

28. Children and armed conflict

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings, issued a presidential statement and adopted a resolution in connection with the item entitled “Children and armed conflict”. In its deliberations, the Council focused primarily on increasing accountability for violations committed against children in armed conflict, with a particular emphasis on the issue of persistent perpetrators. While stressing the primary responsibility of Member States in protecting children affected by armed conflict, the Council reiterated its intention to take a proactive stance with regard to a number of measures, such as targeted and graduated sanctions, child protection advisers and the use of time-bound action plans.

In 2012 and 2013, the Council continued to include provisions relating to children and armed conflict in its country-specific decisions and in decisions relating to other thematic issues.⁹⁰⁹ In the present section, table 1 lists the meetings at which the item was considered and gives information on, inter alia, invitees, speakers and decisions adopted. Table 2 lists, by item, provisions relating to children and armed conflict in decisions adopted under country-specific items. For provisions relating to children and armed conflict in decisions adopted under other thematic issues, see table 3.

Decision and debate on increasing accountability for violations against children

On 19 September 2012, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict⁹¹⁰. The Council also discussed, at the initiative of Germany,⁹¹¹ the growing number of persistent perpetrators listed in the annex of the report of the Secretary-General and the ways to increase accountability for violations against children. At the onset of the debate, the Council adopted resolution 2068 (2012), welcoming the appointment of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and highlighting the

importance of her work in carrying out her mandate for the protection of children. Expressing deep concern that certain perpetrators persisted in committing violations and abuses against children in armed conflict, the Council called upon concerned Member States to bring to justice those responsible for such violations through national and, where applicable, international justice mechanisms, and reiterated its readiness to adopt targeted and graduated measures against persistent perpetrators. The Council also invited the Special Representative to brief its members on the delisting process, and reiterated its call on the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict to consider, within one year, a broad range of options for increasing pressure on persistent perpetrators of violations and abuses against children in situations of armed conflict.

Resolution 2068 (2012) was adopted by 11 votes to none, with four abstentions (Azerbaijan, China, Pakistan and Russian Federation).⁹¹² Following the vote, the representatives of China, Azerbaijan and Colombia made short statements to explain their respective positions with regard to the resolution. The representative of China expressed his reluctance to support a resolution that continued to give rise to serious differences among the members of the Council. He stressed that the Council should focus on the protection of children in situations of armed conflict and that the resolution must not be interpreted to equate terrorist incidents in Pakistan to armed conflict, as that would exceed the mandate of the Council.⁹¹³ The representative of Azerbaijan, in turn, expressed the view that the resolution did not explicitly accommodate a comprehensive protection approach addressing all situations of armed conflict, including those of a protracted nature and prolonged impact on children.⁹¹² While voting in favour of the resolution, the representative of Colombia expressed support for the work of the Special Representative, but also noted that the resolution lacked a reference to the need to restrict the content of reports of the Secretary-General to the mandate entrusted by the Council.⁹¹²

⁹⁰⁹ For information on other cross-cutting issues before the Council, see part I, sect. 29, “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” and sect. 31, “Women and peace and security”.

⁹¹⁰ S/2012/261.

⁹¹¹ See concept note (S/2012/685, annex).

⁹¹² Resolution 2068 (2012) was the first resolution on children and armed conflict adopted without a unanimous vote since the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the Council in 1998.

⁹¹³ S/PV.6838, p. 3.

In her briefing, the Special Representative reported that 32 of the 52 parties listed in the report of the Secretary-General had been listed for more than five years. She pointed out the critical role that the Council could play in addressing the issue, stressing that the majority of persistent perpetrators were non-State actors operating in situations in which Governments were not always in a position to take measures. She said that, on the request of her predecessor, the Permanent Representative of France had prepared a report in follow up to resolution 1998 (2011), from which she cited several options that could be considered by the Council against persistent perpetrators, including increased tailored political engagement, strengthened accountability measures and targeted measures. She added that such measures could follow an incremental approach, starting with situations for which a sanctions committee already existed, as a means of sending a strong signal that vigorous action could be taken by the Council in response to persistent violations of resolutions.⁹¹⁴

Speakers welcomed the positive developments in connection with the protection of children in armed conflict. However, most speakers expressed grave concern at the continued plight of children in armed conflict and at the increase in the number of persistent perpetrators listed in the annex of the report. In that respect, Member States expressed a variety of views on the ways to address the issue of accountability. Affirming the limited effect of “naming and shaming” mechanisms and the imposition of sanctions, the representative of Brazil stressed the need to cooperate with Governments and parties to find sustainable solutions for the protection of children.⁹¹⁵ Other speakers strongly encouraged the Council to consider options for increasing pressure on persistent perpetrators. Several speakers supported the expansion of the designation criteria for serious violations against children to all existing sanctions regimes and underlined the need to devise means of adopting targeted measures against perpetrators in situations where no sanctions committee existed. Some speakers expressed support for the creation of a thematic sanctions committee dedicated to identifying perpetrators of violations against children.⁹¹⁶ Other speakers suggested that the Working Group on

