



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT



**NORWAY IN
THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL**
Presidency - January 2022



Canada



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ESTONIA TO THE UN

MÉXICO

MISSION PERMANENTE ANTE LA
ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS (ONU)



25th Anniversary of the Children and Armed Conflict Mandate

With Launch of the Study on the evolution of the Children and Armed Conflict mandate

1996-2021

18 January 2022

15:00-17:00 EST

Virtual Event

1. Concept/Event

To mark the 25th anniversary of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC), the Office of the SRSG CAAC, together with Norway and other co-sponsors are organizing a commemorative high-level event.

The event will be an opportunity to look back and recognize the progress for children affected by conflict over the past 25 years through collective efforts. It will also be an occasion to look ahead and explore ways in which the mandate could further evolve and generate more progress for the protection of boys and girls in the coming years. During the event, a study on the evolution of the CAAC mandate since its establishment will be launched.

2. Background and rationale

The mandate of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict was established by the [UN General Assembly in December 1996](#) (A/RES/51/77) to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict, raise awareness, promote the

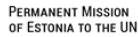


collection of information about the plight of children affected by war and foster international cooperation to improve their protection.

The first UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict was appointed in 1997 by the Secretary-General and reports annually to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. Since 1999, the systematic engagement of the UN Security Council has placed the situation of children affected by armed conflict at the heart of issues affecting peace and security.

The same year, the Security Council identified and condemned the six grave violations affecting children the most in times of conflict: recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access for children. Progressively, all except the denial of humanitarian access became triggers for listing in the annexes of the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict to the Security Council.

Through its resolution 1612 (2005), the Security Council also equipped the mandate with additional tools for action: it established the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) of grave violations against children as well as the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG CAAC). The SCWG CAAC regularly meets to discuss CAAC-related issues based on the information collected and verified by the MRM, including country reports of the Secretary-General on CAAC. Based on these reports, the SCWG CAAC adopts conclusions through which it makes recommendations to parties to conflict, governments, donors, and United Nations actors, on measures to end violations and promote the protection of conflict-affected children. As such, resolution 1612 established an additional body through which concrete measures of accountability and engagement can be pursued.



Ending and preventing the six grave violations is the focus of the Special Representative’s work and advocacy. Over the past quarter century, efforts from her office added to those of partners from the international community, civil society organizations and UN entities have resulted in tangible progress for the protection of children living in conflict situations through the adoption of a series of comprehensive tools. Since the establishment of the CAAC mandate, 172 State Parties have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Children on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC), more than 170,000 children have been released from parties to conflict, hundreds of commitments have been taken by parties to conflict to better protect children including 37 action plans, 20 of which are currently under implementation. Fifteen parties to conflict were successfully delisted following the completion of action plans. And millions of children can benefit from enhanced protection because of those engagements.

3. Objectives

The event will be an opportunity to reflect on the progress for conflict-affected children in the past 25 years, to highlight the added value of the Children and Armed Conflict mandate as part of the human rights, peace and security, peacebuilding, development and humanitarian agendas, and to explore how, by focusing on prevention, can the mandate further contribute to sustainable peace.

The event will also be an opportunity for UN partners, Member States, and civil society organizations to hear more/discuss the achievements for children and the key findings of the study, to emphasize the importance of joint advocacy for the protection of conflict-affected children and mostly, to hear more from those at the heart of the CAAC mandate: the children themselves.

4. Format

- 2-hour high-level commemorative event
- Virtual event with online presentation and participation



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT



**NORWAY IN
THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL**
Presidency - January 2022



Canada



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ESTONIA TO THE UN

MÉXICO
MISIÓN PERMANENTE ANTE LA
ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS (OMU)



5. Agenda

Opening remarks (15:00 –15:15)

Video message by Secretary-General António Guterres

H.E. Anniken Huitfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Ms. Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Panel interventions (15:15-16:15)

Ms. Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director

Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations (*Video message*)

Mr. Forrest Whitaker, Advocate for Children Affected by War (*Video message*)

General Romeo Dallaire, Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security

Ms. Aisha Zannah, a young activist from Maiduguri (Nigeria) and girl's education advocate

H.E. Nicolas de Rivière, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Abdou A Barry, Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. María del Carmen Squeff, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

Interventions from the audience (16:15-17:00)

This event will be moderated by H.E. Mr. Robert Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations