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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 2025, 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[2] perpetrated against children, attacks on schools, hospitals and protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals,[3] 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. Incidents committed earlier but verified only in 2025 are included in the verified grave violations.

[1] See also the relevant reports of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in specific country situations, in particular in Burkina Faso (S/2025/101), Mali (S/2024/883), Myanmar (S/2025/81), Somalia (S/2025/735), South Sudan (S/2025/317) and Yemen (S/2025/113), the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to the General Assembly (A/80/266) 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/61/37).

[2] The term "conflict-related sexual violence" refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls and boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict.

[3] 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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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 provision are challenges. Persistent efforts by some Member States to undermine independent human rights monitoring, along with attacks against community and civic leaders, human rights defenders and monitors of violations against children threaten the Security Council monitoring and reporting mandate on grave violations against children.

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 2025, violations against children in armed conflict reached shocking levels, with an unprecedented number of children affected. The United Nations verified 38,558 grave violations and violations, which affected 24,174 children in 2025 (15,493 boys, 7,990 girls, 691 sex unknown), the highest number of children affected by grave violations since the beginning of the mandate. The number of children subjected to multiple grave violations continued to rise from 3,137 in 2024 to 3,176 in 2025. Parties to conflict failed to uphold or proactively undermined their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and continued to commit grave violations with near-total impunity, resulting in excessive humanitarian consequences for civilians and civilian objects, disproportionately affecting children and the facilities and services they rely on. Government forces were responsible for a majority of grave violations and were the main perpetrators of the killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access.[4]

6. Hostilities increasingly unfolded in densely populated areas, where intensified ground operations, widespread destruction of civilian facilities and infrastructure and prolonged fighting exposed children to severe risks. Children were directly exploited in military operations, including through abduction and recruitment and use. The expansion of urban warfare, cross-border spillovers, climate insecurity and ongoing regional instability further compounded children's vulnerability.

[4] Information related to the denial of humanitarian access to children is presented pursuant to Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) and subsequent resolutions, 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 (6,266) and maiming (7,958) of 14,224 children, incidents of the denial of humanitarian access (8,322), the recruitment and use of children (6,607) and the abduction of children (5,129). 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, amounted to 1,667, continuing to deprive children of their rights. The highest numbers of grave violations were verified in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (12,445), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (4,114), Nigeria (2,560), Myanmar (2,203) and Somalia (2,195).

8. The killing and maiming of children increased to alarming levels, with a surge of 34 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. In many contexts, military strategies disregarded the principles of distinction and proportionality, the special protections afforded to children and the obligation to take all feasible precautions, placing children in foreseeable and avoidable danger. Air strikes, artillery and the growing use of explosive drones tore through residential neighbourhoods, displacement sites, schools, hospitals and other places where children should have been protected. Children were impacted while escaping fighting, seeking food, water or medical care, and while navigating areas heavily contaminated by explosive remnants of war, often contributing to life-long disabilities for children. Displacement and the destruction of water networks, clinics, energy systems and communication lines forced families into precarious coping strategies, often pushing children into even higher-risk environments. These patterns reflect policy decisions by parties to conduct warfare in ways that consistently and predictably result in grave violations against children.

B. Challenges and the way forward

9. The rapid evolution of technologies used in warfare, including the expanded use of uncrewed aerial systems and the growing integration of artificial intelligence into targeting processes, has placed additional strain on the effective implementation of the special protections afforded to children and contributed to a sharp increase in the scale of harm to children. These capabilities have enabled faster, longer-range and more frequent strikes in densely populated areas. In several contexts, drone-enabled and remotely operated attacks were carried out with limited human oversight. Reports of artificial intelligence-supported target selection further underscored concerns about reduced human control and the potential for errors stemming from incomplete or unreliable data in volatile conflict settings. The development and use of new technologies must be fully consistent with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, ensuring that technological advancements do not undermine child rights and do not exacerbate patterns of grave violations against children. These trends reinforce the urgent need for strengthened safeguards, transparency and accountability.

10. In 2025, 13,112 children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups received protection or reintegration support. However, the global decrease in funding for child protection and the drawdown of United Nations peace operations in part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and the Sudan significantly reduced United Nations capacity to verify and respond to grave violations, implement prevention efforts and provide response and reintegration programming, with devastating consequences for children.

III. Information on grave violations

A. Situations on the agenda of the Security Council

Afghanistan

11. The United Nations verified 1,070 grave violations against 600 children (488 boys, 101 girls, 11 sex unknown).

12. The recruitment and use of 204 boys by the Taliban in combat (62) and support roles (142) was verified.

13. The killing (100) and maiming (290) of 390 children (284 boys, 95 girls, 11 sex unknown) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (284), cross-border shelling and air strikes by Pakistan armed forces (103) and the Taliban (3). Explosive ordnance, including explosive remnants of war, mines and improvised explosive devices,[5] remained the leading cause of child casualties (271), followed by air strikes and cross-border shelling (103).

14. Sexual violence against 6 girls was attributed to the Taliban, involving forced marriage (4), attempted rape (1) and rape (1).

15. Some 128 attacks on schools (55) and hospitals (73) were attributed to the Taliban (125) and Pakistan security forces (3).

16. The military use of 1 school and 1 hospital was attributed to the Taliban. Eighteen previously used schools were vacated. A total of 15 schools and 1 hospital remained in use, including 14 from previous periods.

17. Two girls were abducted by the Taliban.

18. Some 340 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access by the Taliban were verified, including interference in humanitarian activities (228).

Developments and concerns

19. I am concerned about grave violations against children in Afghanistan and I urge all parties, particularly the Taliban, to immediately take all actions to better protect and uphold the rights of children and ensure accountability.

20. I acknowledge the engagement between the Taliban and the United Nations, resulting in the release of 185 boys and their enrolment in United Nations reintegration programmes. I note the engagement of the Taliban with my Special Representative in Doha in December 2025. I urge the Taliban to adopt measures to end and prevent grave violations against children, including by immediately releasing children from their ranks, in cooperation with the United Nations. I call upon the Taliban to define a child as every human being below the age of 18 years, develop age assessment guidelines in line with international standards and establish child protection units at recruitment centres.

21. I call upon the Taliban and all parties to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access. I urge the Taliban to revoke laws and policies restricting girls from the full enjoyment of their rights, as well as their decision to severely restrict Afghan women from working for international and national non-governmental organizations and the United Nations, which negatively affects the provision of life-saving assistance to children, girls in particular.

[5] Hereinafter referred to as explosive ordnance, throughout the report.

22. I urge the Taliban to stop and prevent attacks on schools and hospitals and vacate all such facilities still used for military purposes.

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

Central African Republic

24. The United Nations verified 587 violations against 389 children (241 boys, 148 girls).

25. Some 234 children (189 boys, 45 girls) were recruited and used by armed groups (220): Coalition des patriotes pour le changement (CPC) (106) (Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation (3R) (67), Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) (37), anti-balaka (1) and Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC) (1)); Coalition des patriotes pour le changement Fondamentale (CPC-F)/UPC (106); Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)-Kony (8); and to government and pro-government forces (16) (national defence forces (1) and other security personnel (15)) and unidentified perpetrators (1). Some 65 children served in combat roles.

26. Three boys were detained for alleged association with armed groups. All were released following United Nations advocacy.

27. The killing (29) and maiming (28) of 57 children (46 boys, 11 girls) was attributed to: government and pro-government forces (18) (Wagner Ti Azande/Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (8), national defence forces (4), internal security forces (3), other security personnel (3)); unidentified perpetrators (15); CPC (7) (3R (5), FPRC (2)); Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (8); Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (4); CPC-F/UPC (5). Casualties resulted mainly from gunshots (34).

28. Sexual violence against 114 girls was attributed to CPC (44) (3R (37), FPRC (6), unidentified CPC (1)); government and pro-government forces (38) (national defence forces (30), internal security forces (7), Wagner Ti Azande/Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (1)); CPC-F (14) (UPC (13), anti-balaka (1)); Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (5); unidentified perpetrators (7); LRA-Kony (4); and Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (2). Elements of the national defence forces (4) and internal security forces (1) were arrested. Most girls were raped while engaging in domestic chores (55) and during association with armed groups (25).

29. Attacks on 12 hospitals (7) and schools (5) were attributed to: government and pro-government forces (7) (national defence forces/other security personnel (3), national defence forces (2), other security personnel (2)); CPC/3R (2); CPC-F/UPC (1); Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (1) and unidentified perpetrators (1). Attacks involved destruction (6) and looting (6).

30. Five schools were used by CPC-F/UPC (3) and national defence forces (2). All schools were vacated following United Nations advocacy.

31. The abduction of 133 children (76 boys, 57 girls) was attributed to: CPC-F/UPC (53); CPC (52) (3R (37), FPRC (15)); government and pro-government forces (9) (national defence forces (6), Wagner Ti Azande/Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (3)); Sudanese Rapid Support Forces (9); unidentified perpetrators (6); LRA-Kony (2) and Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (2). Children were abducted for recruitment and use and/or sexual violence (108). Some 132 children escaped or were released.

32. Some 34 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to: unidentified perpetrators (14); CPC-F (6) (UPC (4), anti-balaka (1), Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC) (1)); Azande Ani Kpi Gbe (5); CPC (4) (3R (2), unidentified CPC group (2)); national defence forces (3); and Sudanese Rapid Support

Forces (2). Incidents involved robbery (30) and assaults (2) on humanitarian personnel.

Developments and concerns

33. I welcome the release of 155 children by UPC, 3R and FPRC. I urge FPRC, UPC and MPC to implement their respective action plans and release children from their ranks.

34. I am encouraged by the engagement of the Government with the United Nations in facilitating the release of children from armed groups. I encourage the Government to operationalize the handover protocol for children associated with armed forces and armed groups to child protection actors. I urge the Government to integrate a focal point in the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme to facilitate the separation of children from armed groups.

35. I commend the operationalization of governmental vocational centres to support child reintegration and call for its expansion, as a preventative measure, to allow the most vulnerable children to also attend. I urge the Government to continue child reintegration programmes.

36. I note that, despite a decrease in violations, the environment remains challenging for children. I urge all parties to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded access of humanitarian actors to children.

37. I am concerned about the situation in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture and violations committed by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe and Wagner Ti Azande. I call upon the Government to address the prevailing challenges in the south-east, support the full restoration of State authority in the area and encourage engagement with Azande Ani Kpi Gbe on child protection, with United Nations support.

38. I remain concerned by incidents of killing and maiming, sexual violence and abduction attributed to government and pro-government forces. I urge the government and pro-government forces to cease the military use of schools, appoint child protection focal points in their deployed units and issue command directives on child protection. I call upon the Government to ensure the screening of persons recruited into its forces in parallel to the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration programme.

39. I commend efforts towards accountability for crimes of sexual violence. I urge the Government to end the practice of out-of-court settlements for cases of rape, which encourages impunity.

Colombia

40. The United Nations verified 575 grave violations against 449 children (276 boys, 169 girls, 4 sex unknown), including Indigenous children (171), children of African descent (29) and Venezuelan children (27).

41. Some 371 children (228 boys, 139 girls, 4 sex unknown) were recruited and used by Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) dissident groups (262), including Estado Mayor Central Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (EMC FARC-EP) (126)), Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) (54), Clan del Golfo (also known as Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia) (29) and unidentified perpetrators (26). Some 57 children were used in combat roles and 182 children were released.

