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**Statement by Ambassador Andrej Logar,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations**

at the

**Informal Meeting of the General Assembly on Children and Armed
Conflict**

8 February 2017

on behalf of the

HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional Network composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand, my own country Slovenia, and South Africa as an observer.

Protection of children affected by armed conflict has been one of the priorities of the Human Security Network since its establishment in 1998. Therefore, the Network welcomes this important debate on the 20th anniversary of the first milestone towards making the protection of children affected by armed conflict a reality – the establishment of the mandate of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for children and armed conflict.

The devotion and tireless work of all three special representatives in close collaboration with UNICEF and other partners has undoubtedly played a pivotal role in the protection for children affected by armed conflicts. In these 20 years a strong normative framework was developed to support all those involved in protecting children affected by armed conflict.. All the stakeholders of these endeavours should be proud of what has been achieved, how many children's lives have been changed for the better.

However, every day reports on the plight of children affected by different armed conflicts around the world remind us that we cannot rest. We must continue striving to generate change for all these children suffering from different forms of violations in armed conflicts. More than ever the killing and maiming, recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflicts, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access is a reality for many children. Our response must adapt to the changing nature of armed conflicts.

The Human Security Network recalls that all parties to armed conflicts have to ensure that the civilian population, including children, is protected, and that international humanitarian law is respected. We must also ensure that children receive adequate support to overcome the long-term effects of armed conflicts and provide them with rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities as important pillars to create sustainable peace.

As an advocate of a people-centred, holistic approach to human security, complementing the more traditional understanding of national and international security, the Human Security Network stands ready to continue to promote the protection of those most vulnerable in conflict and thus supports the endeavours of the Special Representative and others actors in trying to find a better future for children affected by armed conflict.