



UNITAR

Peace and Security Series

Children in armed conflict

New resolve to protect the most vulnerable

Draft Information Note

New York, 28 November 2007

BACKGROUND

In dozens of conflicts around the world, children are the primary victims of grave human rights violations. In 1996, the landmark United Nations report by Graça Machel "Impact of Armed Conflict on Children" (A/51/306) proposed comprehensive actions for the international community to improve the protection and care of children affected by armed conflict.

Much progress has been made in the last decade: the Optional Protocols (2000) to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child outlaw the recruitment of children under the age of 18 years; demobilization and reintegration programs for children are becoming part of UN peacemaking and peacebuilding; advocacy and reporting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict has furthered the commitment of the UN and Member States to this issue. Security Council Resolution 1612 established the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict through which the Council monitors grave violations of child rights in situations of armed conflict. The fact that the first trial of the International Criminal Court focuses on charges of conscripting and enlisting child soldiers is another indicator of progress.

OBJECTIVES

This briefing is intended to:

- take stock of recent achievements in the monitoring and sanctioning of grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict;
- discuss if and how these developments reflect and respond to the needs of child victims.

PARTICIPANTS

The briefing is designed for members of Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations in New York, as well as representatives from other United Nations entities, international organizations, and civil society, who are involved or interested in the issues under discussion.

DATE AND VENUE

The briefing will be held on Wednesday, 28 November 2007 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The working language is English.

REGISTRATION

Please complete the attached nomination form and return it to the following address:

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Registration deadline: 26 November 2007

* This Briefing is organized in collaboration with the Friends of the International Criminal Court.