



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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**TALKING POINTS
ON THE
COMMEMORATION OF 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT**

1. I wish to thank the Special Representative Madam Leila Zerrougui and all the panelists for the briefing and to extend special thanks to Ms. Elwaad for her courage and the work she is doing for children in Somalia.
2. As we commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Children in Armed Conflict, we are called to reflect on the impact of conflict on children, some of which is due to our collective failure to prevent and end conflicts. We must together continue to actively seek ways not only to end the conflicts but to also address their root causes. We must also continue to hold accountable parties in conflict who fail to respect International human rights and humanitarian law.
3. Over the past decade, the world has witnessed an increase in violent extremist ideology propagated by terrorist groups to advance their nefarious ideologies and the targeting of children. In Kenya, the Al Shabaab terrorist group continues in its quest to infiltrate our educational institutions for purposes of radicalization and recruitment. These terrorist activities have resulted in the loss of life of our women, men and children, with the attacking of Garissa University where dozens of our young people died still fresh in our memories.

4. Kenya has instituted measures to counter violent extremism, and has done so in full compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law. We have also in place an elaborate counter-radicalization strategy targeting educational institutions at elementary, primary, secondary and tertiary levels.
5. Sexual exploitation by those entrusted to protect civilians must be condemned and we commend the Secretary General for his response to the allegations against the UN Personnel on allegations of sexual exploitation. Kenya as a troop contributing country is committed to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2272 that seeks to hold accountable troop contributing countries that fail to credibly deal with allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse of children. Kenya is already implementing the resolution through the strengthening of sexual exploitation and abuse pre-deployment training.

We can work together to do better to ensure a world where children maintain and enjoy the right to be children,