42. Some 92 children (60 boys, 32 girls) were killed (48) or maimed (44) by unidentified perpetrators (35), FARC-EP dissident groups (27) (including EMC

FARC-EP (13)), Colombian armed forces (24), Clan del Golfo (4) and ELN (2). Casualties resulted mainly from armed clashes (44) and explosive ordnance (24).

43. Sexual violence against 28 children (27 girls, 1 boy) perpetrated by FARC-EP dissident groups (13) (including EMC FARC-EP (7)), ELN (11), Clan del Golfo (2) and unidentified perpetrators (2) was verified, including rape (10).

44. Attacks on 31 schools (17) and hospitals (14) were attributed to FARC-EP dissident groups (15), unidentified perpetrators (8), ELN (7) and the Colombian armed forces (1).

45. Some 26 schools were militarily used by ELN (10), FARC-EP dissident groups (7) (including EMC FARC-EP (4)), unidentified perpetrators (3), Clan del Golfo (3), the Colombian armed forces (2) and Autodefensas Conquistadoras de la Sierra Nevada (1). All schools were vacated.

46. Some 38 children (29 boys, 9 girls) were abducted by ELN (23), FARC-EP dissident groups (11) (including EMC FARC-EP (7)), Clan del Golfo (3) and unidentified perpetrators (1). Some 13 children were abducted for the purpose of recruitment and use. All children were released.

47. Some 15 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (6), FARC-EP dissident groups (6) and ELN (3).

Developments and concerns

48. I remain deeply concerned by the persistently high number of grave violations committed against children, notably their recruitment and use, including through social media. I am alarmed by the disproportionate impact of these violations on Indigenous children and children of African descent, as well as on migrant and refugee children, who face compounded risks due to structural discrimination and limited access to protection and services.

49. I am concerned by the serious risks faced by children associated with armed groups, including their exposure to sexual violence, particularly affecting girls, as well as killing and maiming. I call upon armed groups to cease recruiting and using children. I call upon the Government to refrain from conducting military operations in areas where children are present.

50. I welcome the adoption of the prevention strategy developed by the Intersectoral Commission for the Prevention of Recruitment, Use, Exploitation, and Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents and call upon the Government to allocate resources for its effective implementation, including at the local level. I encourage the Government to accelerate the implementation of its national action plan on the Safe Schools Declaration and welcome the adoption of guidelines for school risk management and education in emergencies.

51. I call upon the Government to scale up efforts to clear explosive ordnance and to expand explosive ordnance risk education and victim assistance programmes.

52. I call upon negotiating parties to include child protection priorities in peace talks and to urgently translate child protection commitments into concrete and time bound measures.

53. I urge armed groups to engage with the United Nations by adopting action plans to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. I also urge armed groups to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

54. The United Nations verified 4,114 grave violations against 3,263 children (2,216 boys, 1,047 girls).

55. Some 1,397 children (1,109 boys, 288 girls) were recruited and used by Mouvement national congolais (MNC) (173), Mai-Mai Mazembe (158), Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) (142), Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO) (119), Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) (85), Nyatura (84), Raia Mutomboki (79), Mai-Mai Yira (46), Mai-Mai Nyerere (44), Mai-Mai Biloze Bishambuke (39), Mai-Mai Kakobanya (39), Wazalendo (34), Mai-Mai Zaïre (30) and 47 other parties to the conflict (325), including Twirwaneho (13), Force de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI) (11), Nduma défense du Congo-Rénové (NDC-Rénové) (9), Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain (APCLS) (7), Alliance des forces de résistance congolaise (2), Mai-Mai Simba (1) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1). Some 421 children were used in combat roles.

56. Some 114 children (107 boys, 7 girls) were detained for alleged association with armed groups by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (108), the National Intelligence Agency (4) and the Congolese National Police (2). All children were released following United Nations advocacy.

57. The killing (519) and maiming (399) of 918 children (661 boys, 257 girls) were attributed to M23 (404), CODECO (109), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (100), Nyatura (66), unidentified perpetrators (69), Mai-Mai Zaïre (19), Mai-Mai Mazembe (18), ADF (17), Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda – Forces combattantes abacunguzi (FDLR-FOCA) (15), the Congolese National Police (14), Wazalendo (13), APCLS (11), Mouvement congolais de développement pour la nation (MCDPIN) (10), NDC-Rénové (6), Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) (6) and 24 other armed groups (41). Most casualties occurred during military operations (766).

58. Sexual violence was perpetrated against 592 children (3 boys, 589 girls) by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (147), M23 (124), CODECO (69), Nyatura (38), Mai-Mai Mazembe (25), Mai-Mai Yakotumba (23), unidentified perpetrators (46), Mai-Mai Biloze Bishambuke (12), Raia Mutomboki (10), APCLS (10), Resistance pour un État de droit au Burundi (RED Tabara) (9), FRPI (8), other State forces (6), FDLR (6), ADF (5), Twirwaneho (5), Mai-Mai Zaïre (4), FDLR-FOCA (4) and 28 other armed groups (47), including NDC-Rénové (1). Perpetrators from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (27), the National Intelligence Agency (2) and armed groups (1) were arrested or prosecuted.

59. Attacks on 121 schools (81) and hospitals (40), including against protected persons (19) were attributed to M23 (45), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (25), unidentified perpetrators (11), Twirwaneho (7), CODECO (6), ADF (3), Raia Mutomboki (3) and 11 other parties (21).

60. Some 82 schools were used for military purposes by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (40), unidentified perpetrators (28), M23 (5), Nyatura (2), the Burundi National Defence Force (1), Wazalendo (1), Mai-Mai Zaïre (1) and three other parties (4).

61. Some 1,067 children (910 boys, 157 girls) were abducted by M23 (570), ADF (102), Nyatura (97), CODECO (61), Mai-Mai Mazembe (37), Wazalendo (37), NDC-Rénové (18), Raia Mutomboki (15), unidentified perpetrators (18), FDLR-FOCA (7), Force patriotique et intégrationniste du Congo (FPIC) (6), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (5), FRPI (5) and 33 other

armed groups (89), including APCLS (3). Most children were abducted for the purpose of recruitment and use (508).

62. Some 19 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were verified, including the killing of one humanitarian worker, by M23 (3), Twirwaneho (3), Wazalendo (3), unidentified perpetrators (5), the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1), Raia Mutomboki (1) and two other parties (3).

Developments and concerns

63. I commend the efforts of the African Union to consolidate the peace processes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region. I urge all parties to take immediate steps to honour their commitments under the Washington Accords for Peace and Prosperity between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, the Doha Framework for a Comprehensive Peace Agreement and relevant regional agreements. The protection of children must be at the forefront of all political, security and implementation measures.

64. I remain deeply alarmed by the devastatingly high numbers of grave violations against children. I condemn the 2025 offensive in North Kivu and South Kivu by M23 with the direct support and participation of the Rwanda Defence Forces, leading to a significant increase in child casualties and abductions. Ongoing military operations by all parties, together with the increased use of drone strikes, are also deeply concerning from the perspective of protecting children. The scale of sexual violence by the defence and security forces and by armed groups is appalling. I urge the armed forces and armed groups to end and prevent these grave violations.

65. I welcome progress towards the adoption of a national child policy and the Government's commitment to implementing the 2012 action plan. I welcome the cooperation between the Government and the United Nations on screening, age assessment and separation of children from security forces during recruitment processes. I call upon the Government to take measures to prevent child recruitment and use by its allies. I further call upon the Government to end the detention of children formerly associated with armed groups and ensure they receive reintegration services.

66. I welcome the prosecution of perpetrators of grave violations, including sexual violence and recruitment and use of children, and encourage the continuation of accountability efforts.

67. I urge all parties to cease attacks on schools and hospitals and to immediately vacate schools that have been militarily used. I commend the Government for implementing the Safe Schools Declaration.

68. I encourage the Government to implement the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme with a focus on children.

Haiti

69. The United Nations verified 2,088 grave violations against 1,661 children (951 boys, 383 girls, 327 sex unknown).

70. Some of 892 children (751 boys, 101 girls, 40 sex unknown) were recruited and used by unidentified gangs' factions of the Viv Ansanm coalition (159), Gran Grif (129), Kraze Barye (108), 400 Mawozo (97), Kokorat San Ras (74), 5 Segond (40), Grand Ravine (39), other armed gangs and self-defence groups (245) and the Haitian National Police (1). Most children were used in combat roles (378 boys) and support roles (281 children), with girls disproportionately exposed to sexual violence.

71. The killing (339) and maiming (281) of 620 children (307 boys, 101 girls, 212 sex unknown) was attributed to: unidentified perpetrators (189) (including unidentified armed gangs (97), crossfire between the Haitian National Police and armed gangs (92)), the Haitian National Police (76), Gran Grif (68), Kraze Barye (62), Viv Ansanm coalition (39), Kokorat San Ras (32), Special Security Task Force (24) and other armed gangs and self-defence groups (130). Casualties mainly resulted from armed confrontations (240) and drone strikes (24).

72. Sexual violence against 166 children (164 girls, 2 boys) was attributed to: Kokorat San Ras (34), Grand Ravine (15), Les Argentins (8), 400 Mawozo (8), Brooklyn (7), Viv Ansanm coalition (6), Boston (6), so-called Taliban (6), Terre Noire (6), Village de Dieu “5 Segond” (5), Chen Mechan (5), the Haitian National Police (5), and other armed gangs and self-defence groups (55). Cases included rape (113) and gang and repeated rape (47).

73. Attacks on 99 schools (81) and hospitals (18) were attributed to: Viv Ansanm coalition (16), 400 Mawozo (11), Gran Grif (11), Kraze Barye (11), 5 Segond (8), Special Security Task Force (2) and other armed gangs and self-defence groups (40), including damage to or destruction of facilities (63) and attacks against protected persons (33).

74. The military use of 136 schools was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (105), unidentified armed gangs (25), Kokorat San Ras (4) and Terre Noire (2).

75. The abduction of 277 children (112 boys, 75 girls, 90 sex unknown) was attributed to: Viv Ansanm coalition (77), Gran Grif (52), 5 Segond (42), Kraze Barye (30), Grand Ravine (9) and other armed gangs and self-defence groups (67). Children were abducted for recruitment and use (39) and sexual violence (14).

76. A total of 34 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to: unidentified armed gangs (14), Gran Grif (6), Kokorat San Ras (6), Pierre VI (4), 5 Segond (1) Ti Bwa (1), Kraze Barye (1) and Viv Ansanm coalition (1). Cases included threats (8) and attacks on aid deliveries (8).

Developments and concerns

77. I welcome the establishment of the Prevention and Rehabilitation Programme against Children and Youth Recruitment (PREJEUNES) by the transitional authorities and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), following the signature of the handover protocol in 2024, to prevent the recruitment of children and to support the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed gangs, including the reintegration of 573 children in 2025.

78. I welcome the appointment by the transitional authorities of child protection focal points within the Haitian National Police and encourage their operationalization.

79. I reiterate the readiness of the United Nations to cooperate with the Gang Suppression Force on child protection, including on the development of operational guidance, such as on the handover of children, detention safeguards and alternatives, and on measures to minimize child casualties during operations.

80. I am deeply alarmed by the increase in the recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and abduction of children. I reiterate my call upon all parties to immediately cease violations against children and to allow safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access.

81. I am deeply alarmed by the use of uncrewed aircraft systems by State actors and private military and security companies and the rising number of child victims. I urge transitional authorities and security forces to protect children and refrain from

excessive use of force during law enforcement operations, exercising maximum restraint and using intentional lethal force only when it is strictly unavoidable in order to protect life.

Israel and the State of Palestine[6]

82. The United Nations verified 12,445 grave violations against 5,663 children (3,549 boys, 2,114 girls); Israeli and other children in Israel (14) and Palestinian children (5,649). The violations occurred in Israel (9) and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (12,436) (West Bank, including East Jerusalem (5,452), Gaza Strip (6,984)). In addition, the United Nations received reports of the killing of 4,588 children in the Gaza Strip and the maiming of 346 children in Israel, which are pending verification. Owing to severe access challenges and the intensity of the conflict, particularly in the Gaza Strip, the information presented herein does not represent the full scale of violations against children.

83. Verified grave violations were attributed to Israeli armed and security forces (9,465), Israeli settlers (326), unidentified perpetrators (104), individual Palestinian perpetrators (8), the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran (7), Palestinian Authority Security Forces (5), the Houthis (who call themselves Ansar Allah) (5), Palestinian armed actors (4), Palestinian armed groups (2) and Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (1). In addition, the process of attribution of responsibility relating to 2,518 verified violations is ongoing.

84. The United Nations verified the killing of 5 children in Israel (3 Ukrainian children, 2 Israeli children) by the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran (4) and by an individual Palestinian perpetrator (1).

85. Nine Israeli boys were maimed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (7), and in Israel (2) by individual Palestinian perpetrators (7), Israeli forces (1) and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran (1).

86. Two attacks on hospitals in Israel were attributed to the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2).

87. The United Nations verified the use of 2 Palestinian children (1 boy, 1 girl) by Israeli armed and security forces as human shields during operations in the West Bank (1) and in the Gaza Strip (1).

88. The United Nations verified the detention of 981 Palestinian children (973 boys, 8 girls) by Israeli armed and security forces (978) for alleged security offences in East Jerusalem (182) and elsewhere in the West Bank (782) and the Gaza Strip (14); and by Palestinian Authority Security Forces (3) for alleged involvement with Palestinian armed actors in the West Bank. Israeli authorities reported that 180 Palestinian children were held under administrative detention, without charge or trial as at 31 December 2025, in addition to 7 children transferred to Israel from the Gaza Strip and detained under the "unlawful combatant" designation. The United Nations received testimonies of 66 children who reported physical violence and other ill-treatment while detained by Israeli forces. One Palestinian boy died in Israeli detention, with autopsy findings raising concerns about extreme and likely prolonged malnutrition, and inadequate medical care.

89. The United Nations verified the killing of 57 Palestinian children (55 boys, 2 girls) in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, attributed to Israeli armed and security forces (55) (live ammunition (47), air strikes (7), tear gas inhalation (1)),

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

Palestinian Authority Security Forces (1), and crossfire between Palestinian Authority Security Forces and Palestinian armed actors (1). In the Gaza Strip, the United Nations verified the killing of 2,668 Palestinian children (1,539 boys, 1,129 girls) by Israeli armed and security forces (150). The process of attribution of 2,518 verified killing incidents is ongoing. Most incidents were caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas by Israeli armed and security forces.

90. The maiming of 2,921 Palestinian children (1,942 boys, 979 girls) was verified in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (698) and in the Gaza Strip (2,223). The United Nations verified maiming attributed to Israeli armed and security forces (2,760), Israeli settlers (75), the Houthis (5), Palestinian Authority Security Forces (2) and unidentified perpetrators (79) (unexploded ordnance (68), crossfire between Palestinian Authority Security Forces and Palestinian armed actors (1)). In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, most children were maimed by live ammunition (264), teargas inhalation (241), physical assault (102), rubber-coated metal bullets (35) and air strikes (2). In Gaza, most children were maimed by air strikes (1,816), tank shelling (202), live ammunition (136) and unexploded ordnance (68).

91. The United Nations verified multiple incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, including as a form of torture, inflicted against 9 boys and 1 girl from the Gaza Strip (5) and the West Bank (5).

92. Attacks on 828 schools (609) and hospitals (219), including on protected persons in relation to schools (42) and/or hospitals (74), and on ambulances (20), were attributed to: Israeli armed and security forces (773), Israeli settlers (39), unidentified perpetrators (9), Palestinian armed actors (3), Palestinian Authority Security Forces (2) and Palestinian armed groups (2) in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (608), and in the Gaza Strip (220).

93. The United Nations verified 9 military uses of schools (6) and health facilities (3) by Israeli armed and security forces (4), Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (3) and Palestinian armed actors (2). Schools in the Gaza Strip have remained closed since 7 October 2023, affecting 637,500 children. Schools were also closed in the West Bank and Israel in June 2025 during the military escalation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

94. The United Nations verified the abduction of one Palestinian boy by Israeli armed and security forces in the Gaza Strip.

95. A total of 5,946 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access by Israeli armed and security forces (5,716); Israeli settlers (212); Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (1), Palestinian armed actors (1) and unidentified perpetrators (16) was verified in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (4,080) and in the Gaza Strip (1,866). In the Gaza Strip, the United Nations verified 1,684 denials of humanitarian access by Israeli authorities related to the coordination of humanitarian aid missions being denied (1,086) or access being impeded (598), out of 3,157 planned missions. Additionally, attacks on humanitarian personnel, humanitarian sites or aid seekers (184) and attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure (316) were also verified. In the context of Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip, 579 humanitarian personnel were killed, including at least 388 United Nations personnel, since 7 October 2023, including 184 humanitarian personnel and 109 United Nations personnel killed in 2025. For 11 weeks between March and May, Israel prevented humanitarian aid and commercial supplies from entering the Gaza Strip, while intense restrictions persisted throughout 2025, fuelling acute food insecurity for nearly the entire population, with 113 child deaths reported due to malnutrition and famine declared in Gaza in August 2025, as well as deaths due to hypothermia and preventable diseases. In the West Bank, Israeli armed and security forces delayed or

obstructed medical care to critically injured children (11). In addition, 3,750 permit applications (2,088 for boys, 1,662 for girls) to Israeli authorities for children from the West Bank to gain access to specialized medical treatment were denied, while 9,635 applications were approved.

Developments and concerns

96. I am appalled by the magnitude 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 shocked by the ongoing grave violations in the Gaza Strip and I am deeply alarmed by the escalating violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. I welcome the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the release of all Israeli hostages held in Gaza. I call for implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, in line with Security Council resolutions and international law.

97. I am gravely alarmed by the staggering increase in grave violations against children perpetrated by Israeli armed and security forces, 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 and attacks on humanitarian personnel. I again urge 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 refrain from using them for military purposes, and to comply with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions, and to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. I urge Israel to pursue accountability for grave violations against children.

98. I am deeply alarmed at the staggering rise in attacks carried out by Israeli settlers resulting in grave violations against Palestinian children, including in proximity to, and with the frequent support of, Israeli security forces, and by the persistent lack of accountability for these violations. I reiterate my grave concern regarding the excessive use of force during law enforcement operations, including 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 to protect life as a measure of last resort. I am alarmed by the high number of children detained by Israel and by reports of severe physical violence during detention, and poor detention conditions, which may constitute inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. I urge Israel to uphold international juvenile justice standards, end all administrative and arbitrary detention of children and prevent the attempted use of children as informants.

99. 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 previously addressed by my Special Representative to Israel, including clear, time-bound commitments to end and prevent grave violations against children, as proposed by the United Nations.

100. I remain concerned at grave violations by Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and all Palestinian armed groups, and I call upon Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and all Palestinian armed groups to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, respect the special protections afforded to children and refrain from attacks that harm civilians, including children, and from indiscriminate attacks towards Israeli population centres. I also call upon Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and other 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.

101. 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, including clear time-bound commitments to end and prevent grave violations against children, as proposed by the United Nations.

102. I call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and to cease attacks that affect civilians, including children.

103. I call upon the Houthis, to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and to cease attacks that affect civilians, including children.

104. I condemn attacks against humanitarian operations, premises and workers, including the killing of humanitarian personnel. I call upon Israel and all other duty bearers 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 and the West Bank.

Islamic Republic of Iran

105. I am concerned at reports received by the United Nations of the killing of 29 children (16 girls, 13 boys), the maiming of 1 boy and the damage to one kindergarten and two hospitals in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the military escalation between Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran in June 2025. These reports have not been verified by the United Nations. I will continue to monitor with concern the situation of children in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Lebanon

106. The United Nations verified 294 grave violations against 281 children (204 boys, 64 girls, 13 sex unknown).

107. The recruitment and use of 132 boys was attributed to Fatah (26), Jund Ansar Allah (21), Hamas (19), unidentified armed groups (14), Hizbullah (13), Asbat al-Ansar (12), Palestinian Mujahideen Movement (Rashidieh camp) (11), Palestinian Islamic Jihad (7), Al-Shabab al-Muslim (4), Jund al-Sham (3) and Amal Movement (2). Children were mostly used in supporting roles.

108. Nine boys were detained by national authorities for their alleged association with armed groups; 10 boys, including 4 boys detained in previous years, were released.

109. The killing (21) and maiming (136) of 157 children (80 boys, 64 girls, 13 sex unknown) was attributed to the Israeli armed forces (143), unidentified perpetrators (12) and Syrian government forces (2), mostly through the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and cross-border shelling.

110. Five attacks on schools were attributed to Israeli armed forces (2) and Syrian government forces through cross-border shelling (3).

111. The military use of four United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools by Fatah and Jund al-Sham continued.

Developments and concerns

112. I welcome the commitment of the Government of Lebanon to the protection of children, as reiterated with my Special Representative during her visit in February

2026. I recommend strengthening prevention measures to reinforce child protection in cooperation with the United Nations.

113. I am alarmed by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the impact thereof on children. I reiterate my call upon Israel to abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. I also reiterate my call to Hizbullah and all armed groups to abide with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. I urge all parties to refrain from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

114. I am alarmed by the sharp increase in child recruitment and use by armed groups and strongly urge them to cease this violation and release all children from their ranks. I reiterate my call to Fatah and Jund al-Sham to vacate schools in Palestine refugee camps.

115. I call upon the Government to release, to child protection actors, children detained for alleged association with armed groups, treat them in line with international juvenile justice standards and not prosecute them solely for their alleged association, and provide access to reintegration programmes. I urge the Government to establish a handover protocol to facilitate the release of such children. I call upon the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Libya

116. The United Nations verified 1,140 grave violations affecting 56 children (47 boys, 6 girls, 3 sex unknown).

117. The recruitment and use of 17 boys was attributed to unidentified armed groups (9), the Libyan National Army (5), the Deterrence Agency for Combating Terrorism and Organized Crime (1), the Judicial Police (1) and the General Administration for Combating Illegal Migration (1).

118. The detention of 33 children for their alleged association with armed groups was verified. Some 16 children remained in detention.

119. The killing (9) and maiming (30) of 39 children (30 boys, 6 girls, 3 sex unknown) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (32), the Libyan National Army (5), the 444th Brigade in association with an unidentified armed group (1) and the "Anti-Security Threats Agency" (1). Most child casualties were caused by explosive ordnance (24).

120. The United Nations verified 1,084 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access attributed to the western branch of the Internal Security Agency (896), the Internal Security Agency in southern Libya, affiliated with the Libyan National Army (155), the General Administration for Combating Illegal Migration (24), jointly to the General Administration for Combating Illegal Migration and Libyan Border Guards Headquarters (5) and unidentified perpetrators (4).

Developments and concerns

121. I welcome the adoption by the Government of National Unity of the guidelines for the protection of children associated with armed conflict in Libya for the handover of children associated with armed forces and groups to child protection actors and for the prevention of child recruitment, and their dissemination to military and security institutions. I encourage the Government to adopt the bill criminalizing child recruitment and the amendment to the law on the recruitment age in the armed forces.

122. I am alarmed by the spike in incidents of denial of humanitarian access, particularly following the closure and suspension of several international humanitarian organizations. I note that some were allowed to resume work by the end of 2025. I call upon the Government of National Unity and other actors to facilitate humanitarian access to children.

123. I am concerned by the increase in child casualties, especially caused by the use of heavy weaponry in densely populated areas.

124. I am troubled by the vulnerabilities of children to trafficking that can lead to grave violations and urge the Government to take all measures possible to protect children from trafficking.

125. I urge the Government and other actors to end child detention, including for children detained for their mothers' alleged association with Da'esh, pursue alternatives to detention, provide them with access to basic services 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

126. The United Nations verified 859 grave violations against 701 children (554 boys, 143 girls, 4 sex unknown).

127. Some 353 children (339 boys, 14 girls) were recruited and used by Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) (161) (unidentified JNIM (86), Katiba Serma (74), Ansar Eddine (1)); unidentified perpetrators (72); Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad/Front de libération de l'Azawad (CMA/FLA) (45) (Groupe d'autodéfense des Touaregs Imghad et leurs alliés (GATIA)-Fahad (24), Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad (MNLA) (19), Mouvement arabe de l'Azawad of Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad (MAA-CMA)(2)); Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP) (43); Platform (26) (Mouvement pour le salut de l'Azawad des Daoussak (MSA-D) (6), Ganda Lassal Izo (6), Ganda Koy (5), Ganda Izo (4), GATIA (3), unidentified Platform (2)); and Dan Nan Ambassagou (6).

128. The Malian Defence and Security Forces captured or arrested 17 boys during military operations for alleged association with armed groups; 11 boys were handed over to child protection structures in accordance with the 2013 handover protocol, however, 6 of those boys had been detained for extended periods.

129. The killing (107) and maiming (201) of 308 children (199 boys, 105 girls, 4 sex unknown) were attributed to: unidentified perpetrators (166); the Malian armed forces (72); JNIM (55) (Front de libération du Macina (Katiba Macina/FLM) (31), unidentified JNIM (24)); ISSP (8); CMA/FLA (6) (MNLA(4), MAA-CMA (1), GATIA-Fahad (1)) and Ganda Izo (1) as part of Platform. Most casualties were caused by air strikes (96), including armed drone attacks, by severe beating and whippings (88) and by explosive ordnance (47).

130. The rape of 22 girls was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (16), ISSP (5) and unidentified JNIM (1).

131. Attacks on 57 schools (40) and hospitals (17), were attributed to JNIM (31) (unidentified JNIM (23), Katiba Macina/FLM (7), Ansar Eddine (1)), unidentified perpetrators (23), MNLA (2) and the Malian armed forces (1).

132. The military use of two schools was attributed to Katiba Macina/FLM (1) as part of JNIM and unidentified perpetrators (1). The schools were vacated.

133. Some 69 children (62 boys, 7 girls) were abducted by unidentified perpetrators (49), JNIM (12) (Katiba Macina/FLM (12)); ISSP (4) and CMA/FLA (4) (MNLA (3), MAA-CMA (1)).

134. Some 50 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (24); JNIM (21) (unidentified JNIM (13), Katiba Macina/FLM (7), Katiba Serma (1)); foreign security personnel (3); CMA/FLA (1) (MNLA (1)); and Dozo traditional hunters (1).

Developments and concerns

135. I welcome the engagement between the transitional Government and the United Nations on child protection. I encourage the transitional Government to adopt a prevention plan on the protection of children and finalize the revision of the Child Protection Law and Code, criminalizing the recruitment and use of children under the age of 18.

136. I take note of the adoption in July 2025 of the National Charter for Peace and Reconciliation. I commend the transitional Government, in cooperation with the United Nations, for implementing the Safe Schools Declaration. However, I am concerned by increasing attacks on schools and hospitals, notably by armed groups. I encourage the transitional Government to finalize the bill on the protection of education from attacks.

137. I note the efforts of the transitional Government in implementing the disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and integration process and call for the appointment of a high-level focal point on child protection.

138. I am deeply concerned by the emerging pattern of attacks on fuel and civilian infrastructure by JNIM, which has compounded humanitarian needs. I call upon armed groups to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access.

139. I remain concerned by the continued recruitment and use of children by Platform and CMA/FLA. I urge them to engage with the United Nations to implement their respective action plans and release all children from their ranks.

140. I am seriously concerned by the continued high numbers of grave violations against children, especially killing and maiming, including the increasing use of explosive weapons in populated areas. I call upon all parties to immediately cease all violations against children.

Myanmar

141. The United Nations verified 2,203 grave violations against 1,746 children (1,097 boys, 638 girls, 11 sex unknown). The United Nations documented some 1,072 grave violations, which are pending verification.

142. The recruitment and use of 284 children (260 boys, 14 girls, 10 sex unknown) was attributed to the Myanmar armed forces, including related forces and affiliated militias (138) (Myanmar armed forces (65), the border guard forces (32), jointly by Myanmar armed forces and Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) (25), affiliated militias (13), jointly by Myanmar armed forces and affiliated militias(2), jointly by the Myanmar armed forces and Pyu Saw Htee (1)); the Arakan Army (AA) (68); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (32); the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) (27); the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) (5); Pyu Saw Htee (5); the Pa-O National Army (PNA) (2); the Karenni Army (KA) (2); the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) (1); the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) (1); the Chin National Front (CNF) (1); the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (1); and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) (1).

Children were used in combat (170) and in support (114) roles. Sixteen children (13 boys, 3 girls) were released.

143. The detention of 34 children (29 boys, 5 girls) as young as 14 for alleged association with armed groups was attributed to the Myanmar armed forces.

144. The killing (307) and maiming (920) of 1,227 children (712 boys, 514 girls, 1 sex unknown) was attributed to the Myanmar armed forces, including related forces and affiliated militias (962) (Myanmar armed forces (948), jointly by Myanmar armed forces and Pyu Saw Htee (6), affiliated militias (4), jointly by Myanmar armed forces and Myanmar Police Force (3), jointly by Myanmar armed forces and PNA (1)); AA (35); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (5); TNLA (4); Pyu Saw Htee (3); PNA (3); MNDAA (1) and unidentified perpetrators (214). Casualties were caused by air strikes, including through the use of drones (695), by explosive weapons (282) and by explosive ordnance (163).

145. Sexual violence against 13 girls by the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (4), Myanmar armed forces (3), AA (2), MNDAA (2), PNA (1) and unidentified perpetrators (1) was verified; 3 of the girls were killed.

146. Attacks on 169 schools (124) and hospitals (45), were attributed to the Myanmar armed forces (140), People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (11), unidentified perpetrators (10), the Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) (3), KIA (2), KNLA (1), AA (1), and jointly to AA and People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (1), including damage or destruction caused by air strikes, including the use of drones (120), resulting in 207 child casualties.

147. The military use of schools (38) and hospitals (2) was attributed to the Myanmar armed forces and affiliated militias (28) (Myanmar armed forces (27), affiliated militia group (1)); People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (6); Pyu Saw Htee (2); KIA (2); TNLA (1) and MNDAA (1). Fifteen schools and one hospital were vacated.

148. The 348 abductions of 343[7] children (231 boys, 112 girls) were attributed to the Myanmar armed forces, including related forces and affiliated militias (104) (Myanmar armed forces (89), jointly by Myanmar armed forces and affiliated militia (5), militia groups (3), jointly by Myanmar armed forces and Pyu Saw Htee (2), jointly by Myanmar Police Force and Pyu Saw Htee (2), jointly by Myanmar armed forces and Myanmar Police Force (2), by border guard forces (1)); United Wa State Army (UWSA) (137); AA (40); KIA (28); TNLA (15); ARSA (8); Pyu Saw Htee (4); MNDAA (3); unidentified perpetrators (3); People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (2); SSPP/SSA (2); CNF (1) and Shanni Nationalities Army (1). Most children were abducted for the purpose of recruitment and use.

149. The United Nations verified 162 denials of humanitarian access by the Myanmar armed forces, including affiliated militias (129) (Myanmar armed forces (127), joint force of Myanmar armed forces and Pyu Saw Htee (2)); unidentified perpetrators (2); MNDAA (8); SSPP/SSA (8); PNA (5); the People's Defence Forces/local defence groups (3); KIA (3); AA (2); ZRA (1) and TNLA (1). Incidents involved movement restrictions, the refusal or denial of travel authorizations or approvals, and attacks on humanitarian personnel.

Developments and concerns

150. I am appalled by the increase in and magnitude of the grave violations against children, and the continued use of explosive weapons in populated areas, notably by the Myanmar armed forces. I urge the Myanmar armed forces and all other parties to

[7] Five children were each abducted by two different parties.

respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

151. I call upon all parties to immediately cease the use of landmines and other explosive weapons, and urge them to implement explosive ordnance clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance programmes.

152. I call upon all parties to end the recruitment and use children.

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

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

155. I call upon the Myanmar armed forces to continue to engage with the United Nations for the full implementation of the 2012 joint action plan on ending child recruitment and use, and to ensure that no child is recruited. I call upon them to reinforce engagement to end and prevent killing and maiming, sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and abductions, including for the development of an action plan.

156. I urge the Myanmar armed forces to release children, noting the release of four children, and 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, particularly under the 2010 People's Military Service Law.

157. I welcome efforts by the Karen National Liberation Army, 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 to adopt child protection measures.

Somalia

158. The United Nations verified 2,195 grave violations against 1,703 children (1,286 boys, 417 girls).

159. Some 701 children (679 boys, 22 girls) were recruited and used by Al-Shabaab (560), clan militias (100), regional forces (25) (Puntland police (11), Galmudug forces (8), Puntland forces (2), Hirshabelle police (1), Galmudug police (1), Jubbaland Intelligence and Security Agency (1), Puntland Intelligence and Security Agency (1)), and government security forces (8) (Somali National Army (6), National Intelligence and Security Agency (2)), "community defence forces" (7) and clan militia engaged in Sool Region (1). Children were used as fighters (99) and in support roles (44). Recruitment methods included abduction (407), indoctrination (151) and financial incentives (56).

