities.
- 38** Recreational activities are essential for psychosocial well-being.
- 39** Programme development and implementation should incorporate the participation of the children and reflect their needs and concerns with due regard for the context of reintegration.
- 40** Psychosocial programmes should assist children in developing and building those capacities that will facilitate reattachment to families and communities.
- 41** Monitoring and follow-up of children should take place to ensure reintegration and receipt of rights and benefits. Community resources (e.g., religious leaders, teachers or others, depending on the situation) should be used.
- 42** In order to be successful, reintegration of the child within the community should be carried out within the framework of efforts towards national reconciliation.
- 43** Programmes to prevent recruitment of child soldiers and to demobilize and reintegrate them should be jointly and constantly monitored and evaluated with communities.

Care and reintegration programs

Estimated number of demobilized and reintegrated children since 1998

[Summary – Current programs]

Situations	Estimated number of demobilized and reintegrated children since 1998*	Source
Burundi	3 015	UNIDDRS
Ivory Coast	1 194	UNICEF
Democratic Republic of the Congo	27 346	UNIDDRS
Haïti	not available	
Républic of Congo	not available	
Somalia	360	UNICEF
Sudan	16 400	UNICEF
Colombia	2 916	UNICEF
Nepal	not available	
Philippines	not available	
Sri Lanka	5 900	UNICEF
Uganda	20 000	UNICEF
Liberia	11 780	UNICEF
Angola	3 200	UNICEF

[Summary – Achieved programs]

Situations	Estimated number of demobilized and reintegrated children since 1998*	Source
Timor-Leste	not available	
Indonesia	23	UNIDDRS
Central African Republic	23	UNIDDRS
Rwanda	not available	
Afghanistan	4 000	UNICEF
Sierra Leone	8 334	UNICEF

Sources :

1. UNIDDRS – UN Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration System
2. UNICEF



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