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Children and armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, prepared following consultations and covering the period from January to December 2024, is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2427 (2018). The report includes trends regarding the impact of armed conflict on children and information on violations committed, as requested by the Council in its resolution 1612 (2005) and subsequent resolutions.[1] Where possible, violations are attributed to parties to conflict and the annexes to the present report include a list of parties engaging in violations against children, namely the recruitment and use of children, the killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against children, attacks on schools, hospitals and protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals,[2] and the abduction of children.

2. The information contained in the present report was vetted for accuracy by the United Nations. Where information is not verified, it is qualified as such. Where incidents were committed earlier but verified only in 2024, that information is qualified as relating to an incident that was verified at a later date.

3. The information does not represent the full scale of violations against children but provides United Nations-verified trends in grave violations against children, given that access for monitors to affected areas and for victims to specialized service

[1] See also the relevant reports of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in specific country situations, in particular in the Central African Republic (S/2024/93), Colombia (S/2024/161), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2024/705), Iraq (S/2024/247), Nigeria (S/2024/559), the Philippines (S/2024/626) and the Sudan (S/2024/443), and the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to the Human Rights Council on children and armed conflict (A/HRC/58/18).

[2] For the purposes of the present report, the phrase "protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals", used in Security Council resolutions 1998 (2011), 2143 (2014) and 2427 (2018), as well as in the statements by the President of the Security Council of 17 June 2013 (S/PRST/2013/8) and 31 October 2017 (S/PRST/2017/21), refers to teachers, doctors, other educational personnel, students and patients.

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provision, as well as the decrease in funding for child protection, are ongoing challenges. Attacks against community and civic leaders, on human rights defenders and on monitors of violations against children are concerning and threaten monitoring capacity.

4. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict adopted a pragmatic approach to promote broad and effective protection for children. Reference to a situation does not seek to make any legal determination as to whether situations which are referred to in the present report constitute armed conflicts within the context of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto, nor does it prejudge the legal status of the non-State parties involved in these situations. Accordingly, the report documents situations in which apparent violations of international norms and standards are of such gravity as to warrant international concern, given their impact on children. My Special Representative brings these situations to the attention of Governments, which bear the primary responsibility for protecting children, in order to encourage them to take remedial measures.

II. Situation of children and armed conflict

A. Overview of trends and patterns

5. In 2024, violence against children in armed conflict reached unprecedented levels, with a staggering 25 per cent surge in the number of grave violations in comparison with 2023. Children bore the brunt of relentless hostilities and indiscriminate attacks, and were affected by the disregard for ceasefires and peace agreements and by deepening humanitarian crises. The United Nations verified 41,370 grave violations, of which 36,221 were committed in 2024 and 5,149 were committed earlier but verified in 2024. Violations affected 22,495 children in 2024 (14,383 boys, 7,320 girls, 792 sex unknown). While non-State armed groups were responsible for almost 50 per cent of grave violations, government forces were the main perpetrator of the killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access.[3] The sharp rise in the number of children subjected to multiple violations from 2,684 in 2023 to 3,137 in 2024, through the convergence of abduction, recruitment and sexual violence, represented an alarming escalation in brutality. Some 16,482 children formerly associated with armed forces or groups received protection or reintegration support during 2024.

6. State actors and non-State armed groups showed a persistent and blatant pattern of grave violations and lack of respect of the special protections afforded to children, compounded by the use of private security companies. Warfare strategies included attacks on children, the deployment of increasingly destructive weapons, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the systematic exploitation of children for combat. Deliberate harm was inflicted on children, instilling terror, affecting their psychological health and driving mass and prolonged displacement. The urbanization of conflicts and their intensification across borders, the climate emergency and regional insecurity increased the vulnerabilities of children. State and non-State armed actors continued to commit grave violations with impunity.

[3] Information related to the denial of humanitarian access to children is presented pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) and follows guidelines of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict. The information presented herein does not reflect the full humanitarian access situation in the countries concerned.

7. The violations verified in the greatest numbers were the killing (4,676) and maiming (7,291) of 11,967 children, the denial of humanitarian access (7,906 incidents), the recruitment and use of children (7,402) and the abduction of children (4,573). The number of children detained for actual or alleged association with armed groups including those which are currently under sanctions enacted by the Security Council, or for national security reasons, surged to 3,018, further depriving children of their rights. The highest numbers of grave violations were verified in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (8,554), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (4,043), Somalia (2,568), Nigeria (2,436) and Haiti (2,269). The sharpest percentage increases in the number of violations were verified in Lebanon (545%), Mozambique (525%), Haiti (490%), Ethiopia (235%) and Ukraine (105%).

8. Children were killed and maimed, often resulting in life-long disabilities, in appalling numbers by the use of explosive ordnance, including explosive remnants of war, mines and improvised explosive devices, and by crossfire between parties to conflict. Attacks on civilian objects, including schools and hospitals, dramatically increased the vulnerability of children.

9. The number of cases of sexual violence increased by 35 per cent, including a dramatic increase in the number of cases of gang rape, which underlines the systematic use of sexual violence as a deliberate tactic of warfare while children were associated with parties to conflict or to enhance territorial control, displace populations and attack the specific ethnicity or gender of children, among other objectives. Girls were abducted for the purposes of recruitment and use, and for sexual slavery. Sexual violence continues to be vastly underreported owing to stigmatization, the fear of reprisals, harmful social norms, the absence of, or lack of access to, services, impunity and safety concerns, as reported in my report on conflict-related sexual violence (SYMBOL).

10. The denial of humanitarian access has reached an alarming scale, with more humanitarian workers, including United Nations personnel, killed in 2024 than ever before. Parties to conflict attacked aid convoys and personnel, arbitrarily detained humanitarian personnel, restricted humanitarian activities and movements, adopted bureaucratic and administrative barriers and interfered with humanitarian operations, resulting in children being left without access to healthcare, education, protection and life-saving necessities.

B. Challenges and the way forward

11. The drawdown of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions combined with the global decrease in funding for child protection negatively affected child protection by significantly reducing United Nations capacity to verify and respond to grave violations. Despite this capacity decrease, the United Nations was still able to verify the shocking increase in the number of grave violations. System-wide solutions and sustainable funding streams are urgently required to ensure the mainstreaming of the children and armed conflict mandate in the development, human rights, peace and security work of the Organization.

12. Reinforced funding for and commitments to upholding child rights and protection should be prioritized at a time of unprecedented vulnerabilities of children. Any further reduction in resources will strain operations, limit protection capacities and reduce life-saving assistance, thus having a devastating impact on conflict-affected children.

III. Information on grave violations

A. Situations on the agenda of the Security Council

Afghanistan

13. The United Nations verified 1,647 grave violations against 559 children (434 boys, 125 girls) and 244 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

14. The recruitment and use of 11 boys by the Taliban in combat (4) and support roles (7) was verified.

15. The killing (180) and maiming (363) of 543 children (422 boys, 121 girls) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (454), cross-border shelling and air strikes by Pakistan armed forces (50), the Taliban (22), Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-KP) (10) and the National Resistance Front (NRF) (7). Casualties resulted mainly from explosive ordnance (491).

16. Sexual violence against 6 children (2 boys, 4 girls) was attributed to the Taliban (5) and unidentified perpetrators (1).

17. Attacks on 135 schools (48) and hospitals (87), including attacks on protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals (20), were attributed to the Taliban (128), unidentified perpetrators (6) and NRF (1).

18. The military use of 31 schools by the Taliban was verified, and 14 of these schools were subsequently vacated.

19. The Taliban abducted 2 children (1 boy, 1 girl).

20. Some 950 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access by the Taliban (941) and unidentified perpetrators (9) were verified and involved interference in humanitarian activities (828).

Developments and concerns

21. I note the engagement between the Taliban and the United Nations for the release of children, which resulted in the reintegration of 58 children. I urge the Taliban to engage with the United Nations to adopt measures to end and prevent grave violations against children, including the recruitment and use of children. I call upon the Taliban to define a child as every human being below the age of 18 years, develop age assessment guidelines and establish child protection units at recruitment centres.

22. I call upon the Taliban to increase explosive ordnance clearance and risk education efforts.

23. I encourage the international community to support child reintegration programmes, explosive ordnance risk education, clearance and victim assistance.

24. I call upon the Taliban and all parties to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access. I urge the Taliban to revoke their decision to severely restrict Afghan women from working for international and national non-governmental organizations and the United Nations, which limits the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

25. I urge the Taliban to lift the suspension of girls' education.

Central African Republic

26. The United Nations verified 733 violations against 479 children (283 boys, 196 girls) and 608 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

27. A total of 331 children (238 boys, 93 girls) were recruited and used by armed groups (296): Coalition des patriotes pour le changement (CPC) (191) (Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC) (123), anti-balaka (60); Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation (3R) (6), Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC) (1), an unidentified CPC group (1)); Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (70); Parti pour le rassemblement de la nation centrafricaine (PRNC) (29); the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)-Kony (5); Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (1); and unidentified perpetrators (2); and by government and pro-government forces in support roles (33) (joint operations of Wagner Ti Azande and Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (21), the national defence forces (7), other security personnel (5)). A total of 51 children served in combat roles with armed groups.

28. Four boys were detained for alleged association with armed groups and subsequently released.

29. The killing (27) and maiming (76) of 103 children (65 boys, 38 girls) was attributed to: government and pro-government forces (43) (national defence forces (30), national defence forces/internal security forces (3), Wagner Ti Azande/Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (4), other security personnel (3), the national defence and security forces (2), internal security forces (1)); Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (25); unidentified perpetrators (17); CPC (17) (3R (12), UPC (5)); and Coalition des patriotes pour le changement Fondamentale (CPC-F)/UPC (CPC-F/UPC) (1). Casualties resulted mainly from explosive ordnance (35).

30. Sexual violence against 114 girls was attributed to: CPC (58) (UPC (26), 3R (22), anti-balaka (9), unidentified CPC (1)); government and pro-government forces (35) (national defence forces (21), Wagner Ti Azande/Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (9), internal security forces (3), Wagner Ti Azande (2)); PRNC (11); unidentified perpetrators (4); Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (4); and Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (2). Four elements of the national defence forces were arrested. Most girls were raped during association with armed groups (101).

31. Attacks on 13 hospitals (9) and schools (4) were attributed to government and pro-government forces (7) (other security personnel (4), Wagner Ti Azande/Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (2), national defence forces (1)); CPC (4) (UPC (3), 3R (1)); and unidentified perpetrators (2). Schools and hospitals (12) were used by government and pro-government forces (11) (national defence forces (4), national defence forces/other security personnel (3), other security personnel (3), Wagner Ti Azande (1)); and an unidentified CPC group (1). At the time of writing, the national defence forces continued to use one of the schools.

32. The abduction of 141 children (93 boys, 48 girls) was attributed to CPC (101) (UPC (55), anti-balaka (30), 3R (13), unidentified CPC (2), MPC (1)); government and pro-government forces (24) (Wagner Ti Azande/Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (17), national defence forces (3), Wagner Ti Azande (1), internal security forces (1), other security personnel (1) and other security personnel/demobilized anti-balaka elements used as proxies by other security personnel (1)); Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (14); Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (1) and PRNC (1). Most children were abducted for the purposes of recruitment and use and/or sexual violence (135).

33. Some 31 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (14); CPC (12) (UPC (6), 3R (4), FPRC (1) and unidentified CPC (1)); CPC-F (4) (anti-balaka (2), UPC (1),[4] FPRC (1)) and national defence forces (1).

[4] After the creation of Coalition des patriotes pour le changement Fondamentale (CPC-F) on 30 August 2024.

Developments and concerns

34. I welcome the signing between the Government and the United Nations of a protocol for the handover of children associated with armed forces and armed groups to civilian actors.

35. I commend the establishment by the Government of vocational centres for conflict-affected children and encourage donors to fund reintegration and vocational programmes. I encourage the Government to continue gender-sensitive reintegration of children.

36. I commend the Government for establishing a commission of inquiry on violations of international law, including grave violations against children, committed in Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, and call upon the Government to pursue accountability.

37. I note the issuance by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe and Wagner Ti Azande of a command directive prohibiting elements from committing grave violations. I remain concerned by violations committed by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe and Wagner Ti Azande. Wagner Ti Azande members are reportedly recruited into or deployed alongside the government forces.

38. I am deeply concerned by the increasing number of cases of killing and maiming, sexual violence and abduction attributed to government and pro-government forces. I urge government and pro-government forces to end and prevent grave violations against children, to cease the military use of schools, to appoint child protection focal points in deployed units of the national defence and security forces and to issue command directives on child protection to all government and pro-government forces, including other security personnel.

39. I urge FPRC, UPC and MPC to implement their respective action plans and to release children from their ranks. I urge all armed groups to cease all grave violations. I call upon the armed forces and armed groups to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded access of humanitarian actors.

40. I call upon the Government, with United Nations support, to make child-friendly programmes, safe reporting and response mechanisms accessible to survivors.

41. I commend ongoing efforts towards accountability for crimes of sexual violence and call upon the Government to prioritize the establishment of a national action plan to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence committed by national defence and security forces and to implement the revised national plan of action to fight conflict-related sexual violence.

42. I call upon the Government to ensure the screening of persons recruited into national defence and security forces in parallel to the national disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme.

Colombia

43. The United Nations verified 646 grave violations against 513 children (317 boys, 189 girls, 7 sex unknown), including Indigenous children (195), children of African descent (47) and Venezuelan children (13), and 15 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

44. Some 450 children (279 boys, 166 girls, 5 sex unknown) were recruited and used by Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) dissident groups (326) (including Estado Mayor Central (EMC) (156), Comandos de la Frontera (15), Segunda Marquetalia (14)), Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) (56), Clan del Golfo (also known as Autodefensas Gaitanistas de

Colombia) (39), unidentified perpetrators (30) and the Colombian armed forces (2). Some 87 children were used in combat roles.

45. Some 78 children (58 boys, 20 girls) were killed (27) and maimed (51) by unidentified perpetrators (41), including 7 in crossfire, and by FARC-EP dissident groups (27) (including EMC (11), Comandos de la Frontera (1), Segunda Marquetalia (1)), Clan del Golfo (6), ELN (2) and the Colombian armed forces (2). Casualties resulted mainly from explosive ordnance (30).

46. Sexual violence against 33 girls perpetrated by ELN (12), FARC-EP dissident groups (12), Clan del Golfo (7) and unidentified perpetrators (2) was verified.

47. Attacks on 42 schools (27) and hospitals (15) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (22), FARC-EP dissident groups (17) (including EMC (7), Comandos de la Frontera (2)), Clan del Golfo (1), ELN (1) and the Colombian armed forces (1). Some 35 schools were militarily used by FARC-EP dissident groups (14) (including EMC (6), Comandos de la Frontera (1)), unidentified perpetrators (9), Clan del Golfo (5), ELN (4) and the Colombian armed forces (3). All schools were vacated.

48. Some 16 children (8 boys, 6 girls, 2 sex unknown) were abducted by ELN (6), FARC-EP dissident groups (5) (including Segunda Marquetalia (3), EMC (1)) and unidentified perpetrators (5).

49. Some 24 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (11), ELN (7), FARC-EP dissident groups (4) and Clan del Golfo (2).

Developments and concerns

50. I welcome the indictment by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace of former FARC-EP commanders for war crimes, including the recruitment and use of children and the perpetration of sexual violence and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity against children. I call upon the Government to guarantee access to justice for victims of grave violations.

51. I encourage the Government to adopt the intersectoral commission's strategy for preventing the recruitment and use of, and sexual violence against, children, to implement it with an intersectional approach and to allocate adequate resources for its implementation at the local level. I call upon the Government to strengthen reintegration services and protection strategies for the families of victims and for persons involved in the protection of children.

52. I encourage the Government to implement its national action plan on the Safe Schools Declaration. I reiterate my call upon the armed forces to stop the organization of civilian-military activities involving children. I call upon the Government to scale up the clearing of explosive ordnance and risk education thereon, as well as victim assistance.

53. I am concerned by the increase in the recruitment and use and the killing and maiming of children, cases of sexual violence against children and attacks on schools and hospitals. I am alarmed at the disproportionate impact on Indigenous children and children of African descent. I urge all armed groups to unconditionally release all children and cease the use of mines. I urge armed groups to adopt action plans with the United Nations and to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access.

54. I call upon negotiating parties in peace talks to consider child protection measures in their negotiations and agreed outcomes, including in ceasefire protocols, and to recognize the age of 18 as the minimum age of recruitment and use.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

55. The United Nations verified 4,043 grave violations against 3,418 children (2,217 boys, 1,201 girls) and 453 violations that occurred in previous years were verified.

56. Some 2,365 children (1,651 boys, 714 girls) were recruited and used by Raia Mutomboki (405), Chini ya Tuna (310), Mouvement national congolais (MNC) (299), Mai-Mai Kashumba (197), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) (163), Nyatura (138), Mai-Mai Mazembe (119), Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain (APCLS) (94), Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO) (73), Mai-Mai Byamungu Etoka (58), Forces populaires pour la libération (FPL) (45), Mai-Mai Zaïre (44), Mai-Mai Namushosi (44), Mai-Mai Kakobanya (40), Alliance des forces de résistance congolaise (AFRC) (34) and 35 other armed groups (302), including Nduma défense du Congo-Rénové (NDC-Rénové) (24), Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) (22), Twigwaneho (15), Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda-Forces combattantes abacunguzi (FDLR-FOCA) (7), and Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI) (5). Some 797 children were used in combat roles.

57. Some 131 children (96 boys, 35 girls) were detained for alleged association with armed groups by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (128), the Congolese National Police (2) and the National Intelligence Agency (1). All children were released following United Nations advocacy.

58. The killing (190) and maiming (248) of 438 children (317 boys, 121 girls) were attributed to M23 (244), CODECO (47), ADF (38), Nyatura (17), APCLS (12), unidentified perpetrators (10), Raia Mutomboki (8), Mai-Mai Zaïre (7), Mouvement congolais de développement pour la nation (MCDPIN) (7), FDLR-FOCA (5), 15 other armed groups (29), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12) and the Congolese National Police (2). Casualties resulted mainly from the direct impact of military operations (250).

59. Sexual violence was perpetrated against 358 girls by M23 (68), CODECO (63), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (47), Raia Mutomboki (33), Nyatura (24), Résistance pour un État de droit au Burundi (RED Tabara) (14), ADF (12), Mai-Mai Mazembe (12), APCLS (11), MNC (8) and 20 other armed groups (66). Fifteen perpetrators, from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12), armed groups (2) and the Congolese National Police (1), were prosecuted.

60. Attacks on 54 schools (28) and hospitals (26), including against protected persons (6) were attributed to M23 (18), CODECO (13), ADF (7), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (5), Raia Mutomboki (5), APCLS (1), the Burundi National Defence Force (1), Mai-Mai Issa-Ntoka (1), Mai-Mai Kasilence (1), Mai-Mai Mupekenya (1) and unidentified perpetrators (1).

61. Some 30 schools were used for military purposes by unidentified perpetrators (14), M23 (6), the Burundi National Defence Force (3), CODECO (2), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2), Nyatura (2) and ADF (1).

62. Some 815 children (532 boys, 283 girls) were abducted by ADF (265), M23 (178), CODECO (61), Raia Mutomboki (50), Chini ya Tuna (43), Nyatura (40), Mai-Mai Mazembe (29), APCLS (25), unidentified perpetrators (15), AFRC (11), Force patriotique et intégrationniste du Congo (FPIC) (11), Wazalendo (10), MCDPIN (10), Mai-Mai Zaïre (9) and 19 other armed groups (58). Children were abducted for the purpose of recruitment and use (461).

63. Some 13 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were verified, including the killing of one humanitarian worker by the Armed Forces of the Democratic

Republic of the Congo (6), CODECO (3), the Congolese National Police (1), Raia Mutomboki (1), MCDPIN (1) and a non-identified Mai-Mai group (1).

Developments and concerns

64. I welcome the commitment of the Government to implementing the 2012 action plan. I urge the Government to prioritize the prevention of sexual violence, including within the armed and security forces. I welcome the prosecution of perpetrators of grave violations, including for sexual violence, and encourage the continuation of accountability efforts. I am concerned about the increase in the number of children detained for alleged association with parties to the conflict and I call upon the Government to treat children in line with international juvenile justice standards.

65. I commend the cooperation between the Government and the United Nations on screening, age assessment and separation of children from the Armed Forces and National Police during recruitment processes. I welcome the training on child protection of regional forces deployed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

66. I welcome the signature of unilateral declarations to end and prevent grave violations against children by five armed group commanders, which resulted in the release of 350 children, following United Nations advocacy. I welcome the voluntary release of over 1,200 children by other armed groups.

67. I urge all parties to cease attacks on schools and hospitals and vacate all schools. I commend the Government for strengthening the implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration.

68. I encourage the Government to continue to implement the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization programme at the provincial level, while prioritizing children and survivors of sexual violence. I also reiterate my call upon donors to support this programme.

69. I remain deeply alarmed by the devastatingly high and increasing number of grave violations against children, including sexual violence against girls. I call upon armed groups to unconditionally release all children and cease all violations.

70. I urge all parties to the conflict and stakeholders at the regional level to work towards a political resolution of the conflict, prioritizing child protection.

Haiti

71. The United Nations verified 2,269 grave violations against 1,373 children (699 girls, 618 boys, 56 unknown) and 24 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

72. A total of 302 children (256 boys, 46 girls) were recruited and used by the Viv Ansanm coalition (64), Wharf Jérémie (39), Baz Gran Grif de Savien (31), Ti Bois (24), Bout Ba (20), Grand Ravine (20), 103-Zombies (19), unidentified armed gangs (18), Boston (16), Vitelhomme (Kraze Barye) (9), Delmas 6 (8), Team Ascenseur (6), Village de Dieu “5 Segond” (5), Kokorat San Ras (4), Simon Pelé 6 (4), Canaan (4), so-called Taliban (4), unidentified self-defence group (3), 400 Mawozo (2) and Ti Gabriel (2). Most children were used in combat roles (158).

73. The Haitian National Police detained 26 boys for their alleged association with armed gangs, in a penitentiary where minors are held alongside adults under harsh conditions.

74. The killing (213) and maiming (138) of 351 children (235 boys, 68 girls, 48 sex unknown) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (70), Viv Ansanm (54), the Haitian National Police (27), Wharf Jérémie (21), Baz Gran Grif de Savien (18), Bel-Air (15), Delmas 95 (15), La Saline (12), Grand Ravine (11), Les Argentins de

Haut Bel-Air (11), Village de Dieu “5 Segond” (9), Boston (9), Simon Pelé 6 (9), Chen Mechan (8), 103-Zombies (8), Solino self-defence group (7), Ti Bois (7), Vitelhomme (Kraze Barye) (6), Belekou (6), 400 Mawozo (5), Terre Noire (5) and 11 other armed gangs and self-defence groups (18). Casualties resulted mainly from attacks on communities (218).

75. Sexual violence against 566 children (523 girls, 43 boys) was attributed to Viv Ansanm (411), unidentified perpetrators (53), Chen Mechan (18), Village de Dieu “5 Segond” (14), Ti Gabriel (10), Grand Ravine (8), 400 Mawozo (7), Team Ascenseur (6), Canaan (6), Les Argentins de Haut Bel-Air (5), Delmas 6 (5), Ti Bois (4), Base Pilate (4), 103-Zombies (4), Wharf Jérémie (2), Simon Pelé 6 (2), Boston (2), Belekou (2) and armed gangs (3). Cases involved rape (406) and gang rape (160).

76. Attacks on 154 schools (98) and hospitals (56) were attributed to Viv Ansanm (47), unidentified armed gangs (46), 400 Mawozo (12), Kraze Barye (9), Baz Gran Grif de Savien (6), Ti Bois (5), Bel-Air (4), Village de Dieu “5 Segond” (4), Kokorat San Ras (4), Grand Ravine (3), Wharf Jérémie (3), G-Pèp (2) and some seven armed gangs (8), and the Haitian National Police (1). Incidents involved the looting or destruction of facilities (88) and the killing of, attacks on or abduction of protected persons (66).

77. The military use of 27 schools (25) and hospitals (2) was attributed to Viv Ansanm (6), and 11 other armed gangs (including 400 Mawozo (2), Grand Ravine (2), Baz Gran Grif de Savien (1)) (21).

78. The abduction of 154 children (84 boys, 62 girls, 8 sex unknown) was attributed to Baz Gran Grif de Savien (41), Viv Ansanm (30), Bout Ba (20), Boston (16), 400 Mawozo (8), Wharf Jérémie (6), Grand Ravine (5) and some 11 armed gangs (28). Most frequently, the purpose of abduction was for ransom (56).

79. Some 728 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to Viv Ansanm (254), unidentified armed gangs (119), 400 Mawozo (72), Baz Gran Grif de Savien (67), Kokorat San Ras (54), Ti Bois (47), Vitelhomme (Kraze Barye) (30), Les Argentins de Haut Bel-Air (19), Chen Mechan (14), Wharf Jérémie (13) and some 14 armed gangs (39). Incidents included interference in humanitarian delivery through the use of roadblocks (394).

Developments and concerns

80. I welcome the creation by the transitional authorities of a taskforce to implement the handover protocol on the transfer and reintegration of children allegedly associated with armed gangs and the release of detained children to civilian actors. I encourage donors to support reintegration programmes for children.

81. I welcome the collaboration with the United Nations for the capacity-building of the Haitian National Police and the Multinational Security Support Mission on child protection. I call upon the transitional authorities to treat children associated with armed gangs in line with international juvenile justice standards.

82. I am deeply alarmed by the surge in grave violations, in particular the number of incidents of recruitment and use, sexual violence, abduction and the denial of humanitarian access by armed gangs. I reiterate my call upon security forces and armed gangs to cease all violations against children and to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Iraq

83. The United Nations verified 58 grave violations against 50 children (36 boys, 14 girls) and 6 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

84. Some 7 children (1 boy, 6 girls) were recruited and used by the People's Defence Forces of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (HPG/PKK) (6) and Da'esh (1) in combat roles. One girl remains associated with HPG/PKK and the boy was killed in clashes between Da'esh and the Iraqi security forces.

85. As at 31 December 2024, 531 children (524 boys, 7 girls) remained in detention on national security-related charges, including for their actual or alleged association with armed groups, primarily Da'esh.

86. Some 42 children (33 boys, 9 girls), were killed (26) and maimed (16) by unidentified perpetrators (36), Turkish military air strikes against HPG/PKK targets (2), the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2), the international counter-Da'esh coalition (1) and by crossfire between the Iraqi security forces and Da'esh (1). Casualties resulted from explosive ordnance (36).

87. One attack on a health facility carried out by HPG/PKK was verified.

88. The abduction of eight children (2 boys, 6 girls) by Da'esh (2 boys) and HPG/PKK (6 girls), including for the purpose of recruitment and use (6), was verified. Seven children were released.

Developments and concerns

89. I encourage the Government to institutionalize the national child protection framework within security forces and strengthen multisectoral coordination and reintegration support.

90. I am concerned at the continued recruitment and use of children by HPG/PKK and Da'esh and urge all parties to cease the recruitment and use of children and release all children.

91. I call upon the Government to continue to provide explosive ordnance risk education and clearance, prioritize the clearing of areas of return and child-friendly spaces, and provide assistance to victims.

92. I note the release of 220 children who had been detained on national security-related charges, but I remain concerned by the continued detention of children on such charges, including for their actual or alleged association with Da'esh. I reiterate that children should be treated in line with international juvenile justice standards. I call upon the Government to release detained children to child protection actors and to ensure their access to services and protection.

93. I commend the Government for the repatriation of 1,529 Iraqi children (783 boys, 746 girls) from the north-eastern Syrian Arab Republic. I reiterate my call upon all countries concerned to facilitate and expedite the voluntary repatriation of children with suspected family ties to Da'esh.

Israel and the State of Palestine[5]

94. The United Nations verified 8,554 grave violations against 2,959 children (1,925 boys, 1,034 girls; Israeli children (15), Palestinian children (2,944)) in Israel (10); and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (8,544) (West Bank, including East Jerusalem (3,688); and in the Gaza Strip (4,856)). In addition, 2,789 grave violations that occurred in 2023 in the Gaza Strip (2,788) and in Israel (1) were verified. In addition, the United Nations received reports of the killing of 4,470 children in the Gaza Strip in 2024, which are pending verification.

[5] For the purposes of the present report, the present section provides information on grave violations in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and Israel.

95. Verified grave violations were attributed to Israeli armed and security forces (7,188), unidentified perpetrators (43), Israeli settlers (42), individual Palestinian perpetrators (11), Palestinian Authority Security Forces (7), Hizbullah (3) and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran (1). In addition, the process of attribution of responsibility relating to 1,259 verified violations is ongoing.

96. The United Nations verified the killing of 3 Israeli boys in the West Bank in attacks by individual Palestinian perpetrators. In addition, the killing of two Israeli boys that occurred in 2023 in the Gaza Strip, who had been abducted by al-Mujahideen Brigades and Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, was verified.

97. A total of 12 Israeli children (10 boys, 2 girls) were maimed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (4), and in Israel (8) by individual Palestinian perpetrators (8); by Hizbullah (3); and by shrapnel (1), when the Israeli armed forces intercepted missiles launched by the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

98. Two attacks on schools in Israel were attributed to the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran (1) and to shrapnel (1) when the Israeli armed forces intercepted missiles launched by the Houthis (who call themselves Ansar Allah).

99. The United Nations verified the use of 27 Palestinian boys by Israeli armed and security forces as human shields during operations in the West Bank (5) and in the Gaza Strip (22). There are reports of the use of human shields by Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and other Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip.

100. The United Nations verified the detention of 951 Palestinian children (940 boys, 11 girls) for alleged security offences by Israeli armed and security forces in the West Bank (602), in East Jerusalem (259) and the Gaza Strip (90), including the detention by Israeli armed and security forces of a Palestinian girl whose whereabouts remain unknown. Israeli authorities reported that 112 Palestinian children were held under administrative detention, without charge or trial as at 31 December 2024, in addition to 25 children transferred to Israel from the Gaza Strip and detained under the "unlawful combatant" designation.

101. The United Nations verified the killing of 97 Palestinian children (92 boys, 5 girls) in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In the Gaza Strip, the United Nations verified the killing of 1,259 Palestinian children (662 boys, 597 girls) and the process of attribution is ongoing. Of the total (1,356), 754 were boys and 602 were girls. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the United Nations verified the killing of Palestinian children attributed to Israeli armed and security forces (90, including as a result of live ammunition (70) and air strikes (20)), Palestinian Authority Security Forces (2), Israeli settlers (1) and unidentified perpetrators (4) (as a result of unexploded ordnance (1), crossfire between Palestinian Authority Security Forces and armed Palestinians (2) and simultaneous fire by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers (1)). Further, the killing of 1,637 children (794 boys, 843 girls) between October and December 2023 was verified. Most incidents were caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas by Israeli armed and security forces.

102. A total of 1,561 Palestinian children (1,131 boys, 430 girls) were verified as having been maimed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (620), and in the Gaza Strip (941). The United Nations verified maiming attributed to Israeli armed and security forces (1,507), Israeli settlers (35), unidentified perpetrators (15) (including as a result of unexploded ordnance (3), simultaneous gunfire by Israeli armed and security forces and Israeli settlers (4)) and Palestinian Authority Security Forces (4). In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, most children were maimed by live ammunition (313), teargas inhalation (168), rubber-coated metal bullets (20) and air strikes (10). In Gaza, most children were maimed by Israeli armed and security forces air strikes (787), tank shelling (84) and live ammunition (57). In addition, the

United Nations verified that 1,147 Palestinian children (666 boys, 481 girls) were maimed between October and December 2023 in the Gaza Strip, by Israeli armed and security forces (1,123) and unidentified perpetrators (24).

103. Attacks on 502 schools (148) and hospitals (354), including on protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals (110), and on ambulances (41), were attributed to Israeli armed and security forces (473); unidentified perpetrators (22); Israeli settlers (6); and Palestinian Authority Security Forces (1) in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (131), and in the Gaza Strip (371). The United Nations verified 13 military uses of schools (8) and health facilities (5), including ambulances (1), by Israeli armed and security forces (10), Palestinian Authority Security Forces (1), armed Palestinians (1) and Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (1). Schools in the Gaza Strip have remained closed since 7 October 2023.

104. The denial of humanitarian access by Israeli armed and security forces (5,091) was verified in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (2,828) and in the Gaza Strip (2,263). In the Gaza Strip, the United Nations verified 2,263 denials of humanitarian access by Israeli authorities related to the coordination of humanitarian aid missions being denied (1,262) or access being impeded (1,001) by Israeli authorities, out of 5,321 planned missions. In the context of Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip, humanitarian personnel were killed, including at least 280 United Nations personnel since 7 October 2023. On some occasions, Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and other Palestinian armed groups also shelled crossings and checkpoints and obstructed roads that are proximate to or co-located with Israeli military positions that were used to deliver humanitarian aid. In the West Bank, Israeli armed and security forces delayed or obstructed medical care to critically injured children (5). In addition, 2,823 permit applications (1,600 for boys, 1,223 for girls) to Israeli authorities for children from the West Bank to gain access to specialized medical treatment were denied or not approved in time to reach scheduled hospital appointments, while 5,327 applications were approved.

Developments and concerns

105. I am appalled by the intensity of grave violations against children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, notably by the widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas. I am deeply concerned by the significant rise in grave violations in the Gaza Strip, and I am deeply alarmed by the escalating violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

106. I am deeply alarmed by the continued increase in grave violations against children perpetrated by Israeli armed and security forces, notably the high number of children killed and maimed, attacks on schools and hospitals, including ambulances and protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access. I reiterate my calls upon Israel to abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including its obligations to respect the special protections afforded to children, to protect schools and hospitals and to comply with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attacks, and to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including in air strikes. I urge Israel to pursue accountability for grave violations against children.

107. I am alarmed by the attacks carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinian children, including in proximity to, and with the support of, Israeli security forces. I reiterate my grave concern regarding the continued excessive use of force during law enforcement operations, including increasingly militarized operations, in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and reiterate that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use intentional lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable

as a measure of last resort. I am alarmed by the continued increase in the number of children detained by Israel and by reports of physical violence directed against them during detention. I call upon Israel to uphold international juvenile justice standards, and to end the administrative and other arbitrary detention of children.

108. I urge Israel to develop and sign an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals, on the basis of the letters addressed by my Special Representative to Israel in 2023 and 2024, including clear, time-bound commitments to end and prevent grave violations against children, as proposed by the United Nations.

109. I call upon Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and other Palestinian armed groups to release unconditionally all hostages, alive or dead, in a dignified manner and to facilitate access for humanitarian actors. I am shocked by reports that children held hostage were subjected to violence. I call upon Palestinian armed groups to protect schools and hospitals, including protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals, and refrain from using them for military purposes.

110. I call upon all Palestinian armed groups to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, to respect the special protections afforded to children, to cease attacks that target civilians, including children, and to cease indiscriminate attacks from densely populated areas in the Gaza Strip towards Israeli civilian population centres. I further call upon Palestinian armed groups to facilitate access for humanitarian actors. I call upon Hamas and Hizbullah, as well as the Houthis, to cease their indiscriminate attacks on Israeli population centres. I call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law and to cease attacks that affect civilians, including children.

111. I urge Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and affiliated factions, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad's Al-Quds Brigades to develop and sign action plans with the United Nations to end and prevent the killing and maiming and abduction of children, on the basis of the letters previously addressed by my Special Representative to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in 2024, including clear, time-bound commitments to end and prevent grave violations against children, as proposed by the United Nations.

112. I condemn attacks against humanitarian operations, premises and workers, including the killing of humanitarian personnel. I call upon Israel to ensure that assistance reaches those who need it, and to allow and facilitate full, rapid, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian aid and personnel into and within the Gaza Strip.

Lebanon

113. The United Nations verified 669 grave violations against 628 children (315 boys, 175 girls, 138 sex unknown).

114. The United Nations verified the recruitment and use of 76 boys by unidentified armed groups (18), Jund Ansar Allah (13), Fatah (10), Palestinian Islamic Jihad (9), Al-Shabab al-Muslim (8), Nusrah Front (7), Hizbullah (6) and Jund al-Sham (5).

115. Six boys were detained by national authorities for alleged association with armed groups. Four boys were released.

116. The United Nations verified the killing (234) and maiming (327) of 561 children (248 boys, 175 girls, 138 sex unknown) by the Israeli armed forces (541) and unidentified perpetrators (20), mostly through the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

117. Attacks on 32 schools (1) and hospitals (31) were attributed to the Israeli armed forces, killing or injuring health personnel.

118. The military use and closure of four United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools by Fatah and Jund al-Sham was ongoing at the time of writing.

Developments and concerns

119. I am alarmed by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the increase in the number of children killed and maimed and the devastating impact on healthcare. I urge Israel to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law and to cease attacks that affect civilians, including children, and attacks on hospitals and other medical facilities. I call upon Hizbullah and all other parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law. I call upon all parties to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

120. I reiterate my call upon the Government to release children detained for alleged association with armed groups to civilian child protection actors and to treat them in line with international juvenile justice standards, and to provide access to reintegration programmes. I recommend that the Government develop a handover protocol for the transfer of these children to civilian child protection actors.

121. I call upon the armed groups to cease the recruitment and use of children, and to release all children. I reiterate my call to Fatah and Jund al-Sham to vacate schools in Palestine refugee camps.

122. I am concerned by the contamination caused by unexploded ordnance. I call upon the donor community to fund explosive ordnance risk education, clearance and victim assistance and to fund child protection programmes.

123. Furthermore, owing to the high number of children recruited and used and killed and maimed and the high number of attacks on schools and hospitals by parties to the conflict in Lebanon, I urge parties to the conflict to immediately implement measures to protect children. I will be particularly attentive to this situation in the preparation of my next report.

Libya

124. The United Nations verified 58 grave violations against 22 children (18 boys, 4 girls).

125. A total of 154 children were detained under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Police. Some 65 children of multiple nationalities were arrested by the Judicial Police and detained with their mothers, including 34 children who continue to be detained in Judaydah prison for their mothers' alleged association with Da'esh. The number does not include all children detained in official or unofficial detention facilities.

126. The killing (4) and maiming (18) of 22 children (18 boys, 4 girls) was attributed to explosive remnants of war (15) and crossfire (7).

127. Some 36 incidents of denial of humanitarian access were attributed to the Department for Combating Illegal Migration (10), the administrative department of the Government of National Unity (7), the Ministry of State for Illegal Migration in the House of Representatives-designated government (3), the Intelligence Service (2), the Intelligence Apparatus and an administrative entity in the East (2), the Libyan Coast Guard, the Ministry of Interior and an unidentified administrative entity of the Government of National Unity (2), the western branch of the Internal Security Agency

(1), the Libyan Coast Guard and an administrative department of the Government of National Unity (1), the Libyan National Army (LNA) (1), the military police in eastern Libya (1), an unknown administrative entity in the East (1), the Libyan Coast Guard, Ministry of Interior and an unidentified administrative entity of the Government of National Unity (1), Ministry of Interior (1), Tareq Bin Ziyad Brigade affiliated with LNA (1), the Command of the South Operation under LNA (1), and an unknown authority in the East (1).

Developments and concerns

128. I welcome the commitment made by the Government of National Unity to my Special Representative to adopt measures to end and prevent grave violations against children in cooperation with the United Nations.

129. I urge the Libyan authorities and responsible actors to end child detention, including for children detained for their mothers' alleged association with Da'esh, pursue alternatives to detention, provide children with safe family-based care and facilitate access by the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies to detention centres. I call upon all countries concerned to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of children allegedly associated with Da'esh.

Mali

130. The United Nations verified 892 grave violations against 778 children (612 boys, 161 girls, 5 sex unknown) and 87 violations that occurred in previous years.

131. Some 285 children (264 boys, 21 girls) were recruited and used by Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) (74) (unidentified JNIM (39), Ansar Eddine (32), Katiba Serma (3)); unidentified perpetrators (66); Platform (57) (Mouvement pour le salut de l'Azawad des Daoussak (MSA-D) (21), Ganda Koy (20), Ganda Izo (5), Mouvement pour le salut de l'Azawad of the Chamanamas (MSA-C) (4), Ganda Lassal Izo (2), unidentified MSA groups (2), Coordination des mouvements et forces patriotiques de résistance I (CFPRM-1) (2), Groupe d'autodéfense des Touaregs Imghad et leurs alliés (GATIA) (1)); Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) (38) (Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad (MNLA) (26), Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad (MAA) (12)); Dan Nan Ambassagou (28); Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) (10); in support roles by the Malian armed forces (7); dozo traditional hunters (3) and Fulani armed elements (2).

132. The Malian Defence and Security Forces detained 12 boys for alleged association with armed groups and handed them over to child protection structures; 11 of them were detained for extended periods, in total disregard for the 2013 handover protocol.

133. The killing (159) and maiming (228) of 387 children (267 boys, 116 girls, 4 sex unknown) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (212); JNIM (82) (Front de libération du Macina (FLM) (54), unidentified JNIM (18), Katiba Serma (10)), the Malian armed forces (45), foreign security personnel (26), ISGS (20) and Ganda Koy (2).

134. The rape of 32 girls by unidentified perpetrators (22), ISGS (4), JNIM (3) (unidentified JNIM (2), Ansar Eddine (1)), the Malian armed forces (2) and Ganda Lassal Izo (1) was verified.

135. Attacks on 22 schools (10) and hospitals (12) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (10), JNIM (5) (Ansar Eddine (2), Katiba Serma (2), FLM (1)), foreign security personnel (3), the Malian armed forces (2), ISGS (1) and Ganda Koy (1).

136. Some 119 children (99 boys, 19 girls, 1 sex unknown) were abducted by unidentified perpetrators (80), JNIM (31) (FLM (15), Ansar Eddine (10), unidentified

JNIM (5), Katiba Serma (1)), foreign security personnel (4), ISGS (3) and the Malian armed forces (1).

137. Some 47 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (30), JNIM (10) (unidentified JNIM (8), Ansar Eddine (2)), foreign security personnel (3), ISGS (3) and the Malian armed forces (1).

Developments and concerns

138. I welcome the establishment of a National Directorate of Justice for Children and the transitional authorities' efforts, in cooperation with the United Nations, to implement the Safe Schools Declaration. I reiterate my call upon the transitional authorities to finalize the bill on the protection of education from attacks. I welcome the engagement between the transitional authorities and the United Nations to adopt a prevention plan to protect children.

139. I urge the transitional authorities to notify the United Nations of children associated with government forces and ensure their release. I once again urge the transitional authorities to finalize the revision of the Child Protection Law and Code, which should criminalize the recruitment and use of children under the age of 18.

140. I urge the transitional authorities to fully implement the 2013 handover protocol.

141. I remain concerned by the continued recruitment and use of children by Platform and CMA. I urge them to implement their respective action plans and release all children from their ranks.

142. The significant increase in killing and maiming is alarming. I urge all parties to protect children and to release associated children, and allow and facilitate safe, timely, and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Myanmar

143. The United Nations verified 2,138 grave violations against 1,762 children (1,248 boys, 499 girls, 15 sex unknown) and 121 violations that occurred in previous years. The United Nations received reports of some 1,200 grave violations, which are pending verification.

144. The United Nations verified the recruitment and use of 482 children (467 boys, 15 girls) by the Myanmar armed forces, including related forces and affiliated militias (400) (jointly by Myanmar armed forces and the Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) (150), jointly by the Myanmar armed forces and the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) (150), the Myanmar armed forces (94), affiliated militia (3), the border guard forces (2), Pyu Saw Htee (1)); the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) (34); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (15), including jointly by KIA and the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (1); the Arakan Army (AA) (12); the Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) (5); the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) (4); the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) (4); the Chin National Front (CNF) (4); the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) (2); the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) (1); and Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) (1). Children were used in combat roles by the Myanmar armed forces (378) and armed groups (82). Some 16 children were released following advocacy by communities and the United Nations.

145. The detention of 47 children (45 boys, 2 girls) was attributed to the Myanmar armed forces for alleged association with armed groups.

146. The killing (262) and maiming (999) of 1,261 children (767 boys, 480 girls, 14 sex unknown) was attributed to the Myanmar armed forces, including related forces

and affiliated militias (840) (Myanmar armed forces (815), joint force of Myanmar armed forces and Pyu Saw Htee (13), border guard forces (4), joint force of Myanmar armed forces and border guard forces (3), border guard police (3), Pyu Saw Htee (2)); AA (20); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (17); MNDAA (6); ARSA (1); Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) (1); Pa-O National Army (PNA) (1); KIA (1); and unidentified perpetrators (374). Most casualties were caused by explosive ordnance (1,089).

147. The rape of 2 girls was attributed to the Myanmar armed forces (1) and KIA (1).

148. Attacks on 133 schools (100) and hospitals (33), were attributed to the Myanmar armed forces, including affiliated militias (103) (Myanmar armed forces (102), joint force of Myanmar armed forces and Pyu Saw Htee (1)); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (15); AA (4); KNLA (1); and unidentified perpetrators (10). Most attacks resulted from air strikes (80).

149. The military use of schools (59) and hospitals (6) was attributed to the Myanmar armed forces, including related forces and affiliated militias (53) (Myanmar armed forces (49), joint force of Myanmar armed forces and Pyu Saw Htee (2), militia group (1), Myanmar Police Force (1)); MNDAA (3); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (4), including jointly by CNF and the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (2); SSPP/SSA (1); joint force of TNLA and MNDAA (1); TNLA (1); AA (1); and PNA (1). Five schools and one hospital were vacated.

150. The abduction of 85 children (72 boys, 12 girls, 1 sex unknown) by the Myanmar armed forces, including related forces and affiliated militias (41) (Myanmar armed forces (39), joint force of Myanmar armed forces and Pyu Saw Htee (2)); KIA (33); MNDAA (4); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (2); ALP (1); PNA (1); and unidentified perpetrators (3) was verified. Most children were abducted for the purposes of recruitment and use (57).

151. The United Nations verified 175 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access by the Myanmar armed forces, including related forces and affiliated militias (147) (Myanmar armed forces (141), joint force of Myanmar armed forces and ARSA (1), joint force of Myanmar armed forces and PNA (1), affiliated militias (2), Myanmar Police Force (1), Pyu Saw Htee (1)); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (7); PNA (5); MNDAA (4); KIA (3); SSPP/SSA (2); AA (2); the United Wa State Army (1); and unidentified perpetrators (4). Humanitarian access has worsened due to administrative restrictions, violence against humanitarian actors, movement restrictions and communication shutdowns.