160. Some 91 children (85 boys, 6 girls) were detained for alleged association with armed groups by the Somali National Army (43), the Somali Police Force (24), the National Intelligence and Security Agency (9), South-West forces (7), Hirshabelle police (6) and the Ethiopian Liyu Police (2). All children were released.

161. The killing (161) and maiming (312) of 473 children (324 boys, 149 girls) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (270), Al-Shabaab (129), clan militias (48), government security forces (18) (Somali National Army (13), National Intelligence and Security Agency (5)), regional forces (6) (Puntland forces (4), Puntland police (1), Jubbaland forces (1)), the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) (1) and Da'esh (1). Causes of child casualties included shelling with mortars and hand grenades (155), crossfire and stray bullets (119) and small arms (98).

162. Sexual violence against 201 girls was attributed to Al-Shabaab (132), unidentified perpetrators (37), clan militias (11), regional forces (11) (Jubbaland forces (5), South-West State forces (3), Puntland forces (2), Galmudug forces (1)) government security forces (9) (Somali National Army (8), Somali Police Force (1)), and "community defence forces" (1). Violations included forced marriage (96), gang rape (44) and rape (33).

163. Some 32 attacks on schools (31) and hospitals (1) were attributed to Al-Shabaab (25), unidentified perpetrators (4), the Somali National Army (2) and clan militias (1).

164. The United Nations verified the military use of two schools by the Somali National Army (1) and Jubbaland Intelligence and Security Agency with Jubbaland forces (1). Both schools were vacated following advocacy by the United Nations.

165. The abduction of 785 children (670 boys, 115 girls) was attributed to Al-Shabaab (736), clan militias (30), unidentified perpetrators (16), the Somali National Army (1), South-West State forces (1) and "community defence forces" (1). Children were abducted for recruitment and use (407), in retaliation for alleged association with Somali security forces (110) and for the purpose of rape and other forms of sexual violence (49). Of that total, 118 children were released or escaped, and 2 children were killed or maimed.

166. Three incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to Al-Shabaab (2) and a joint security force of South-West State forces and the Somali National Army (1).

Developments and concerns

167. I welcome the signing of the 2025 road map and call upon the Federal Government of Somalia to address the remaining grave violations, including killing and maiming and sexual violence.

168. I commend the roll-out by the Federal Government of the age assessment guidelines and standardized checklist, and its implementation of the 2014 standard operating procedure for the handover of children allegedly associated with armed groups. I take note of the decrease in the number of children detained and urgently call upon the Federal Government and federal member states to ensure that children associated with armed forces and armed groups are treated in accordance with juvenile justice standards. I remain concerned by the continued prosecution of minors before military courts.

169. I commend the approval of the child rights bill by the federal cabinet and the passage of the juvenile justice bill by the Federal Parliament, affirming that a child is a person below 18 years of age. I call upon the Federal Government to ensure that the ratification process of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is consistent with international and regional human rights obligations. I also call upon the Federal Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. I welcome the establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission, including a child protection mandate.

170. I am deeply alarmed by the persistently high number of grave violations against children, including those attributed to Al-Shabaab, and the devastating impact of explosive weapons. I remain particularly concerned by the high number of abductions carried out by Al-Shabaab, including incidents occurring in and around schools, and by attacks against teachers who refuse to implement the curriculum promulgated by the group. I call upon all parties to abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

South Sudan

171. The United Nations verified 555 grave violations against 383 children (272 boys, 104 girls, 7 sex unknown).

172. Some 147 children (136 boys, 11 girls) were recruited and used by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (107), the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) (38), forces loyal to Brigadier General James Nando (12), the South Sudan National Police Service (8) unidentified perpetrators (7), the National Security Service (2) and the National Salvation Front (NAS) (1). Some 31 children were released, including following United Nations advocacy, while 56 children escaped.

173. One boy was tortured during his detention by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces for his alleged association with SPLM/A-IO.

174. Some 197 children (128 boys, 62 girls, 7 sex unknown) were killed (114) and maimed (83) by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (126), forces loyal to Brigadier General James Nando (1), NAS (1), the National Security Service (1), the South Sudan National Police Service (1), and unidentified perpetrators (67), including resulting from explosive weapons (32) and crossfire between armed forces and/or armed groups (30).

175. Sexual violence against 28 girls was attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (19), SPLM/A-IO (4), the South Sudan National Police Service (4) and an unidentified perpetrator (1); 22 cases involved rape and 6 cases involved gang rape.

176. Some 40 attacks on schools (16) and hospitals (24), including attacks on protected persons (7), were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (26), unidentified perpetrators (6), joint operations by NAS and SPLM/A-IO (2), the National Security Service (3), NAS (2) and SPLM/A-IO (1).

177. The military use of 8 schools and 2 hospitals by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (8) and SPLM/A-IO (2) was verified. The South Sudan People's Defence Forces vacated three schools and one hospital.

178. Some 102 children (82 boys, 20 girls) were abducted by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (58), SPLM/A-IO (16), the South Sudan National Police Service (15), unidentified perpetrators (7), NAS (3), joint operations by NAS and SPLM/A-IO (3) and forces loyal to Brigadier General James Nando (1). Of that total, 65 children were abducted for recruitment and use. Subsequently, 20 children were released, while 56 escaped.

179. Some 12 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (9), SPLM/A-IO (1), NAS (1) and unidentified perpetrators as a result of crossfire between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO (1), including incidents of interference in humanitarian activities (8).

Developments and concerns

180. I am gravely concerned by the significant increase in the number of grave violations, especially the killing and maiming of children, recruitment and use of children, sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals. I urge all parties to adopt measures to immediately cease and prevent grave violations against children, including by holding perpetrators accountable.

181. I urge all parties to refrain from military operations that target or indiscriminately affect civilians and protected facilities and take all feasible measures to protect children.

182. I welcome the collaboration of parties to the conflict with the United Nations to facilitate the release of children and the provision of reintegration support for these children. I urge the Government to grant the United Nations unimpeded access to military sites and ensure the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups.

183. I welcome the continued commitment of the Government to implement its action plan to end and prevent the six grave violations against children and I urge the Government to ensure adequate budgetary allocations. 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.

Sudan

184. The United Nations verified 1,889 grave violations against 1,681 children (1,004 boys, 626 girls, 51 sex unknown).

185. Some 63 boys were recruited and used by the Sudanese Armed Forces (31), the Rapid Support Forces (28), Sudanese Armed Forces-aligned militia (2) and the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi (SLA-MM) (2).

186. Some 212 children (201 boys, 11 girls) were detained by the Sudanese Armed Forces (136) (including Sudanese Armed Forces Military Intelligence (13)) and deprived of their liberty by the Rapid Support Forces (69) and Sudanese Armed Forces-aligned militia (7) for alleged association with opposing parties. Of that total, 71 children (66 boys, 5 girls) were released by the Sudanese Armed Forces.

187. The killing (847) and maiming (484) of 1,331 children (848 boys, 432 girls, 51 sex unknown) was attributed to the Rapid Support Forces (740), the Sudanese Armed Forces (277) (including Sudanese Armed Forces Military Intelligence (1)), unidentified perpetrators (176), (including 91 in crossfire between Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces (47) and between other parties (44)), the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction (SPLM/N-al Hilu) (129), Sudanese Armed Forces-aligned militia (6), SLA-MM (2) and Arab militia affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (1). Casualties resulted mainly from shelling (374), bombardment (183) and the use of mortars and rockets (138).

188. Sexual violence was perpetrated against 193 children (7 boys, 186 girls) by the Rapid Support Forces (161), the Sudanese Armed Forces (16), Sudanese Armed Forces-aligned militia (9), Arab militia affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (3), SLA-MM (2), the Sudanese Police Force (1) and unidentified perpetrators (1).

189. Attacks on 115 schools (41) and hospitals (74) were attributed to the Rapid Support Forces (73), the Sudanese Armed Forces (21) (including Sudanese Armed Forces Military Intelligence (1)), unidentified perpetrators (16) and SPLM/N-al Hilu (5). The military use of four schools by the Sudanese Armed Forces (3) and the Rapid Support Forces (1) was verified.

190. Some 137 children (114 boys, 23 girls) were abducted by the Rapid Support Forces (126), the Sudanese Armed Forces (4) (including Sudanese Armed Forces Military Intelligence (2)), unidentified perpetrators (3), Sudanese Armed Forces-aligned militia (2) and Arab militia affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (2).

191. Some 50 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to the Rapid Support Forces (32), unidentified perpetrators (6), the Sudanese Armed Forces (7) (including Sudanese Armed Forces Military Intelligence (3)), the Humanitarian Aid Commission (2), Sudanese Armed Forces-aligned militia (1), Arab militia affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (1) and SPLM/N-al Hilu (1).

Developments and concerns

192. I am deeply alarmed by the numbers of grave violations and appalled by the number of children killed and injured, including by explosive ordnance, as well as by attacks on schools and hospitals and sexual violence in North Darfur and in the Kordofan region. I urge all parties to end hostilities, prevent and end grave violations against children and release all children from their ranks. I further urge parties to adhere to the minimum age of 18 for recruitment and use in line with Sudanese laws and international standards.

193. I appeal to all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including to cease attacks on civilians and protected facilities, and allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access, including across borders.

194. I welcome the Sudanese Armed Forces' release of 71 children and reiterate that children should be treated in line with international juvenile justice standards. I call upon all parties to release detained children to child protection actors.

195. I welcome the Sudanese Armed Forces' engagement with the United Nations and the appointment of a focal point to develop an action plan. I once again urge the swift development, signature and implementation of the action plan and the reactivation of the working group on child protection in armed conflict.

196. I take note of the interest expressed by the Rapid Support Forces in engaging on an action plan with the United Nations and the appointment of focal points. I call for its swift development and implementation.

Syrian Arab Republic

197. The United Nations verified 1,374 grave violations against 1,281 children (920 boys, 210 girls, 151 sex unknown).

198. Some 254 children (237 boys, 17 girls) were recruited and used by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) (135) (Kurdish People's Protection Units and Women's Protection Units (YPG/YPJ) (126), other SDF components (9)), the Syrian government forces (43), Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (43),[8] the opposition Syrian National Army[9] (opposition SNA) (18) (unidentified factions (16), Faylaq al-Amshat (1), Hamzah Division (1)), the Patriotic Revolutionary Youth Movement (8), unidentified perpetrators (5) and Druze armed groups, including the so-called national guard in Suwayda' (2). Children were used in support roles (224).

199. The detention of 91 children (89 boys, 2 girls) was attributed to SDF (82) (internal security forces (59), YPG/YPJ (12), other SDF components (11)), the Syrian government forces (4) (including former opposition SNA faction Hamzah Division (2)),[10] Israeli armed forces (3), opposition SNA (unidentified factions) (1) and unidentified perpetrators (1). Some 12 children were released. As of December 2025, approximately 16,100 children, including 5,400 foreign children, remained deprived of liberty for alleged association with armed groups, mainly Da'esh, in Hawl

[8] Violations occurred before the self-announced dissolution of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham and integration of its members into Syrian government forces in January 2025, and were verified in 2025.

[9] Incidents occurred before the formal integration of the opposition Syrian National Army (SNA) and affiliated groups with the Ministry of Defence; referred to as opposition SNA groups. The opposition Syrian National Army formally integrated under the Ministry of Defence and communicated this to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, effective 1 May 2025.

