

1 **I. Introduction**

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3 **A. Ensuring compliance with international standards**

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5 1. Despite the exhaustive legal standards in force, international law protecting children in
6 armed conflicts is violated in many parts of the world.

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8 **B. Conduct of Sustainable Action Plans**

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10 2. The international community has obliged itself to respect and fulfill the Convention on the
11 Rights of the Child and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Within this framework it is
12 our duty to create and offer alternatives in form of educational, re-habilitation and social
13 programs in order to help children that were or are involved in armed conflict. Children are
14 the fundament and future of a society therefore their safety should take precedence.

15 **C. Strategies granting adequate information**

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17 3. The profound basis of information is an essential prerequisite for adequate monitoring the
18 violation of international standards pertaining to children and armed conflict. Background
19 information allows a comprehensive understanding of conflicts and the allocation of support
20 in the most efficient way.

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23 **II. Mandate**

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25 **A. Ensuring compliance with international standards**

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27 4. Bearing in mind the obligations, aspirations and our common aim of protecting children's
28 rights as laid out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and its Optional
29 Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts, the CAAC embraces its
30 responsibility to work towards the improvement of children's rights. We recall previous
31 resolutions concerned with the topic (SC/RES/1261, 1314, 1379, 1460, 1539, 1612) and
32 especially the 2009 report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children
33 and Armed Conflict, which outline the grievances and continuing violations of children's right
34 all over the world, the CAAC is responsible for taking further action on this topic.

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36 **B. Conduct of Sustainable Action Plans**

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38 5. The Member States of the United Nations have already implemented frameworks such as
39 The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on
40 Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000). Furthermore, measures consisting of the
41 so-called "Action Plans" were introduced to improve the situation of affected children.
42 Despite this fact, the most recent Secretary-General Report on Children and Armed Conflict
43 from March 2009 has shown that the international community has not risen up to its own
44 standards yet.

46 6. The premise of the following recommendations is the consent of governments affected by
47 armed conflict to receive support from the international community through the United
48 Nations. This implies that these recipient governments have to show a high degree of
49 willingness and cooperation.

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51 **C. Strategies granting adequate information**

52 7. In order to further develop the instruments to obtain appropriate information the CAAC
53 recalls the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol, the Geneva
54 Convention and its additional Protocol. As the Special Representative of the Secretary-
55 General for Children and Armed Conflict pointed out in his report A/62/228, accurate and
56 reliable information is of high importance.

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58 **III. Conclusions**

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60 **A. Ensuring compliance with international standards**

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62 8. The implementation of the existing legal standards in certain conflicts has failed so far;
63 although a large number of states have signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child and
64 its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts, many of them fail to
65 properly comply with their standards and to transpose them into national legislation, as the so-
66 called “list of shame” of countries that violate children's rights shows. This working group
67 introduces concise incentive and deterrence approaches in order to enhance the effectiveness
68 of monitoring measures. Furthermore, a distinction needs to be made between pre-conflict,
69 current conflict and post-conflict stages in which these approaches are applicable.

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71 **B. Conduct of Sustainable Action Plans**

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73 9. In a few countries there has been some progress on the execution of the above mentioned
74 “Action Plans”. However, there have been opposing developments as those plans could not be
75 conducted in a sustainable manner. One important reason of this rebound is the early exit of
76 UN organizations from post-conflict zones. Therefore, the UN Bodies concerned with this
77 issue need more coherent long-term planning and should endeavor to increase ownership by
78 training the local population.

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80 **C. Strategies granting adequate information**

81 10. The CAAC recognises the current supply of information as inadequate for effective
82 monitoring. Positive steps have been taken by the establishment of the Task Force on Children
83 and Armed Conflict. First results have been obtained by the observation by the CAAC of ten
84 conflict situations in 2008. Nonetheless, the establishment of task forces has not been realised
85 in all conflict areas nor is it mandatory. The CAAC is aware of the importance of high quality
86 information as a basis for future actions. Therefore, existing monitoring mechanisms have to
87 be improved and developed.

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89 **IV. Recommendations**

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91 **A. Ensuring compliance with international standards**

92 11. In pre-conflict situations, the adoption and national implication of the Convention on the
93 Rights of the Child and its additional protocols are necessary to form a legal ground for

94 further effort.

95 12. The CAAC firmly believes that incentives can be useful means to prevent and halt
96 violations of children's rights, as they can motivate government cooperation and compliance,
97 which is a prerequisite for actual achievements in all stages of conflict.