Developments and concerns

152. I am deeply alarmed by the continued high numbers of grave violations against children, especially the scale of the killing and maiming of children. I am gravely concerned by the pattern of indiscriminate and targeted attacks by the Myanmar armed forces, including the increasing use of explosive ordnance in populated areas.

153. I urge the Myanmar armed forces and other parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, to end and prevent grave violations against children and to take accountability measures for violations against children.

154. I am concerned by the number of grave violations perpetrated by armed groups, the People's Defence Forces and local defence groups. I urge them to engage with the United Nations to adopt measures to protect children.

155. I reiterate my call upon the Myanmar armed forces and all other parties to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access.

156. I reiterate my call upon the Myanmar armed forces to engage with the United Nations for the full implementation of the 2012 joint action plan on the recruitment and use of children. In the context thereof, I welcome the release of 93 persons identified jointly with the United Nations as minors at the time of recruitment. I call upon the Myanmar armed forces to adopt a joint action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent killing and maiming, sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and abductions.

157. I urge the Myanmar armed forces to release children, implement the 2019 Child Rights Law and act in line with international juvenile justice standards. I call upon the Myanmar armed forces to ensure that no child is recruited under the 2010 People's Military Service Law.

158. I welcome efforts by KNLA, including its political wing, the Karen National Union (KNU), to develop an action plan with the United Nations. I welcome the engagement of the National Unity Government and I call upon the National Unity Government to adopt concrete measures for the protection of children.

Somalia

159. The United Nations verified 2,568 grave violations against 1,992 children (1,447 boys, 545 girls) and 50 violations that occurred in previous years.

160. Some 768 children (726 boys, 42 girls) were recruited and used by Al-Shabaab (643), clan militias (61), regional forces (24) (Puntland police (7), Puntland forces (6), Hirshabelle police (4), Jubbaland forces (2), Galmudug police (2), Jubbaland Intelligence and Security Agency (1), Puntland Security Commando Force (1), Puntland Intelligence and Security Agency (1)), "community defence forces" (23), clan militia engaged in Sool Region (9) and government security forces (8) (Somali National Army (6), National Intelligence and Security Agency (2)).

161. Some 291 children (275 boys, 16 girls) were detained for their alleged association with armed groups by the Somali Police Force (104), the Somali National Army (81), the National Intelligence and Security Agency (46), the Somali Police Force jointly with the National Intelligence and Security Agency (28), regional forces (17) (Hirshabelle police (14), South-West Police (2), South-West forces (1)), the Somali Police Force jointly with the Somali National Army, the National Intelligence and Security Agency and the Somali Military Police (7), the Somali Military Police (4), the National Intelligence and Security Agency jointly with the Somali Military Police (3) and the Ethiopian Liyu Police (1). A total of 144 children were released.

162. The killing (141) and maiming (454) of 595 children (425 boys, 170 girls) by unidentified perpetrators (296), Al-Shabaab (119), government security forces (70) (Somali National Army (34), Somali security forces (23), Somali Police Force (9), National Intelligence and Security Agency (4)), clan militias (69), regional forces (27) (Puntland police (16), South-West Police (2), Jubbaland forces (2), Puntland forces (2), Puntland Maritime Police Force (2), South-West forces (1), Hirshabelle police (1), Galmudug Presidential Guard Unit (1)), Da'esh (7), "community defence forces" (6) and the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (1) was verified and mostly caused by explosive ordnance (282).

163. Sexual violence was perpetrated against 267 children (265 girls, 2 boys) by Al-Shabaab (120), unidentified perpetrators (110), government security forces (14) (Somali National Army (11), Somali Military Police (2), Somali Police Force (1)), the Ethiopian Liyu Police (7), clan militias (6), regional forces (7) (Jubbaland forces (4), Puntland police (3)), "community defence forces" (1), Da'esh (1) and the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (1).

164. Some 39 attacks on schools (36) and hospitals (3) were attributed to Al-Shabaab (28), clan militias (9), South-West forces (1) and the Somali National Army (1). The military use of three schools by the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (1) and government security forces (2) (National Intelligence and Security Agency (1), Somali National Army (1)) was verified.

165. The abduction of 887 children (731 boys, 156 girls) by Al-Shabaab (850), unidentified perpetrators (17), clan militias (10), the Somali National Army (5), "community defence forces" (2), Jubbaland forces (1), the Ethiopian Liyu Police (1) and Da'esh (1) was verified. Children were abducted for recruitment and use (442).

166. Some 12 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to clan militias (4), Al-Shabaab (3), unidentified perpetrators (3), the National Intelligence and Security Agency (1) and Jubbaland forces (1).

Developments and concerns

167. I urge the Federal Government to continue its efforts to implement the 2012 action plans and the 2019 road map, including at the federal member state level.

168. I commend the Federal Government for establishing an investigative committee to pursue accountability for grave violations attributed to security forces, and for integrating child protection into military trainings.

169. I welcome the fact that the amendments to the Provisional Constitution of Somalia define the age of a child as below 18 years. I encourage the ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child by Somalia. I encourage the Federal Parliament to adopt the child rights and juvenile justice bills. I underline the importance of ensuring that all legislation pertaining to children is consistent with the human rights commitments of Somalia.

170. I remain concerned by the high number of children detained for alleged association with armed groups, and their prosecution through military courts. I am appalled by the execution of four young people in Puntland in August 2024 for alleged offences committed while associated with Al-Shabaab as children. I urgently call upon the Federal Government and federal member states to treat children associated with armed forces and armed groups in line with international juvenile justice standards.

171. I commend the collaboration between the Federal Military Court and the United Nations in transferring 16 children for reintegration, in line with the 2014 standard operating procedures for the handover of children allegedly associated with armed groups and I call for its continued application through joint screening exercises with the United Nations.

172. I am deeply alarmed by the increase in the number of grave violations against children, particularly the increase in recruitment and use, sexual violence and abductions by Al-Shabaab, the fivefold increase in the number of gang rapes and the devastating impact of explosive ordnance. I call upon all parties to cease grave violations against children and to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

173. I urge the Federal Government to enact legislation prohibiting sexual violence in line with the human rights commitments of Somalia and to increase the availability of holistic services, reparations and redress to survivors.

174. I urge donors to provide sustainable support for monitoring and reporting capacities and for child protection programmes.

South Sudan

175. The United Nations verified 126 grave violations against 109 children (81 boys, 22 girls, 6 sex unknown) and 7 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

176. Some 68 children (59 boys, 9 girls) were recruited and used by unidentified perpetrators (32), the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (18), forces loyal to Brigadier General James Nando (8), the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) (4), the South Sudan National Police Service (2), the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) (2), the South Sudan Prison Service (1) and the National Salvation Front (NAS) (1). Some 63 children were released.

177. The detention of 16 boys by the South Sudan National Police Service for their actual or alleged association with armed groups was verified.

178. Some 23 children (14 boys, 3 girls, 6 sex unknown) were killed (8) and maimed (15) by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (14), the Sudanese Armed Forces (2) and unidentified perpetrators (7).

179. Sexual violence against 7 girls was verified by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (5), the Necessary Unified Forces (1) and SPLM/A-IO (1).

180. Three attacks on schools (1) and hospitals (2) attributed to NAS were verified. The military use of five schools and one hospital by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (3), and the Necessary Unified Forces (3) was verified. Eight schools (7) and hospitals (1) were vacated by the Necessary Unified Forces (4), the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (3) and the South Sudan National Police Service (1).

181. Some 25 children (18 boys, 7 girls) were abducted by unidentified perpetrators (11), NAS (9) and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (5). Eight children were released.

Developments and concerns

182. I commend the release of children by parties to the conflict following United Nations advocacy. However, I remain concerned by grave violations committed by all parties to the conflict. I urge the Government to strengthen preventive measures in hotspot areas to protect children.

183. I urge the Government to remain committed to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, including its provisions relating to children, and the Tumaini Initiative.

184. I welcome the hosting by the Government of a national conference on the protection of children against recruitment and use in September 2024. I urge the Government to continue to implement the 2020 action plan and to budget accordingly.

185. I am deeply concerned by the rise in the number of unidentified armed groups responsible for grave violations against children. I urge the Government to finalize transitional security arrangements, including the deployment of well-trained Necessary Unified Forces.

Sudan

186. The United Nations verified 2,041 grave violations against 1,882 children (1,081 boys, 564 girls, 237 sex unknown) and 127 violations that occurred in previous years.

187. Some 25 boys were verified as recruited and used by the Rapid Support Forces (16) and the Sudan Liberation Army/Transitional Council (9).

188. Some 14 children (11 boys, 3 girls) were detained by the Rapid Support Forces (10) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (4) (including Sudanese Armed Forces Military Intelligence (3)), for alleged association with opposing parties.

189. The killing (752) and maiming (987) of 1,739 children (1,008 boys, 490 girls, 240 sex unknown) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (813), including in crossfire between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (513), the Rapid Support Forces (510), the Sudanese Armed Forces (409) and Arab militia affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (7). Casualties resulted mainly from shelling (1,032).

190. Sexual violence was perpetrated against 74 children (1 boy, 73 girls) by the Rapid Support Forces (54), Arab militia affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (9), unidentified perpetrators (7), the Sudanese Armed Forces (2), the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi (1) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Malik Agar faction (1).

191. Attacks on 108 schools (26) and hospitals (82) were attributed to the Rapid Support Forces (71), the Sudanese Armed Forces (31) and unidentified perpetrators (6). The military use of five schools (3) and hospitals (2) by the Rapid Support Forces (3) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (2) was verified.

192. The abduction of 57 children (47 boys, 10 girls) by the Rapid Support Forces (56) and the Sudanese Armed Forces-aligned Joint Force of Armed Struggle Movements (1) was verified.

193. Some 38 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to the Rapid Support Forces (18), the Sudanese Armed Forces (12), Sudanese Armed Forces Military Intelligence (4), unidentified perpetrators (2), Arab militia affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (1) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM/N) (1).

Developments and concerns

194. I am deeply alarmed by the increase in the number of grave violations, especially killing and maiming, sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals. I urge all parties to adopt measures to end and prevent grave violations against children, including to refrain from the use of explosive ordnance. I call upon all parties to release all children from their ranks.

195. I am gravely concerned about escalating intercommunal violence, including ethnically motivated attacks and the mass displacement of children.

196. I appeal to all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including to cease attacks on humanitarian personnel, schools and hospitals, and civilian infrastructure, and to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access, including across borders.

197. I welcome the commitment of the Sudanese Armed Forces to engage on an action plan with the United Nations, and I call for its swift adoption. I call upon the Government to reactivate the working group on child protection in armed conflict. I urge the Rapid Support Forces and Third Front-Tamazuj to engage with the United Nations to develop action plans to end and prevent grave violations, including by appointing a high-level focal point.

Syrian Arab Republic

198. The United Nations verified 1,301 grave violations against 1,205 children (863 boys, 238 girls, 104 sex unknown) and 64 violations that occurred in previous years.

The terminology used for all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic pertains to the period from 1 January to 8 December 2024.

199. Some 527 children (489 boys, 38 girls) were verified as recruited and used by the opposition Syrian National Army (opposition SNA) (151) (unidentified factions (82), Faylaq al-Sham (20), Ahrar al-Sham (15), al-Nassr Army (11), Jabhah al-Shamiyah (6), Sultan Murad Division (5), Suqur al-Sham (3), Hamzah Division (3), Samarqand Brigade (2), Jabhah al-Sharqiyah (1), Faylaq al-Amshat (1), Jaysh al-Izzah (1) and Islamic Front (1)), Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (148), the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) (143) (Kurdish People's Protection Units and Women's Protection Units (YPG/YPJ) (143)), Syrian government forces and pro-government forces (42) (National Defence Forces (30), Syrian government forces (5), pro-government militias (7)), Patriotic Revolutionary Youth Movement (40), and Ansar al-Tawhid (3). Most children (292) were used in combat roles.