Children and Armed conflict could serve as an ad hoc sanctions committee.⁹¹⁷ In addition, several speakers strongly opposed including in the report situations that had not been qualified as armed conflicts or threats to international peace and security by the Council.⁹¹⁸

Decision and debate on children and armed conflict

On 17 June 2013, the Council considered the report of the Secretary-General⁹¹⁹ and heard several briefings. The Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict noted that the situation in Mali had been included in the report for the first time. She also expressed concern at the alarming rate of re-recruitment of children in the Central African Republic and underlined the need to urgently address new areas of concern for children, including the military use of schools, the detention of children for alleged association with armed groups and the impact of drones on children. She welcomed, nevertheless, progress in the signing of action plans to end the recruitment and use of children, including those signed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia and South Sudan.⁹²⁰ The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, in his briefing, stressed the instrumental role of child protection advisers in ensuring that child protection concerns were fully addressed in the activities of peacekeeping missions, including monitoring and reporting serious violations as well as negotiating and implementing action plans to end the recruitment and use of children, sexual violence against children and the killing and maiming of children.⁹²¹

Speakers expressed grave concern at the situation of children in the Central African Republic, Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic. They also deplored the high numbers of casualties among children resulting from the use of children as human shields, the recourse to explosive weapons and shelling in densely populated areas and the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in

⁹¹⁴ S/PV.6838, pp. 4-6.

⁹¹⁵ Ibid., pp. 30-31.

⁹¹⁶ Ibid., p. 18 (Portugal); and p. 29 (Japan).

⁹¹⁷ Ibid., p. 17 (France); S/PV.6838 (Resumption 1), p. 16 (Liechtenstein).

⁹¹⁸ S/PV.6838, pp. 3 and 12 (China); pp. 3 and 13-14 (Colombia); p. 15 (Russian Federation); pp. 24-25 (Pakistan); p. 26 (India); and p. 30 (Brazil); S/PV.6838 (Resumption 1), p. 25 (Iraq).

⁹¹⁹ S/2013/245.

⁹²⁰ S/PV.6980, pp. 2-4.

⁹²¹ Ibid., p. 5.

military operations. The representative of Luxembourg and Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict recalled that the Council had adopted nine resolutions and issued eleven presidential statements, having achieved considerable progress on this item. He emphasized the need, however, to effectively monitor, implement and enforce the normative framework created by the Council.⁹²² With regard to the monitoring and reporting mechanism on violations against children, some speakers called for greater involvement of States at all stages of the reporting process.⁹²³ The representative of Canada, speaking on behalf of the 38-member Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict, supported greater transparency in action plans, reiterated its call for the Council to ensure that grave violations against children triggered the imposition of sanctions in all relevant sanctions committees, encouraged Member States to strengthen national accountability mechanisms and

⁹²² Ibid., p. 9.

⁹²³ Ibid., p. 11 (Azerbaijan); p. 25 (Thailand); and pp. 27-28 (Colombia).

judicial capacities and proposed to the Council the strengthening of provisions for the protection of children in all relevant mandates.⁹²⁴

At the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement, in which it stressed the primary role of Governments in providing protection and relief to all children affected by armed conflict. The Council also stressed its commitment to effectively deal with persistent perpetrators, and encouraged Member States to devise ways to facilitate the development and implementation of time-bound action plans. The Council reiterated its readiness to adopt targeted and graduated measures against persistent perpetrators of violations and abuses committed against children, and expressed its intention to further strengthen provisions for the protection of children in all mandates of relevant peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions, including through ensuring the consistent deployment of child protection advisors.⁹²⁵

⁹²⁴ Ibid., pp. 30-31.

⁹²⁵ [S/PRST/2013/8](#).

Table 1
Meetings: children and armed conflict

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.6838 and S/PV.6838 (Resumption 1) 19 September 2012	Increased accountability for violations and abuses committed against children Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (S/2012/261) Letter dated 6 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/685)	Draft resolution submitted by 30 States ^a (S/2012/713)	41 Member States ^b	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), President of the International Center for Transitional Justice, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, 31 invitees under rule 37, ^c all invitees under rule 39	Resolution 2068 (2012) 11-0-4 ^d
S/PV.6980 17 June 2013	Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (S/2013/245)		10 Member States ^e	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Associate Vice-President of Save the Children, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, ^f all invitees	S/PRST/2013/8

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to Table 1. Meetings: children and armed conflict)

^a Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

^b Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada (on behalf of the Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict and in its national capacity), Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland (on behalf of the Human Security Network and in its national capacity), Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

^c The representatives of Austria, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden did not make a statement.

