

Madam Moderator,

The 20th anniversary of the mandate on children and armed conflict is a sobering reminder of our collective responsibility to those most affected and vulnerable to armed conflicts. We commend the work of the Office of the Secretary General's Special Representative and all concerned partners. We particularly take note of the work and advancements made in addressing the challenge in various manifestations in our neighbourhood in South and South East Asia.

We thank the distinguished panelists for their contributions, and would wish to make three points on which we'd be happy for the panelists to react or respond:

First, recent trends in conflict-induced displacements make it obvious that children are often caught in mixed migratory movements, and may not necessarily fall under the neat categories of refugees or migrants. We consider it crucial that such children must not be left out from the purviews of the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants the membership is implementing or working on.

Second, the worrying trend of using children as human shields during unrest or conflict has remained a constant pre-occupation. It is absolutely critical that non-state actors continue to be sensitized about the existing international human rights and humanitarian law norms and the importance of compliance, an area where civil society actors can play a constructive role.

Third, as non-Council members, we have interest in having enhanced access to the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflicts. The current Working Group President has just set some new benchmarks of transparency in the Council's work, and we would expect him to create further opportunities for non-Council members to engage with the Working Group's work towards his anticipated paradigm shift.

To conclude, as a UN Peacekeeping Operations TCC, Bangladesh will continue remain mindful of protection of children and not using schools for military or peacekeeping purposes. We look forward to participating in the Paris Conference later this month.

I thank you.