200. The detention of two boys by the Syrian government forces for their alleged association with armed groups was verified. At the end of 2024, approximately 1,000 children, including foreign children, reportedly remained deprived of liberty for alleged association with armed groups, mainly Da'esh, and approximately 25,500 children with suspected family ties to Da'esh continued to be held in Hawl and Rawj camps.

201. The killing (271) and maiming (401) of 672 children (374 boys, 194 girls, 104 sex unknown) by Syrian government forces and pro-government forces (352) (pro-government forces (225), pro-government air forces (79), pro-government militias (39), Syrian government forces (9)), unidentified perpetrators (224), SDF (55) (YPG/YPJ (53), other SDF components (2)), the Turkish Armed Forces (16), opposition SNA (12) (unidentified factions (11), Jaysh al-Izzah (1)), Israeli armed forces (11), Da'esh (1) and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (1) was verified. Most casualties resulted from explosive ordnance (636). Children were verified as having been killed (12) and reported as having been maimed (30) by rocket fire in the occupied Syrian Golan.

202. Some 70 attacks on schools (51) and hospitals (19) were attributed to the Syrian government forces and pro-government forces (55) (pro-government forces (36), pro-government air forces (12), Syrian government forces (7)), unidentified perpetrators (6), unidentified factions of opposition SNA (4), YPG/YPJ (3), the Turkish Armed Forces (1) and Da'esh (1). The military use of 13 schools (11) and hospitals (2) by SDF (13) (YPG/YPJ (11) and Internal Security Forces (2)) was verified.

203. The abduction of 14 children (5 boys, 9 girls) by the Patriotic Revolutionary Youth Movement (9), Syrian government forces (4) and YPG/YPJ (1) was verified, often for the purpose of recruitment and use. Five children were released.

204. Incidents of the denial of humanitarian access (18) by unidentified perpetrators (8), Syrian government forces and pro-government forces (7) (government forces (6), pro-government air force (1)), Israeli armed forces (2) and YPG/YPJ (1) were verified.

Developments and concerns

205. I reiterate the need for a Syrian-led and owned, inclusive and credible political process, in line with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), and for provisions regarding children's rights to be reflected therein.

206. I remain extremely concerned by the high number of grave violations against children. I urge all parties to end and prevent grave violations against children and comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

207. I urge the interim authorities to ensure compliance by the Syrian Arab Republic with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and to release associated children, and facilitate the implementation of reintegration programmes for children, in coordination with the United Nations.

208. I reiterate my call upon the interim authorities and armed groups, including Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, to engage with the United Nations to adopt an action plan to end and prevent grave violations against children.

209. I commend the opposition SNA, and its aligned legions and factions, for progress in the implementation of the 2024 action plan. I call for the prioritization of the screening of factions and the release of children, in cooperation with the United Nations.

210. I commend SDF for progress in the implementation of the 2019 action plan and 2023 road map. I urge SDF to release all remaining children from its ranks. I remain concerned by the killing and maiming of children and urge the adoption of measures to cease such violations. I urge the Patriotic Revolutionary Youth Movement to cease the recruitment and use of children, release and hand over all children, and engage with the United Nations on measures to protect children.

211. I remain alarmed by the high number of children deprived of liberty for their actual or alleged association with parties to conflict, including Da'esh. Children should be treated in line with international juvenile justice standards. I remain seriously concerned by the appalling humanitarian situation and violence affecting women and children in Hawl and Rawj camps and other places of detention in the north-east. I urge all parties and relevant authorities to provide the United Nations and humanitarian actors with systematic and meaningful access to children deprived of liberty, including in Hawl and Rawj camps, military and civilian prisons, administrative detention and in reintegration centres, and to facilitate access to essential services and family reunification for these children.

212. I once again urge all concerned countries of origin and relevant authorities inside the Syrian Arab Republic to facilitate the safe and voluntary repatriation of women and children from Hawl and Rawj camps and in places of detention in the north-east, including those with suspected family ties to Da'esh, in line with international law and in respect for the principles of non-refoulement, family unity and the best interests of the child, and in line with the Global Framework on United Nations Support to Member States on Individuals Returned from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq and, upon request, with United Nations support.

213. I call for explosive ordnance clearance, risk education and victim assistance programmes. I urge donors to support such efforts.

Ukraine

214. The United Nations verified 1,914 grave violations against 673 children (379 boys, 294 girls) and 46 violations that occurred in previous years.

215. Two boys were used by Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups to conduct arson attacks on railway infrastructure and Ukrainian military vehicles.

216. The United Nations verified the detention of eight children (7 boys, 1 girl) by Ukrainian authorities (7) and Russian authorities located in territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation (1).

217. The United Nations verified the killing (94) and maiming (577) of 671 children (377 boys, 294 girls) attributed to Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups

(474: 68 killed, 406 maimed); unidentified perpetrators (171: 22 killed, 149 maimed), including 137 caused by shrapnel when the Ukrainian armed forces intercepted missiles or loitering munitions launched by Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups or due to direct impact; and Ukrainian armed forces (26: 4 killed, 22 maimed). Casualties resulted from the use of explosive weapons (640). The Ukrainian armed forces carried out operations within the territory of the Russian Federation, gaining control of areas in the Kursk region. The United Nations documented 120 children killed and maimed in the territory of the Russian Federation.

218. Some 862 attacks on schools (559) and hospitals (303) were attributed to Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups (696), unidentified perpetrators (110) and Ukrainian armed forces (56).

219. Some 379 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups (293), Ukrainian armed forces (60) and unidentified perpetrators (26), including attacks on energy infrastructure (326).

Developments and concerns

220. I am deeply concerned at the sharp increase in grave violations against children in Ukraine, particularly the killing and maiming of children, and attacks on schools and hospitals.

221. I welcome the extension of the joint prevention plan with the Government of Ukraine and the United Nations to prevent grave violations against children and the commitment to its continued implementation, including the issuance of a pocket card on preventing grave violations to the Ukrainian armed forces.

222. I am deeply alarmed by the increase in grave violations attributed to the Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups, particularly the killing and maiming of children, and attacks on schools and hospitals, mainly resulting from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. I urge the Russian Federation to end grave violations and engage with my Special Representative to develop and implement a joint action plan with the United Nations.

223. I am concerned about the impact on children of operations carried out by the Ukrainian armed forces within the territory of the Russian Federation. I call upon all parties to the conflict to prioritize the protection of children in the planning and execution of military operations.

224. I am concerned about the increased incidents of the denial of humanitarian access by the Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups. I call upon the Russian Federation to grant the United Nations access to deliver humanitarian assistance and to conduct monitoring of grave violations in the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

225. I am concerned by the reports of administrative procedures imposed on humanitarian workers by the Ukrainian authorities, causing delays in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

226. I welcome the reunification of two children abducted in 2022 by Russian armed forces and Russian authorities located in territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. The whereabouts of the remaining children referred to in last year's report (A/78/842, para. 327) remain unknown, although credible reports suggest that some of these children may have returned to territories under the control of the Government of Ukraine.

227. I urge all parties to uphold the principle of the best interests of the child, facilitate family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and/or separated children

who find themselves across borders or lines of control without their families and/or guardians, including by giving child protection actors access to facilitate reunification. I strongly urge the Russian Federation to cooperate with the United Nations for the return of Ukrainian children and reunification of such children with their families and/or guardians.

Yemen

228. The United Nations verified 583 grave violations against 504 children (435 boys, 69 girls) and 204 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

229. The recruitment and use of 182 boys was attributed to the Houthis (who call themselves Ansar Allah) (hereinafter "the Houthis") (85), the Yemen Armed Forces (23) and affiliated armed forces and groups (74) (5th Brigade (16), Security Belt Forces (10), National Shield Forces (9), Southern Resistance Forces (8), Shabwahi Defence Forces (8), Amaliqah Brigades (6), Border Guard Brigade (5), Thunderbolt Forces (4), Storm Forces (2), 4th Hazm Brigade (2), 3rd Maghawir Brigade (2), Tareq Saleh's National Resistance Forces (commonly referred to as the Guardians of the Republic) (1),Yemeni police (1)). Children served in combat roles (59).

230. Three boys were detained by the Yemen Armed Forces (3) and subsequently released.

231. The killing (62) and maiming (256) of 318 children (254 boys, 64 girls) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (218), the Houthis (40), the Yemen Armed Forces (32) and affiliated armed forces and groups (27) (Security Belt Forces (9), Amaliqah Brigades (6), Southern Transitional Council (3), 4th Hazm Brigade (3), Shabwahi Defence Forces (3), Commandos Brigade (2), 5th Support and Reinforcement Brigade (1)) and Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (1), including as a result of the use of explosive ordnance (173).

232. Sexual violence against 11 children (6 boys, 5 girls) was attributed to the Houthis (2) and to the Yemen Armed Forces (2) and affiliated armed forces and groups (7) (Yemeni police (4), Security Belt Forces (2), Amaliqah Brigades (1)).

233. Some 15 attacks on schools (4) and hospitals (11), including on protected persons (11), were attributed to the Yemen Armed Forces (8), the Houthis (4), unidentified perpetrators (2) and Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (1). The military use of 54 schools (46) and hospitals (8) was attributed to the Houthis (30) and to the Yemen Armed Forces (8) and affiliated armed forces and groups (16) (Shabwahi Defence Forces (7), Amaliqah Brigades (3), Security Belt Forces (2), 2nd Hazm Brigade (1), Martyr Ashway Brigade (1), 3rd Support and Reinforcement Brigade (1), Southern Resistance Forces (1)).

234. The abduction of two boys was attributed to armed forces and groups affiliated with the Yemen Armed Forces (2) (Security Belt Forces (1), Thunderbolt Forces (1)).

235. Some 55 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access, attributed to unidentified perpetrators (52) and the Houthis (3), were verified, including threats or attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities (52). By the end of the reporting period, dozens of personnel from the United Nations and from international and national non-governmental organizations remained arbitrarily detained by the Houthis, some of whom had been detained for several years.

Developments and concerns

236. I welcome the continued engagement of the Government on the 2014 action plan and the 2018 road map through the development of a workplan with the United Nations. I welcome the adoption of a handover protocol for the transfer of children

allegedly associated with armed groups to civilian child protection actors. I encourage the Government to finalize a complaints mechanism for grave violations. I call for the commitment of groups affiliated with the Presidential Leadership Council to the action plan and road map. I call upon the Government to implement the Safe Schools Declaration.

237. I welcome the continued engagement by the Houthis with the United Nations under the 2022 action plan, including the adoption of a complaints mechanism for grave violations, the endorsement of procedures for interim care for children released from armed groups and the facilitation of United Nations visits to military recruitment centres, in line with the 2022 action plan. I call upon the Houthis to expedite the implementation of outstanding activities, including by implementing age assessment procedures and the 2020 handover protocol.

238. I call upon all parties to provide unconditional access for the United Nations to children in detention and to release all children and facilitate the socioeconomic reintegration of children, with the support of the United Nations. I urge parties to engage in preparations for the resumption of an inclusive political process under United Nations auspices, including child protection provisions.

239. I remain deeply concerned by the killing and maiming of children by explosive ordnance. I urge all parties to coordinate with the United Nations to fund and implement explosive ordnance risk education, clearance and victim assistance.

B. Situations not on the agenda of the Security Council or other situations

Burkina Faso

240. The United Nations verified 1,125 grave violations against 1,089 children (596 boys, 369 girls, 124 sex unknown) and 17 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

241. Some 68 children (66 boys, 2 sex unknown) were recruited and used in combat by Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) (44), unidentified perpetrators (14) and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) (10).