[10] Incidents occurred after the formal integration of opposition SNA and affiliated groups with the Ministry of Defence, referred to as former opposition SNA groups.

and Rawj camps. Additionally, at least 400 foreign children, as well as hundreds of young men who were detained as children, remained held in detention centres in north-eastern Syrian Arab Republic as at December 2025.

200. The killing (419) and maiming (569) of 988 children (666 boys, 175 girls, 147 sex unknown) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (799), the Syrian government forces (104) (including "General Security" force (known as Internal Security Forces from 25 May 2025) (11), Internal Security Command (1), former opposition SNA factions (4)), SDF (33) (other SDF components (16), YPG/YPJ (14), internal security forces affiliated with SDF (also known as Asayish) (3)), the Turkish Armed Forces (18) and opposition SNA (unidentified factions) (14), Israeli armed forces (9), Saraya Ansar al-Sunnah (5), the so-called national guard (4), Hizbullah (1) and Da'esh (1). Most casualties resulted from explosive remnants of war[11] (667) and firearms (202).

201. Sexual violence against 3 girls and 1 boy was attributed to the Syrian government forces (2) (Faylaq al-Amshat (1), Hamzah Division (1)) and unidentified perpetrators (2).

202. Some 45 attacks on schools (11) and hospitals (34) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (28), the Syrian government forces (7), Turkish Armed Forces (3), opposition SNA (2), Israeli armed forces (2), so-called national guard (1), Saraya Ansar al-Sunnah (1) and other SDF components (1).

203. The military use of 40 schools (37) and hospitals (3) by SDF (27) (YPG/YPJ (23), other SDF components (3), internal security forces (1)), the Syrian government forces (5) (including former opposition SNA factions (3)), unidentified perpetrators (3), opposition SNA (2), elements loyal to the previous Government (2) and so-called national guard (1) was verified.

204. A total of 52 children (25 boys, 23 girls, 4 sex unknown) were abducted by SDF (25) (YPG/YPJ (21), internal security forces (3), other SDF components (1)), unidentified perpetrators (12), the Patriotic Revolutionary Youth Movement (8), the so-called national guard (4), the Syrian government forces (2) (including former opposition SNA (1)). Some 19 children were released.

205. Denials of humanitarian access (31) by unidentified perpetrators (17), the Syrian government forces (4) (including former opposition SNA factions (3)), SDF (3) (other SDF components (2), YPG/YPJ) (1)), Israeli armed forces (2), Bedouin tribes (2), the so-called national guard (1), opposition SNA (1) and Turkish Armed Forces (1) were verified.

Developments and concerns

206. I reiterate the need for a Syrian-led and owned, inclusive and credible political process, reflecting provisions regarding children's rights, based on the key principles set out in Security Council resolution 2254 (2015).

207. I welcome the Government's commitment to the international obligations of the Syrian Arab Republic on child rights, including the definition of a child as anyone under the age of 18 in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. I also welcome the cooperation by the Government with the United Nations, as reiterated during the visit to the Syrian Arab Republic of my Special Representative in February 2026, including the appointment of a focal point.

208. I note the announced integration of armed groups under the Ministry of Defence and the signing of an agreement for integration on 10 March 2025, followed by two

[11] Including explosive remnants of war from the time of the previous Government.

additional agreements with SDF. I note that most grave violations attributed to Syrian government forces occurred before the formal establishment of the current Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on 29 March 2025. The integration of members of listed parties, mainly the opposition Syrian National Army and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, without information on addressing past violations, is a matter of concern. I note that the Government has made a commitment to ensure that no children are integrated into its forces, screen its forces and separate identified children, and to put in place systems to prevent recruitment and vetting procedures to ensure that violators of children's rights are not integrated and are held accountable. I welcome the commitment of the Government to engage on a plan with the United Nations to end and prevent grave violations against children, and I call for its swift adoption and implementation.

209. Despite the positive developments, I remain troubled by the level of grave violations, particularly killing and maiming, sexual violence and abduction, and note that recruitment and use remains pervasive. The killing and maiming of children by explosive remnants of war are alarming. I welcome the current Government's prioritization of decontamination and clearance activities and explosive ordnance risk education. I call upon the donor community to support explosive ordnance clearance, risk education and victim assistance. I encourage the Government to ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention).

210. I urge the Government to ensure accountability for perpetrators of grave violations against children.

211. I urge all parties to end and prevent sexual violence against children. I call upon the Government to provide a survivor-centred response.

212. The significant spike in child abduction is troubling. I urge all parties to cease this violation and release children from captivity.

213. I welcome steps undertaken by SDF during the reporting period towards the implementation of their action plan and the screening out of 50 children from recruitment. I urge SDF to release and hand over all children to child protection actors and expedite the full implementation of their commitments on child protection, and to refrain from the military use of schools.

214. I remain alarmed by the high number of children deprived of liberty for their actual or alleged association with armed groups, including Da'esh. I welcome the commitment of the Government, as expressed to my Special Representative, to take steps to strengthen the application of international juvenile justice standards. I am shocked by the humanitarian situation and violence affecting children and women in camps and other places of detention in the north-east of the country. I am concerned that many children are, or are at risk of being, stateless.

215. I call upon the Government to allow unimpeded access for the United Nations to all camps and places of detention across the country.

216. I commend the authorities for facilitating the return of at least 3,400 Syrian children and repatriation of nearly 5,700 children from camps in the north-eastern Syrian Arab Republic. I reiterate once again my call upon all countries concerned to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of women and children, including those still held in camps, in line with international law and while respecting the principles of non-refoulement, family unity and the best interests of the child. I urge the Government to coordinate efforts to ensure the release, voluntary and safe return, and reintegration of these children and their families.

Ukraine

217. The United Nations verified 1,899 grave violations against 781 children (447 boys, 334 girls).

218. A total of 24 children (22 boys, 2 girls) were verified as used by Russian armed forces (4) and unidentified perpetrators (20) as informants tasked with sharing information on Ukrainian military locations or movements, acquiring images of critical infrastructure or military equipment, or making explosives or committing arson against railway infrastructure and vehicles.

219. The United Nations verified the detention of 35 children (32 boys, 3 girls) by Ukrainian authorities (28), Russian armed forces (6) and occupying authorities of the Russian Federation located in territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation (1).

220. The United Nations verified the killing (94) and maiming (659) of 753 children (425 boys, 328 girls), attributed to Russian armed forces (511: 62 killed, 449 maimed), to unidentified perpetrators (230: 29 killed, 201 maimed), including 173 casualties caused by shrapnel when the Ukrainian armed forces intercepted missiles or loitering munitions launched by Russian armed forces, or due to direct impact, and to the Ukrainian armed forces (12: 3 killed, 9 maimed). Most casualties resulted from the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects (718).

221. Rape (2) and other forms of sexual violence (6) were perpetrated against 4 girls and attributed to the Russian armed forces. Two girls were subjected to several forms of sexual violence.

222. Some 641 attacks on schools (442) and hospitals (199), including attacks in which protected persons were injured and killed, were attributed to Russian armed forces (469), unidentified perpetrators (165) and Ukrainian armed forces (7). The military use of two hospitals by the Ukrainian armed forces was verified. One hospital was vacated following United Nations advocacy.

223. Some 473 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to Russian armed forces (399), Ukrainian armed forces (57) and unidentified perpetrators (17), including attacks on energy infrastructure (429).

Developments and concerns

224. I remain deeply alarmed by the high number of grave violations in Ukraine due to the conduct of hostilities, including the use of explosive weapons and drones in populated areas, and by attacks on civilian objects, including schools and hospitals.

225. I welcome the decrease in grave violations attributed to the Ukrainian armed forces. I welcome the engagement of the Government of Ukraine with my Special Representative, including during a visit in April 2026, and the ongoing implementation of the joint prevention plan, including the distribution of pocket cards to the armed forces on preventing grave violations. I urge Ukraine to reverse its decision to suspend the operation of the Ottawa Convention and to prioritize training on children and armed conflict for armed and security forces. I call upon the Government of Ukraine to prevent the military use of hospitals and minimize administrative impediments that impact humanitarian operations.

226. I am deeply alarmed by the grave violations attributed to the Russian armed forces, including an increase in killing and maiming, primarily due to long-range attacks reaching populated areas far from the front line, and the continued attacks on schools and hospitals and protected persons. I urge the Russian Federation to develop and implement an action plan to end grave violations against children. I welcome the

recent constructive visit by my Special Representative in April 2026 to the Russian Federation and welcome discussions to develop and implement commitments to protect children.

227. I condemn the sharp rise in strikes hitting energy infrastructure and causing prolonged disruptions to electricity, heating and water services, thereby severely affecting children's access to critical services. I am deeply concerned by the impact of attacks on humanitarian personnel and operations, which have killed and injured aid workers and obstructed the delivery of essential assistance to children. I call upon parties to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access for the United Nations to the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, in order for humanitarian personnel to deliver vital aid to affected children and families and to conduct monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children.

228. I am concerned by the use of children by the Russian Federation or affiliated actors for surveillance, arson attacks and other conflict-related activities, as well as reports of attempted use of children by Ukraine or affiliated actors. I strongly urge parties to conflict to immediately end and prevent the use of children.

229. I am concerned by the detention of children, including in relation to online recruitment and use. I remind both parties that children actually or allegedly associated with parties to the conflict, including those who may have committed crimes, should be treated primarily as victims and in line with international juvenile justice standards, including detention as a last resort and for the shortest possible period of time.

230. 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.

231. I welcome reports by the Government of Ukraine of the return and reintegration of over 740 children from the Russian Federation and territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation and commend the efforts of those involved. However, I am gravely concerned about the whereabouts of transferred or deported children that remain unknown. I urge the Russian Federation to continue to cooperate with relevant actors, including the United Nations, for the return of Ukrainian children and the reunification of such children with their families and/or guardians. I stand ready to support the efforts of all actors involved, in line with General Assembly resolution ES-11/9. I further urge the Russian Federation to ensure that no changes are made to the legal status, including nationality and family relationships, of Ukrainian children, including children born in territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. I urge all parties to uphold the principle of the best interests of the child.

Yemen

232. The United Nations verified 742 grave violations against 652 children (550 boys and 102 girls).

233. Some 262 children (259 boys and 3 girls), were recruited and used by the Yemen Armed Forces and affiliated forces and groups (135) (Yemen Armed Forces (29), National Shield Forces (16), 5th Support and Reinforcement Brigade (12), Shabwa Defence Forces (10), Security Belt Forces (7), Southern Transitional Council (3)) and the Houthis (127). Children served in combat roles (188) and support roles (60). A total of 52 boys were killed and/or maimed, while 115 children among those recruited were released by armed forces and or groups. Of concern, the United Nations received

reports of the organization by the Houthis of “summer camps” for children, exposing them to military content and activities, which has impacted thousands of children.

234. Five boys were deprived of their liberty by the Houthis (3) and detained by the Yemen Armed Forces (1) and the 4th Infantry Brigade (1). All children were released after a few days.