98 13. During armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, capacity building should be
99 considered as an incentive measure, if the government is deemed willing and capable of
100 providing for the safety of children and the protection of their rights, but lacks necessary
101 funding or technical knowledge to do so. Capacity building should take the form of technical
102 assistance, legal and financial support, and can provide for a stable situation and decrease the
103 likeliness of children's rights violations.

104 14. The CAAC suggests introducing a system of conditional cash transfers, where funds and
105 support are granted to states if they meet certain criteria, which have to be specified on a case-
106 by-case basis by this working group. This scheme would prove particularly helpful to create
107 incentives in all stages of conflict.

108 15. The CAAC proposes to distribute the financial burden of such support across Member
109 States of the international community according to the magnitude of their contributions to the
110 United Nations.

111 16. Deterrence in form of legal consequences that possible perpetrators would have to face is
112 an effective means to prevent the commitment of crimes. Therefore, an implementation of
113 international legal standards into national legislation is indispensable. Both during conflicts
114 and in post-conflict situations, individuals guilty of violating children's rights must be
115 prosecuted without delay and intransigently.

116 17. In the case of non-cooperation by the government exercising control over the territory
117 where violations appear, even sanctions can be helpful and should be considered by the
118 Security Council on a case-by-case basis. The CAAC advises the Security Council to consider
119 smart sanctions targeted at responsible individuals, such as, but not limited to the freezing of
120 personal assets and travel restrictions. Because individuals, not groups or organizations, are
121 the ones violating children's rights, sanction targeting individuals are deemed much more
122 effective to foster compliance with international obligations and cooperation with the
123 international community.

124 18. The CAAC recognizes the importance of the so-called "list of shame" as a means of
125 deterrence, and encourages the Security Council to update it regularly and to promote it to the
126 general public.

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128 **B. Conduct of Sustainable Action Plans**

129 19. The CAAC suggests enhancing the awareness of the highly negative consequences of
130 children in armed conflict by making all of the UN Reports and available information on the
131 matter public in the form of media campaigns, educational programs and action days.

132 20. The CAAC recommends the establishment of children-orientated bodies within the UN
133 peacekeeping operations, if applicable, in countries affected by armed conflict. We urge to
134 consider the situation of children early in the mission planning process.

135 21. In order to achieve successful post-conflict peacebuilding the reintegration of former
136 child soldiers as well as children whose rights have been violated through the conflict by
137 other means is inevitable and of utmost importance. The already existing DDR
138 (Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration) programs should be reframed according to
139 the realistic assessment of the de facto situation. Often, the UN Organizations have
140 encountered children who are reluctant to participate in these DDR programs due to their fear
141 of stigmatization and exclusion from their society. They need to be encouraged and supported
142 for an extended time-period. Training and education should be offered as well as individual

143 psychological treatment and counseling. By providing access to education and apprenticeship
144 programs a better prospective for the future can be realized. This would prevent children from
145 becoming involved in armed conflicts again.

146 22. The CAAC encourages the UNICEF to proceed with their “Back to School” initiative and
147 to extend its duration until the local community will be able to continue the educational
148 process on its own.

149 23. All of these measures should be undertaken only under the condition that the above
150 mentioned programs and connected funding will be administered and coordinated by the UN.

151 **C. Strategies granting adequate information**

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153 24. The CAAC recommends providing armed conflict areas involving children with
154 infrastructure of communication such as internet access. A communicating tool giving the
155 chance to every actor, namely the victims, the conflict parties, NGOs operating in the field to
156 communicate with UN Bodies such as United Nations International Children’s Fund
157 (UNICEF) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is essential to the
158 fulfillment of the mission. The concrete implementation of communication tools has to be
159 established in close collaboration with inter alia NGOs and regional and sub-regional
160 organisations.

161 25. The CAAC recommends the Security Council to establish a mandatory system to forward
162 information gained by any internal or external actor. In order to gather a comprehensive
163 overview of actual upcoming conflicts a system to protect the children that might be under
164 threat when giving their information should be installed.

165 26. Obstacles faced by UN Observers to collect information in the field should be object of
166 high interest by the Security Council. When faced with actors blocking access to observers,
167 the Security Council should take actions to guarantee access for these observers. These
168 actions should focus on diplomatic negotiations in order to find common ground with the
169 government recognised by the United Nations. These negotiations may be followed by offers
170 to provide humanitarian and development aid. The option of sanctioning should be considered
171 in the case of maintaining refuse of cooperation. These sanctions may include embargoes,
172 financial restrictions and travel bans.