242. Some 25 boys were detained for alleged association with armed groups; 9 of the boys were released.

243. The killing (438) and maiming (270) of 708 children (377 boys, 223 girls, 108 sex unknown) was attributed to JNIM (370), unidentified perpetrators (218), including in crossfire between parties to the conflict (36), ISGS (59), in joint operations by the Defence and Security Forces and Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (58), and by the Togolese Army (3).

244. The rape of four girls attributed to Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (2) and unidentified perpetrators (2) was verified.

245. Some 28 attacks on schools (10) and hospitals (18) were attributed to JNIM (16), unidentified perpetrators (8), ISGS (2) and the Defence and Security Forces/ Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (2).

246. Some 309 children (163 boys, 132 girls, 14 sex unknown) were abducted by JNIM (157), ISGS (80), unidentified perpetrators (47) and the Defence and Security Forces/Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (25).

247. Some eight verified incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to JNIM (6), ISGS (1) and unidentified perpetrators (1).

Developments and concerns

248. I welcome the designation of a child protection focal point within the Ministry of Defence and the appointment of officials responsible for enforcing the 2022 handover protocol. I call upon the transitional authorities to engage with the United Nations to adopt measures to protect children.

249. I welcome the development of a guide on human rights for the Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie. I encourage continued training of security forces on child protection.

250. I note the steps taken by the transitional authorities to sanction members of the Defence and Security Forces involved in human rights violations. I urge the transitional authorities to strengthen accountability and ensure justice and reparations for victims.

251. I remain extremely concerned by the high number of grave violations, in particular the killing and maiming of children and the abduction of children, in particular by JNIM and ISGS. I urge all parties to release associated children, cease all violations and end attacks on schools and hospitals.

Cameroon

252. The United Nations verified 242 violations against 147 children (65 boys, 66 girls, 16 sex unknown).

253. A total of five children remained detained by national authorities for their alleged association with armed groups or on national security grounds.

254. The killing (10) and maiming (82) of 92 children (38 boys, 52 girls, 2 sex unknown) by unidentified perpetrators (86), by the Cameroon Armed Forces (3) and by Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (3) was verified.

255. Sexual violence against six girls was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (5) and the Cameroon Armed Forces (1).

256. Some 78 attacks on schools (62) and hospitals (16) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (76), JAS (1) and Islamic State West Africa Province (1).

257. The abduction of 50 children (27 boys, 9 girls, 14 sex unknown) by unidentified perpetrators (37) and JAS (13) was verified. Seven children were released.

258. Some 16 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access attributed to unidentified perpetrators were verified.

Developments and concerns

259. I welcome the training by the Government of law enforcement officers on preventing and responding to violations against children, together with the United Nations. I call upon the Government to extend the training to all defence and security forces, to continue to strengthen the protection of children and to ensure accountability for grave violations against children.

260. I welcome the adoption of the road map for the implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration and note that the Cameroon Armed Forces vacated 10 schools that had been occupied in 2023.

261. I call upon the Government to release all children detained for alleged association with armed groups and I encourage the Government to adopt a handover protocol with the United Nations on their transfer to civilian child protection actors.

I call upon the Government to engage with the United Nations to adopt a prevention plan for the protection of children.

262. I welcome efforts by the Government to reintegrate 447 children. I call upon the Government to provide reintegration programmes for the remaining 1,300 children to avoid prolonging their stay in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration centres.

263. I am concerned by continued grave violations, particularly the killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals and the abduction of children. I urge all parties to cease all violations.

Ethiopia

264. The United Nations verified 844 grave violations against 458 children (236 boys, 151 girls, 71 sex unknown). Approximately 1,500 reported grave violations and 1,182 reported instances of the military use of schools are pending verification.

265. The recruitment and use of five boys by the Ethiopian National Defence Forces was verified.

266. The detention of one boy by the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (1) for alleged association with armed groups was verified.

267. The killing (120) and maiming (138) of 258 children (168 boys, 54 girls, 36 sex unknown) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (156), the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (54), Fano (33), the Oromo Liberation Army/Front-Shene (12), the Amhara Special Forces (1), the Amhara Police-Amhara Regional Riot Control Forces (1) and the Oromia Police (1), some caused by explosive ordnance (116).

268. Sexual violence against 73 children (2 boys, 71 girls) by the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (38), Tigray Defence Forces (1) and unidentified perpetrators (34) was verified.

269. Some 38 attacks on schools (20) and hospitals (18) by unidentified perpetrators (29), the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (8) and the Ethiopian Federal Police (1) were verified, including attacks against teachers (4).

270. Two schools were militarily used by unidentified perpetrators.

271. The abduction of 189 children (66 boys, 84 girls, 39 sex unknown) by unidentified perpetrators (107), the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (49) and the Eritrean Defence Forces (33) was verified.

272. Incidents of the denial of humanitarian access (281) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (264), the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (10), the Amhara Police (2), Fano (2), Afar Federal Police (1), Agew Shengo (1) and the Oromia Police (1).

Developments and concerns

273. I commend progress in the national dialogue, transitional justice and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, in cooperation with the United Nations, and underline that these must address the rights of children. I call upon donors to support peacebuilding efforts.

274. I recall the letters exchanged by the Government with my Special Representative in 2023 and urge the Government to engage with the United Nations on the recommendations contained therein through the adoption of a prevention plan.

275. I am gravely concerned by the significant increase in grave violations against children, including the killing and maiming of children, sexual violence against

children and the abduction of children, as well as incidents of the denial of humanitarian access. I urge all parties to end and prevent grave violations against children. I urge all parties to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access and to safeguard humanitarian personnel from attacks. I call upon the Government to hold perpetrators accountable and to provide assistance to children, following an intersectional approach.

276. I call upon the Government to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration. I call upon all parties to protect schools and hospitals from attack.

277. I commend the Government for its progress on mine action and I reiterate my call to facilitate the clearance of explosive ordnance and the provision of risk education to children, and my call for the funding thereof.

Lake Chad basin

278. Some 2,641 grave violations against 1,224 children (458 boys, 744 girls, 22 sex unknown) and 269 violations that occurred in previous years were verified in the Lake Chad basin region, namely in Far North Region (Cameroon) (49), Lac Province (Chad) (41), Diffa Region (Niger) (115) and the north-east of Nigeria (2,436). Information pertaining to violations in the aforementioned regions of Cameroon, the Niger and Nigeria is included under the respective country sections of the present report. Grave violations were perpetrated by Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (1,753), Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (714), unidentified perpetrators (154), Bakura (15) and the Nigerian Security Forces (5).

279. In Lac Province, 41 grave violations against 38 children (9 boys, 16 girls, 13 sex unknown) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators. These included recruitment and use (2 boys), abduction (38), and one attack on a hospital.

280. Two boys were detained in Lac Province by Chadian military authorities for their alleged association with armed groups and were handed over to civilian child protection actors.

Developments and concerns

281. I commend the Government of Chad for integrating child protection into the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and call upon the Government to ensure that social reintegration programmes consider the rights of children formerly associated with armed groups. I urge the Government to provide access for the United Nations to children in detention.

282. I am alarmed by the increase in verified grave violations against children by JAS and ISWAP and at the disproportionate impact of grave violations on girls.

Mozambique

Cabo Delgado

283. The United Nations verified 954 grave violations against 507 children (402 boys, 105 girls) and 1 grave violation that occurred in 2023.

284. The recruitment and use of 403 children (332 boys, 71 girls) by armed groups was verified.

285. The detention of 51 children (20 boys, 31 girls) by the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (49) and the Rwanda Defence Force (2) for alleged association with armed groups was verified.

286. The killing (32) and maiming (12) of 44 children (31 boys, 13 girls) by unidentified perpetrators (22), armed groups (15) and the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces (7) was verified, including casualties caused by explosive ordnance (17).

287. Sexual violence against 5 girls was attributed to armed groups.

288. Some 31 attacks on schools (19) and hospitals (12) were attributed to armed groups. The military use of schools (4) and hospitals (2) by armed groups (3) and the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces (3) was verified and one school remained in use by the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces.

289. The abduction of 468 children (371 boys, 97 girls) by armed groups, including for recruitment and use (392), was verified. Eleven children were released.

290. Incidents of the denial of humanitarian access by armed groups (3) were verified, involving attacks on humanitarian facilities (2).

Developments and concerns

291. I welcome the continued cooperation of the Government with the United Nations, including on child protection training for the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces. I call upon the Government to extend the training to all security forces, including the Força Local and the Rapid Intervention Unit, and to clarify their status and establish accountability measures.

292. I reiterate my call upon the Government to adopt the handover protocol, including age assessment mechanisms for local forces and community-based militias. I urge the Government to develop a prevention plan with the United Nations. I reiterate my call upon the Government to implement the Safe Schools Declaration. I also call upon the Government to endorse the Paris Principles and to increase support to survivors of sexual violence.

293. I am deeply alarmed by the increase in grave violations by armed groups, in particular recruitment and use and abduction. I urge armed groups to cease grave violations and release children.

Niger

294. The United Nations verified 329 grave violations against 304 children (184 boys, 120 girls) and 17 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

295. The recruitment and use of 35 boys by unidentified perpetrators was verified.

296. A total of seven children were detained by the transitional authorities for extended periods, despite the 2017 handover protocol.

297. The killing (36) and maiming (42) of 78 children (64 boys, 14 girls), including as a result of targeted shooting (51), was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (59), ISGS (18) and JAS (1).

298. Sexual violence against five girls by unidentified perpetrators was verified.

299. A total of eight attacks on schools (5) and hospitals (3) by unidentified perpetrators (6) and ISGS (2) were verified.

300. A total of 202 children (100 boys, 102 girls) were abducted by unidentified perpetrators (163), JAS (35), ISWAP (2) and ISGS (2).

301. One incident of the denial of humanitarian access attributed to JAS (1) was verified.

Developments and concerns

302. I welcome the development by the transitional authorities of the Niger of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategy, which includes provisions to protect the rights of children. I welcome the efforts of the authorities to reintegrate children affected by armed conflict, in cooperation with the United Nations. I call upon the transitional authorities to develop a road map for the implementation of the 2017 handover protocol, and to grant the United Nations access to detention centres.

303. I call for the appointment and training of local focal points on the protection of children in the armed forces, notably for operational units. I encourage the development of a training programme for the armed forces, with United Nations support.

304. I remain extremely concerned at the number of grave violations against children, notably the abduction and killing and maiming of children. I urge armed groups to release associated children.

305. I urge the transitional authorities to reinforce child protection measures, to protect schools and hospitals, and to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Nigeria

306. The United Nations verified 2,436 grave violations against 1,037 children (386 boys, 651 girls) and 269 grave violations that occurred in previous years.

307. Some 974 children (345 boys, 629 girls) were recruited and used, mostly following abduction (966), by Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (682), Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (282), Bakura (7) and the Nigerian Security Forces (3).

308. Some 732 children (421 boys, 311 girls) were detained by the Nigerian Security Forces for their or their parents' alleged association with armed groups. All were released.

309. The killing (29) and maiming (20) of 49 children (34 boys, 15 girls) was attributed to JAS (19), ISWAP (19), unidentified perpetrators (10) and the Nigerian Security Forces (1), including caused by explosive ordnance (33).

310. Cases of sexual violence, all of which involved forced marriage, against 419 children (7 boys, 412 girls) by JAS (304), ISWAP (114) and Bakura (1) were verified.

311. Three attacks on schools (1) and hospitals (2) by ISWAP (2) and JAS (1) were verified.

312. The abduction of 991 children (354 boys, 637 girls) by JAS (690), ISWAP (294) and Bakura (7) was verified. All children escaped or were rescued by the Nigerian Security Forces. Most children (966) were abducted for recruitment and use purposes.