235. The killing (150) and maiming (281) of 431 children (338 boys, 93 girls) was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (150: 42 killed, 108 maimed); internal actors – the Houthis (97: 28 killed, 69 maimed), the Yemen Armed Forces and affiliated forces and groups (80: 34 killed, 46 maimed) (Yemen Armed Forces (36: 23 killed, 13 maimed), the Security Belt Forces (20: 4 killed, 16 maimed), the Southern Transitional Council (4: 2 killed, 2 maimed)) and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (2: 1 killed, 1 maimed); and external actors – United States of America-authorized air strikes against Houthi targets (57: 30 killed, 27 maimed); and Israeli armed forces (45: 15 killed, 30 maimed). Child casualties resulted, including from the use of explosive weapons (140) and from air strikes and/or drone attacks (112).

236. Rape was perpetrated against 12 children (6 boys, 6 girls), with two cases involving gang rape attributed to the Yemen Armed Forces and affiliated forces and groups (10) (Yemen Armed Forces (3), Southern Transitional Council (2), Security Belt Forces (1)), and the Houthis (2). One boy was killed after being raped.

237. Some 10 attacks on schools (2) and hospitals (8) were attributed to internal actors – the Houthis (4), the Southern Transitional Council (2) and Security Belt Forces (1); and external actors – United States of America-authorized air strikes against Houthi targets (3). Incidents involved damage to or the destruction of facilities (5) and attacks against protected persons (5).

238. The military use of 71 schools (63) and hospitals (8) was attributed to the Houthis (54) and the Yemen Armed Forces and affiliated armed forces and groups (17) (including Yemen Armed Forces (9)). Some 37 facilities were vacated.

239. No cases of abduction were verified.

240. A total of 27 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access attributed to the Houthis (17) and the Yemen Armed Forces and affiliated armed forces and groups (10) (Southern Transitional Council (3), Yemen Armed Forces (1), Security Belt Forces (1)) were verified. Incidents involved the detention of humanitarian personnel or the confiscation of humanitarian offices and supplies (20).

Developments and concerns

241. I remain concerned by the increase in the overall number of grave violations against children in Yemen, particularly the recruitment and use of children and the killing and maiming of children. I urge all parties to the conflict to immediately end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. I further urge all parties to refrain from the use of explosive weapons and from establishing weapons depots in residential areas. All parties should engage in good faith with my Special Envoy for Yemen in order to resume an inclusive political process so as to achieve a nationwide ceasefire and overall negotiated settlement of the conflict, including child protection provisions. I further encourage all parties to facilitate the socioeconomic reintegration of children, with the support of the United Nations.

242. I welcome the continued engagement of the Government in the implementation of the 2014 action plan and the 2018 road map. I commend the capacity-building initiatives on child protection with military and police personnel, as well as community awareness-raising campaigns. I note the approval by the Government of a complaints mechanism and I encourage its swift operationalization. I encourage the

Government to expedite the implementation of all remaining activities under the action plan. I call for groups affiliated with the Presidential Leadership Council to commit to the action plan and road map. I call upon the Government to implement the Safe Schools Declaration.

243. I am concerned about the number of children recruited and used by the Houthis and the reports of "summer camps" for children, and at the number of schools and hospitals that were used for military purposes by the Houthis. I am also concerned about access challenges that severely hamper the monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children – as a result, the information presented herein does not represent the full scale of violations against children attributed to the Houthis. I call upon the Houthis to continue the implementation of the 2020 handover protocol and the outstanding activities under the 2022 action plan.

244. I remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian operating environment in areas under the control of the Houthis. I urge them to abide by international law, including the obligation to respect the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its personnel, which are essential for the conduct of humanitarian operations, and to immediately and unconditionally release all arbitrarily detained personnel of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. Their continued arbitrary detention is exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation and impeding the safe and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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

Burkina Faso

245. The United Nations verified at least 487 grave violations against 455 children (207 boys, 183 girls, 65 sex unknown).

246. Some 18 children (7 boys, 11 sex unknown) were recruited and used by unidentified perpetrators (16) and Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP) (2), predominantly in combat roles.

247. A total of 323 children (154 boys, 134 girls, 35 sex unknown) were killed (112) and maimed (211) by Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) (220), unidentified perpetrators (100) and ISSP (3). Child casualties resulted from crossfire (185), shootings (52) and explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (52).

248. Sexual violence against 4 girls was perpetrated by unidentified perpetrators (3) and by the Volunteers for the Defence of the Homeland (1).

249. Some 26 attacks on schools (14) and hospitals (12) were attributed to JNIM (16), unidentified perpetrators (9) and ISSP (1), including the destruction or damage of facilities (19), looting (4) and the killing of personnel (3).

250. Some 110 children (46 boys, 45 girls, 19 sex unknown) were abducted by JNIM (82) and unidentified perpetrators (28), including 88 in large-scale abduction incidents.

251. A total of 6 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (3), JNIM (2) and ISSP (1), including attacks on humanitarian personnel.

Developments and concerns

252. I welcome the engagement of the national authorities with the United Nations on the protection of children. I call for the implementation of practical measures to end and prevent grave violations, with United Nations support. I welcome the reintegration support provided to children released by armed groups.

253. I encourage the continuation of training for security forces on child protection and the strengthening of accountability for perpetrators of grave violations against children. I encourage the implementation of the guide on human rights developed for the Volunteers for the Defence of the Homeland.

254. I remain concerned by the ongoing grave violations committed against children, especially the killing and maiming and abduction of children, in particular by JNIM and ISSP, both groups that, at the time of writing, are under sanctions enacted by the Security Council. I am concerned by the impact on children of explosive ordnance, drone use and widespread shooting. I urge all parties to immediately cease all grave violations against children and to release all associated and abducted children.

255. The information presented herein does not represent the full scale of violations against children but reflects United Nations-verified trends in grave violations against children. I am concerned about access challenges that severely hamper the monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children. I urge the national authorities to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Cameroon

256. The United Nations verified 274 violations against 178 children (152 boys, 21 girls, 5 sex unknown).

257. The recruitment and use of 22 children (19 boys, 3 girls) was attributed to the Cameroon Armed Forces (15), Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (3), unidentified perpetrators (2) and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (2).

258. Some 4 children (2 boys, 2 girls) remained detained by national authorities for their alleged association with armed groups or on national security grounds.

259. The killing (17) and maiming (12) of 29 children (25 boys, 4 girls) was attributed to JAS (15), unidentified perpetrators (11) and ISWAP (3).

260. Sexual violence against 9 girls was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (4), JAS (4) and the Cameroon Armed Forces (1).

261. Some 80 attacks on schools (73) and hospitals (7) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (74), JAS (4) and ISWAP (2).

262. Five schools were used by the Cameroon Armed Forces.

263. Some 129 children (113 boys, 11 girls, 5 sex unknown) were abducted by unidentified perpetrators (70), JAS (44) and ISWAP (15). A total of 60 children were released.

264. Some 5 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access attributed to unidentified perpetrators were verified.

Developments and concerns

265. I welcome the training of law enforcement officers on the prevention of and response to violations against children, in cooperation with the United Nations.

266. I welcome the Cameroon Armed Forces' engagement with the United Nations in the Far North Region to address the presence of children in military camps.

267. I am concerned by the continued increase of grave violations in Cameroon, including the abduction of children by JAS and ISWAP. I urge all parties to end and prevent grave violations.

268. I call upon the Government to release children detained for alleged association with armed groups and to adopt and operationalize the handover protocol and extend its application to children detained for alleged association with groups designated as terrorist. I also encourage the Government to implement the Safe Schools Declaration and to vacate militarily used schools.

269. I encourage the Government to finalize the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategy, integrating critical provisions for children affected by armed conflict.

270. I also encourage the Government to take measures to strengthen accountability mechanisms for grave violations against children.

Ethiopia

271. The United Nations verified 130 grave violations against 72 children (42 boys, 18 girls, 12 sex unknown).

272. A total of 45 children (27 boys, 9 girls, 9 sex unknown) were killed (23) and maimed (22) by the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (24), Tigray Police (4), Oromo Liberation Army (1) and unidentified perpetrators (16). Casualties resulted from attacks (30), explosive ordnance (10) and crossfire (5).

273. Sexual violence against 7 girls was verified, including cases affecting 2 girls, for which responsibility was attributed to the Eritrean Defence Forces (2).

274. A total of 33 attacks on schools (19) and hospitals (14), including attacks affecting protected persons in relation to schools, were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (33).

275. Some 20 children (15 boys, 2 girls, 3 sex unknown), between the ages of 8 months and 15 years old, were abducted by unidentified perpetrators.

276. A total of 25 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to unidentified perpetrators.

Developments and concerns

277. I welcome the constructive engagement of the Government with my Special Representative, including during her mission in November 2025, and the implementation of child protection measures contained in the letters exchanged between the Government and my previous Special Representative, in 2023.

278. I commend the role of the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in facilitating child protection interventions and responding to allegations of violations transmitted to the Government by the United Nations, and encourage the Government, in cooperation with the United Nations, to continue to implement child protection measures and strengthen existing national child protection systems, including through national mechanisms for reporting and investigating violations, interministerial coordination and standardized case management, linkages between community-level reporting, law enforcement and social services, with the provision of psychosocial support, and by restoring basic services, notably the rehabilitation of schools and health facilities. I am encouraged by efforts leading to schools previously used for military purposes being vacated and a reduction in the number of children out of school. I urge all parties to allow and

facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access and to safeguard humanitarian personnel from attack.

279. I call upon the Government to pursue the national dialogue, transitional justice and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, in cooperation with the United Nations.

280. I remain concerned about the impact of tensions in certain regions on children, especially the incidents of killing and maiming, abduction, attacks on and the military use of schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access. I am concerned about access challenges that severely hamper the monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children and call upon all stakeholders to facilitate monitoring and reporting.

Lake Chad basin

281. The United Nations verified 2,959 grave violations against 1,708 children (723 boys, 970 girls, 15 sex unknown), namely in Far North Region (Cameroon) (140), Lac Province (Chad) (60), Diffa Region (Niger) (200) and the north-east of Nigeria (2,560). 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) (1,767), Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (916), unidentified perpetrators (203), Nigerian Security Forces (53), the Cameroon Armed Forces (16), the Civilian Joint Task Force (2), the Chadian defence and security forces (1) and Bakura (1). Violations involved recruitment and use (970), killing and maiming (87), sexual violence (338), attacks on schools and hospitals (14), abduction (1,545) and the denial of humanitarian access (5).

282. In Lac Province, 60 grave violations against 60 children (25 boys, 24 girls, 11 sex unknown) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (59) and the Chadian defence and security forces (1). These violations included recruitment and use (2 boys), sexual violence (1 girl) and abduction (23 boys, 23 girls, 11 sex unknown).

Developments and concerns

283. I commend the Lake Chad Basin Commission for adopting, in February 2025, an updated Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-Affected Areas in the Lake Chad Basin Region, establishing reintegration procedures for children formerly associated with armed groups. I urge the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria to ensure implementation in collaboration with the United Nations.

284. I am deeply concerned by the increase in abductions of children by JAS and ISWAP. I urge all parties, particularly JAS and ISWAP, to immediately end all grave violations against children and unconditionally release all children from their ranks.

