

**INTERVENTION BY
REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
COMMEMORATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANDATE
ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT**

WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2017

Thank you Ms Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict and moderator of today's panel discussion. Our appreciation also goes to all panelists for providing context to our conversation in commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the children and armed conflict mandate.

2. The plight of children bearing the brutal brunt of war had the attention of the international community after the Graca Machel report twenty years ago. She called for daring solutions to address the impact of conflict on children, prompting our collective response to dole out the necessary prescriptions in the General Assembly and the Security Council through the establishment of children and armed conflict agenda.

3. The landscape of international child protection has evolved over the past two decades through the development of a unique set of tools within the UN system to end grave violations against children, channel assistance and support to children affected by conflict, and hold parties to conflict accountable for their obligations under international law.

4. There are two aspects of the mandate we wish to highlight today, first being the high-level advocacy of the SRSG for children and armed conflict who gives children scarred by war a voice and as a champion for their cause. Her important role must simply continue to be supported. Madame Zerrougui and her predecessors have been successful in galvanizing international commitment for child protection, both through close engagement with Member States and partners as well as through campaigns that raise broad awareness and support.

5. The second aspect is on the deployment of child protection advisers (CPAs) in UN peace operations which have been an instrumental tool in mainstreaming and implementing the child protection mandate in the field. CPAs, together with other actors in the UN Country Task Force, play an important advocacy role in dialogue with Governments and parties to conflict on child protection concerns, including developing action plans.

6. We hear the many examples by previous speakers on the necessity to progress the children and armed conflict. In our view, the testimony of Ilwad Elman is proof of how important a role CPAs can play in this regard, either on goals specified in SDGs or beyond. Given its important role, it is only fair for us to lend our weight and support their work on the field, providing adequate resources and building the necessary capacity.

7. Before I conclude, we would reaffirm our commitment to the agenda for a better future of children affected by war. We also take this opportunity to pay our delegation's tribute to Ms Leila Zerrougui for her outstanding work as a true advocate for children impacted by armed conflict. Malaysia had the opportunity to work very closely with you, Ms Zerrougui and we are aware of how instrumental you were in advancing the children and armed conflict agenda. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavor.

Thank you.