Developments and concerns

313. I welcome the fact that the Civilian Joint Task Force, in collaboration with the United Nations, continued to train its troops in the framework of the 2017 action plan.

314. I welcome the continued collaboration between the Government and the United Nations on the handover protocol implementation plan. I urge the Government to continue to provide access for the United Nations to children in detention, to release children from detention and facilitate their reintegration.

315. I appeal to the Government to ensure accountability for grave violations and access to justice for all victims, as well as provide intersectional protection services.

316. I call upon the Government to expedite explosive ordnance clearance, risk education and victim assistance and call for donor support in that regard.

317. I am gravely concerned by the increase in grave violations against children by JAS and ISWAP, notably abduction, recruitment and use and sexual violence. I urge all parties to release all children from their ranks and end and prevent grave violations.

Pakistan

318. A total of 99 grave violations against 86 children (27 boys, 14 girls, 45 sex unknown) were reported. Children (86) were reportedly killed (44) and maimed (42) by explosive ordnance (84) and casualties that were claimed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2).

319. A total of 13 attacks on schools were reported and insecurity had a negative impact on health workers.

Developments and concerns

320. I welcome the agreement arrived at between the Government and the United Nations on a child protection road map, which is in the process of being formalized, and urge its implementation.

321. I am concerned about the rise in reported grave violations, including attacks against schools, particularly girls' schools, and against health workers, and about incidents in the border areas with Afghanistan.

Philippines

322. The United Nations verified nine grave violations against 9 children (5 boys, 4 girls).

323. The recruitment and use of seven children (3 boys, 4 girls) attributed to the New People's Army (4) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (3) was verified.

324. The killing of two boys was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (1) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (1).

325. The use of a madrasa by the Armed Forces of the Philippines during an operation against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters was verified.

Developments and concerns

326. I welcome the agreement arrived at between the Government and the United Nations on a child protection road map, which is in the process of being formalized, and urge its implementation.

327. I welcome the continued coordination between the United Nations and the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict. I also welcome the extension of the strategic plan, between the United Nations the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the United Nations, which prioritizes the training of military personnel on the protection of children.

328. I call upon the New People's Army to sign an action plan with the United Nations.

329. I call upon the Government to enact the human rights defenders bill to protect human rights defenders working with conflict-affected children and communities.

IV. Recommendations

330. I urge all parties to adhere to their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to uphold the rights and special protections afforded to children. I call upon all parties to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access and to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and assets, as well as to respect and protect civilians and civilian objects.

331. I call upon all parties to protect hospitals and health workers and to implement Security Council resolution 2286 (2016).

332. I urge parties to conflict to refrain from using explosive weapons in populated areas, to undertake the clearing of explosive ordnance and to provide risk education and victim assistance. I call upon donors to provide financial and technical assistance in that regard. I urge Member States to become parties to and to implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention). I regret the announcements by certain States about their intention to withdraw from the Ottawa Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, given the impact of these weapons on children.

333. I call upon parties to conflict to develop and implement action plans with the United Nations and other commitments to protect children. I reiterate my call upon Member States to support such efforts, including by facilitating United Nations engagement with non-State actors.

334. I call upon the Security Council to ensure that child protection provisions and capacity are included in all relevant mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, in line with Security Council resolution 2764 (2024).

335. I call upon Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including through the campaign entitled “Prove it Matters”, launched by my Special Representative. I urge Member States to become parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. I urge Member States and parties to conflict to consider every human being below the age of 18 years as a child.

336. I call upon Member States to endorse and implement the Paris Principles, the Safe Schools Declaration, the Vancouver Principles and the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

337. I call upon States to adopt and implement legislation that criminalizes violations of international law against children, hold perpetrators accountable, provide assistance to victims and cooperate with international accountability mechanisms.

338. I reiterate that the detention of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and that children should be treated primarily as victims and exclusively within child justice systems. Children should never be detained or prosecuted solely for their or their parents’ actual or alleged association with armed groups, including those which are currently under sanctions enacted by the Security Council. I urge Member States to prioritize the best interests of the child and to give child protection actors access to detained children.

339. I reiterate my call upon all countries concerned to facilitate the safe and voluntary repatriation and reintegration of children allegedly associated with Da’esh, in line with international law and with full respect for the relevant principles,

including the best interests of the child. I call upon Member States to ensure the consistency of counter-terrorism measures with the applicable legal framework, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

340. I call upon donors to scale up financial support for survivor-centred assistance, reintegration and education programmes. I encourage donors to fund sustainable child protection capacity, including to monitor grave violations against children through United Nations child protection capacities.

V. Lists contained in the annexes to the present report

341. In the Central African Republic, Azande Ani Kpi Gbe has been listed for the recruitment and use of children. In Colombia, the Clan del Golfo (also known as Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia) has been listed for the recruitment and use of children. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mai-Mai Kashumba has been listed for the recruitment and use of children. In Haiti, the Viv Ansanm coalition of armed gangs has been listed for the recruitment and use and the killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, and attacks on schools and hospitals. I call upon all newly listed parties to sign action plans with the United Nations to end and prevent grave violations against children.

342. The following listed parties have additional violations. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo and Mai-Mai Zaïre have been listed for the recruitment and use of children. In the Sudan, the Rapid Support Forces have been listed for the abduction of children.

343. In Somalia, the Somali National Army and the Somali Police Force have been delisted for the violation of recruitment and use of children. The delisting is conditional upon the continued implementation of their action plan and road map and the continued decrease in such violations. Any failure in this regard would result in a relisting for the same violation in my next report. The Somali National Army and the Somali Police Force will remain listed for other violations, as set out in annex I to the present report. In Yemen, the Security Belt Forces have been delisted for the violation of recruitment and use of children for their commitment to the 2014 action plan. Also in Yemen, the Houthis have been delisted for the violation of attacks on schools and hospitals, owing to a decrease in this grave violation. The Houthis will remain listed for other violations, as set out in annex I to the present report. These delistings are conditional upon the continued implementation of their respective action plans and road maps and the continued decrease in such violations. Any failure in this regard would result in a relisting for the same violation in my next report.

344. The situation of Ukraine is henceforth included under section A of annex I to reflect the regular discussions on Ukraine in the Security Council.

345. In view of the continued decrease in grave violations in Iraq and the measures adopted by the Government to protect children, the situation of Iraq will be removed from my next report. In view of the level of grave violations in Pakistan and the preventive measures adopted as agreed, which are in the process of being formalized by the Government in cooperation with the United Nations to protect children, the situation of Pakistan will be removed from my next report. In view of the level of grave violations in the Philippines and the preventive measures adopted as agreed, which are in the process of being formalized by the Government in cooperation with the United Nations to protect children, the situation of the Philippines will be removed from my next report. Any significant change in these situations may result once more in the inclusion of these situations in my future reports.

Annex I

Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1379 (2001), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011) and 2225 (2015), parties that commit grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council

A. State actors

Parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo[c,f]

Parties in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

Israeli armed and security forces[b,d]

Parties in Myanmar

Myanmar armed forces, including related forces and affiliated militias[a,b,c,d,e,f]

Parties in Somalia

1. Somali National Army[b,c,f]
2. Somali Police Force[b,c,f]

Parties in South Sudan

South Sudan People's Defence Forces[a,b,c,e,f]

Parties in the Sudan

Sudanese Armed Forces[b,d]

Parties in the Syrian Arab Republic

Government forces, including the National Defence Forces and pro-government militias[a,b,c,d]

Parties in Ukraine

Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups[b,d]

B. Non-State armed groups

Parties in Afghanistan

1. Hizb-i Islami Gulbuddin[a,b]
2. Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan[a,b,d]
3. Taliban forces and affiliated groups, including the Haqqani Network[a,b,d,e]

[a] Party that recruits and uses children.
[b] Party that kills and maims children.
[c] Party that commits rape and other forms of sexual violence against children.
[d] Party that engages in attacks on schools and/or hospitals.
[e] Party that abducts children.
[f] Party that has concluded an action plan, joint commitment or similar measure with the United Nations in line with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005).

Parties in the Central African Republic

1. Azande Ani Kpi Gbe[a]
2. Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique[a,b,c,d,f]
3. Local militias known as the anti-balaka[a,b,c]
4. Lord's Resistance Army[a,b,c,e]
5. Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique[a,b,c,d,f]
6. Union pour la paix en Centrafrique[a,b,c,d,f]

Parties in Colombia

1. Ejército de Liberación Nacional[a]
2. Clan del Golfo (also known as Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia)[a]
3. Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) dissident groups[a]

Parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. Alliance des forces de résistance congolaise[a]
2. Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain[a,e]
3. Allied Democratic Forces[a,b,c,d,e]
4. Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO)[a,b,c,d,e]
5. Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda-Forces combattantes abacunguzi[a,c,d,e]
6. Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri[a,c,d,e]
7. Lord's Resistance Army[a,b,c,e]
8. Mai-Mai Apa Na Pale[a,c,e]
9. Mai-Mai Kashumba[a]
10. Mai-Mai Mazembe[a,b,e,f]
11. Mai-Mai Simba[a,c]
12. Mai-Mai Zaïre[a,b]
13. Mouvement du 23 mars[a,b,c,d,e]
14. Nduma défense du Congo-Rénové[a,b,c]
15. Nyatura[a,c,e]
16. Raia Mutomboki[a,c,e,f]
17. Twigwaneho[a]

Parties in Haiti

Viv Ansanm coalition[a,b,c,d]

Parties in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

1. Palestinian Islamic Jihad's Al-Quds Brigades[b,e]
2. Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and affiliated factions[b,e]

Parties in Mali

1. Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, including Ansar Eddine[a,b,c]
2. Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad, part of the Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad[a,c,f]
3. Platform, including affiliated groups[a,f]

Parties in Myanmar

1. Democratic Karen Benevolent Army[a,f]
2. Kachin Independence Army[a]
3. Karen National Liberation Army[a]
4. Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council[a]
5. Karenni Army[a]
6. Shan State Army[a]
7. United Wa State Army[a]

Parties in Somalia

1. Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a[a]
2. Al-Shabaab[a,b,c,d,e]

Parties in South Sudan

Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition – pro-Machar[a,b,e,f]

Parties in the Sudan

1. Justice and Equality Movement[a,f]
2. Rapid Support Forces[a,b,c,d,e]
3. Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid[a]
4. Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi[a,f]
5. Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction[a,f]
6. Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Malik Agar faction[a,f]
7. Third Front-Tamazuj[a]

Parties in the Syrian Arab Republic

1. Da'esh[a,b,c,d,e]
2. Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham[a,b]
3. Kurdish People's Protection Units and Women's Protection Units (YPG/YPJ)[a,f]
4. The opposition Syrian National Army, including Ahrar al-Sham and Army of Islam[a,b,f]

Parties in Yemen

1. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula[a]
2. Houthis (who call themselves Ansar Allah)[a,b,f]
3. Pro-government militias, including the Salafists and popular committees[a]

Annex II

Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1379 (2001), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011) and 2225 (2015), parties that commit grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict not on the agenda of the Security Council, or in other situations

Non-State armed groups

Parties in Burkina Faso

1. Islamic State in the Greater Sahara[b,e]
2. Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin[a,b,d,e]

Parties in the Lake Chad basin

1. Islamic State West Africa Province[e]
2. Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad[e]

Parties in Nigeria

1. Islamic State West Africa Province[a,b,c,d,e]
2. Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad[a,b,c,d,e]

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[a] Party that recruits and uses children.
[b] Party that kills and maims children.
[c] Party that commits rape and other forms of sexual violence against children.
[d] Party that engages in attacks on schools and/or hospitals.
[e] Party that abducts children.
[f] Party that has concluded an action plan, joint commitment or similar measure with the United Nations in line with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005).