Mozambique

Cabo Delgado and Nampula Provinces

285. The United Nations verified 552 grave violations against 355 children (183 boys, 160 girls, 12 sex unknown) in Cabo Delgado (522) and Nampula (30) Provinces.

286. Some 175 children (105 boys, 67 girls, 3 sex unknown) were recruited and used by non-State armed groups. A total of 103 children have were released or escaped from those armed groups.

287. The killing (9) and maiming (6) of 15 children (9 boys, 6 girls) was attributed to non-State armed groups (11), unidentified perpetrators (3) and the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (1).

288. Sexual violence against 23 children (22 girls, 1 boy) was attributed to non-State armed groups (19), the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces (3) and the Rapid Intervention Unit of the national police (1), including cases of children subjected to forced marriage (10).

289. A total of 13 attacks on schools (12) and a hospital (1) were attributed to non-State armed groups. The military use of one school by the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces was verified, and one school remained in use by the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces.

290. Some 326 children (163 boys, 151 girls, 12 sex unknown) were abducted by non-State armed groups, including for recruitment and use (168). A total of 58 children escaped or were released by armed groups.

291. No incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were verified.

Developments and concerns

292. I welcome the continued cooperation of the Government with the United Nations, including on child protection training for the Mozambique Defence Armed Forces and the initiation of training for the police. I encourage the Government to extend that training to the Rapid Intervention Unit, the Força Local and the Naparama.

293. I welcome progress made in the drafting of a handover protocol for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, in cooperation with the United Nations, and I call for its adoption and implementation by the Government, including age assessment, referral pathways and oversight of implementation.

294. I am deeply concerned about the persistence of grave violations committed by non-State armed groups, in particular the recruitment and use and abduction of children. I urge non-State armed groups to end these grave violations and release the children, without conditions.

Niger

295. The United Nations verified 466 grave violations against 422 children (254 boys, 164 girls, 4 sex unknown).

296. The recruitment and use of 95 children (89 boys, 6 girls) was attributed to Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP) (51), unidentified perpetrators (28) and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (16).

297. The killing (76) and maiming (49) of 125 children (89 boys, 36 girls) was attributed to ISSP (90), unidentified perpetrators (27), Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (6) and ISWAP (2). Child casualties resulted from improvised explosive devices (63) and gunshots (56).

298. Sexual violence against 15 girls was attributed to unidentified perpetrators (13) and ISWAP (2).

299. Four attacks on schools (1) and hospitals (3) were attributed to unidentified perpetrators.

300. Some 224 children (110 boys, 110 girls, 4 sex unknown) were abducted by unidentified perpetrators (155), JAS (52) and ISSP (17), often for the purpose of recruitment and use and for ransom.

301. Three denials of humanitarian access by ISWAP (2) and unidentified perpetrators (1) were verified.

Developments and concerns

302. I welcome the validation by the transitional Government of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategy in February 2025, and the integration of the handover protocol for the handover of children associated with armed forces and armed groups therein. I welcome the handover of 49 children, in line with the protocol. I urge all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the handover protocol to designate child protection focal points. I call for the integration of age screening and age assessment procedures in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, with United Nations support.

303. I am concerned by the significant increase in most grave violations and call upon all armed groups to immediately cease the recruitment and use of children, and to release children and hand them over them to child protection actors. I urge the armed groups to cease the use of explosive weapons. I call upon the transitional Government to prioritize explosive ordnance clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance programmes.

Nigeria

304. The United Nations verified 2,560 grave violations against 1,342 children (528 boys, 814 girls).

305. Some 927 cases of recruitment and use involving 923 children (332 boys, 591 girls), were attributed to Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (604), Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (274) and the Nigerian Security Forces (49). Most children (895) were used for domestic chores. Of the total number, 860 children were recruited through abduction, and 331 children were subjected to sexual violence.

306. Some 37 children (28 boys, 9 girls) were detained for periods ranging from one month to two years by the Nigerian Security Forces for their actual or alleged association with armed groups. All were subsequently released and handed over to civilian authorities in line with the handover protocol.

307. The killing (35) and maiming (11) of 46 children (41 boys, 5 girls) was attributed to JAS (15), ISWAP (17), the Nigerian Security Forces (3), the Civilian Joint Task Force (2) and unidentified perpetrators (9). Casualties resulted from the execution of 20 children, and the use of explosive ordnance (15).

308. Sexual violence against 331 children (7 boys, 324 girls) was attributed to JAS (227), ISWAP (103) and the Nigerian Security Forces (1). Almost all verified cases involved forced marriage following abduction (328). Survivors were provided with age-appropriate, survivor-centred gender-based violence services.

309. Two attacks on schools (1) and hospitals (1) were attributed to ISWAP in Borno State.

310. Some 1,250 children (453 boys, 797 girls) were abducted by JAS (778), ISWAP (472) and Bakura (1). Children were abducted primarily for the purposes of recruitment and sexual violence. Of that total, 1,223 children were released, 15 were killed and 1 child remains in captivity.

311. Three incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to ISWAP, including the killing of two humanitarian workers.

Developments and concerns

312. I welcome the collaboration between the Government and the United Nations on the protection of children, including the implementation of the handover protocol and the training of the Civilian Joint Task Force. I urge the Government to continue granting the United Nations access to all children in detention, to treat children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups primarily as victims in line with international juvenile justice standards, and to facilitate their release and reintegration.

313. I call upon the Government to promote accountability for grave violations, including through transitional justice mechanisms, ensuring that all victims receive comprehensive justice and protection services.

314. I reiterate my call upon the Government to increase public investment in child protection systems and to expedite explosive ordnance clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance.

315. I remain gravely concerned by the continued high number of grave violations against children, primarily attributed to JAS and ISWAP. I urge all parties to end and prevent all grave violations and to immediately release all children from their ranks and captivity to civilian child protection actors.

316. I call upon all parties to the conflict to immediately cease all forms of sexual violence against children and cease the use of abductions of children from schools as a tactic to terrorize communities, recognizing the heightened risks for girls.

IV. Recommendations

317. I urge all parties to conflict 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.

318. I call upon all parties to conflict, including States, to respect and protect civilians and civilian objects, and United Nations and humanitarian personnel, assets and premises, and to allow and facilitate safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access consistent with Security Council resolution 2730 (2024).

319. I call upon all parties to protect schools, hospitals and health workers and to implement Security Council resolutions 2286 (2016) and 2601 (2021).

320. I urge all 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 urgently appeal to donors to provide financial and technical assistance in that regard. I urge Member States to become Parties, or re-adhere, to the Ottawa Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

321. I urge 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 States and parties to conflict to consider every human being below the age of 18 years as a child.

322. 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.

323. I call upon Member States and parties to conflict to ensure that the use of emerging and advanced military technologies, including uncrewed systems and

artificial intelligence, remains subject to human control, including accountability mechanisms, and is in full compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

324. I call upon Member States to hold perpetrators of violations accountable, provide assistance to victims and cooperate with international accountability mechanisms.

325. I call upon Member States to ensure that a potential legally binding instrument on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity robustly reflects the special protections afforded to children under international law, including by addressing the particular vulnerability of children to grave violations in the commission of such crimes and by ensuring that children accused of crimes against humanity are treated in accordance with international juvenile justice standards.

326. I recall the obligation, set out in the Convention of the Rights of the Child, whereby the detention of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and the obligation to treat children 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.

327. 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.

328. I call upon technology and social media companies to take concrete, transparent and child rights-based measures to prevent their platforms and services from being used for propaganda or for the recruitment and exploitation of children by armed forces and armed groups, and to cooperate with accountability and child protection mechanisms.

329. I make a strong plea to donors to scale up financial support for survivor-centred assistance, reintegration and education programmes, following an intersectional approach. 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

330. In Haiti, Gran Grif has been listed for the recruitment and use, the killing and maiming and the abduction of children, Kraze Barye has been listed for the recruitment and use and the killing and maiming of children, and 400 Mawozo has been listed for the recruitment and use of children. In the Niger, Islamic State Sahel Province has been listed for the recruitment and use and the killing and maiming of children, and Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad has been listed for the abduction of children. I call upon all listed parties to sign action plans with the United Nations to end and prevent grave violations against children.

331. The following listed party has additional violations: in the Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction has been listed for the killing and maiming of children.

332. There has been a technical delisting of two of the listed parties following their dissolution or integration. In the Syrian Arab Republic, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham has been removed, as this group ceased to exist following its self-dissolution in January 2025. In Somalia, Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a has been removed, as this group no longer exists and group members have been integrated into Somali national security forces.

333. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the number of children killed and maimed by the armed forces increased substantially. If the high number of violations against children were to be repeated in 2026, without meaningful improvement, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be listed for this violation in the annex to a future report of the Secretary-General. In Haiti, the number of children killed and maimed by the Haitian National Police and the Special Security Task Force increased substantially. If the high number of violations against children were to be repeated in 2026, without meaningful improvement, the Haitian National Police and the Special Security Task Force should be listed. In Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, I am concerned at the substantial increase in the number of grave violations by Israeli settlers. If the high number of violations against children were to be repeated in 2026, without meaningful improvement, Israeli settler groups should be listed. In Lebanon, I am gravely concerned at the high number of children killed and maimed by Israeli armed and security forces. If the high number of violations against children were to be repeated in 2026, without meaningful improvement, Israeli armed and security forces should be listed. In the Sudan, I urge the Government to engage with the United Nations to finalize and adopt an action plan to end and prevent grave violations against children, but I am concerned about the number of children recruited and used by the Sudanese Armed Forces.

334. Modifications to terminology and to names of parties resulting from changes on the ground are aimed at reflecting the names of parties more accurately. In Burkina Faso, Islamic State in the Greater Sahara is listed as Islamic State Sahel Province in order to align with other United Nations reporting. In Mali, Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, including Ansar Eddine will be listed as Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, including affiliated groups, in order to reflect more adequately the configuration and composition of the party. In the Syrian Arab Republic, consistent with General Assembly resolution 80/224 of 18 December 2025, the terminology has changed as of 8 December 2024, and the terminology of the Syrian government forces refers to the forces of the new Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, to reflect the completion of the integration of some armed groups as announced by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in May 2025, the terminology of the existing listing has changed to Syrian government forces, including former opposition Syrian National Army, with the related listing for the recruitment and use and the killing and maiming of children. I urge the Government to prioritize the adoption and implementation of an action plan to prevent grave violations, which may make the Syrian government forces eligible for delisting for recruitment and use. In Ukraine, the Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups will be listed as Russian armed forces to reflect more adequately their configuration and to align with other United Nations reporting. In Yemen, the pro-government militias, including the Salafists and popular committees, will be listed as pro-government militias in order to reflect more adequately the configuration and composition of these groups.

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

Syrian government forces, including the former opposition Syrian National Army[a,b]

Parties in Ukraine

Russian armed forces[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. Twirwaneho[a]

Parties in Haiti

1. Gran Grif[a,b,e]
2. Kraze Barye[a,b]
3. Viv Ansanm coalition[a,b,c,d]
4. 400 Mawozo[a]

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 affiliated groups[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

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, b,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. Kurdish People's Protection Units and Women's Protection Units (YPG/YPJ)[a,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[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 Sahel Province[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 the Niger

1. Islamic State Sahel Province [a,b]
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).