^d *For*: Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Portugal, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom, United States;
Abstaining: Azerbaijan, China, Pakistan, Russian Federation.

^e Canada (on behalf of the Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict), Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Iraq, Myanmar, Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand

^f Luxembourg was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mainstreaming of issues relating to children and armed conflict in the decisions of the Security Council

Overview

During the period under review, the practice of the Council of including provisions relevant to children and armed conflict in country-specific decisions and in decisions relating to other thematic issues continued to evolve.

Table 2 lists instances of such provisions in resolutions and presidential statements adopted in connection with country-specific items. Provisions relating to the mandate of peacekeeping and political missions are not featured in the table unless they deal with the following: (a) the deployment of child protection advisers; or (b) the monitoring and reporting role of missions. Additional information on mandates and decisions relevant to peacekeeping and political missions is included in part X of the present supplement. Table 3 lists provisions relating to children and armed conflict in decisions adopted under other thematic issues.

At the country and regional levels (table 2), the Council called upon parties to armed conflict to cease all forms of violations against children, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, killing and maiming, and attacks against schools and hospitals. The Council demanded that the parties to a conflict sign and implement action plans to end the recruitment and use of

children and, when considering the situation in Somalia, acknowledged the signing of the first action plan to eliminate the killing and maiming of children. In addition, provisions relating to the monitoring and reporting on violations against children were incorporated into the mandate of several peacekeeping and political missions. In several instances, the Council stressed the importance of deploying child protection advisers to support monitoring and reporting mechanisms and as a means of negotiating and helping in the implementation of action plans signed by the parties to a particular conflict. Finally, the Council adopted, or expressed its intention to adopt, targeted measures against perpetrators committing serious violations against children, and welcomed the increased coordination between relevant committees and the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict.

At the thematic level (table 3), the Council reaffirmed the importance of child protection in several decisions concerning, inter alia, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. In a presidential statement adopted in connection with the protection of civilians, the Council expressed grave concern about situations in which violations and abuses against children persisted in open disregard of applicable international law and the resolutions of the Council on the matter.⁹²⁶

⁹²⁶ See [S/PRST/2013/2](#).

Table 2

Decisions relating to children and armed conflict, by country: selected provisions

Decision

Provisions

Condemnation of violations against children, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and demands for their cessation

The situation in Afghanistan

Resolution
2041 (2012)

Expresses its strong concern about the recruitment and use of children by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups in Afghanistan, as well as the killing and maiming of children as a result of the conflict, reiterates its strong condemnation of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and all other violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in particular attacks against schools and education and health-care facilities, and the use of children in suicide attacks, and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice (para. 32)

See also resolution 2096 (2013), para. 32

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Resolution
2053 (2012)
(adopted under Chapter VII)

Demands that all armed groups, in particular mutineers of ex-Congrès national pour la défense du peuple and the 23 March Movement, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Lord's Resistance Army and the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda, immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights abuses against the civilian population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular against women and children, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse and child recruitment, and demobilize (para. 18)

See also resolution 2078 (2012), para. 7

Peace and security in Africa: Mali

Resolution
2056 (2012)
(adopted under Chapter VII)

Calls upon all parties in the north of Mali to cease all abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, condemns in particular the targeted attacks against the civilian population, sexual violence, recruitment and use of child soldiers and forced displacement, recalls in this regard all its relevant resolutions on women and peace and security, on children and armed conflict, and on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and stresses that the perpetrators shall be brought to justice (para. 13)

See also resolution 2071 (2012), para. 5

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Resolution
2057 (2012)
(adopted under Chapter VII)

Demands that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence and human rights abuses against the civilian population in South Sudan, in particular gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as all violations and abuses against children in violation of applicable international law, such as their recruitment and use, intentional killing and maiming, abduction and attacks against schools and hospitals, and calls for specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence in accordance with resolution 1960 (2010) (para. 10)

See also resolution 2109 (2013), para. 14

Decision

Provisions

The situation in Libya

Resolution 2095 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Calls upon the Libyan Government to promote and protect human rights, including those of women, children and people belonging to vulnerable groups, and to comply with their obligations under international law, including human rights law, calls for those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, including sexual violence and violations and abuses against children, to be held accountable in accordance with international standards, and urges all Member States to cooperate closely with the Government in their efforts to end impunity for such violations (para. 3)
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The situation in the Great Lakes region

S/PRST/2013/11	The Council demands that the 23 March Movement, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Allied Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda, the Mai Mai Kata Katanga and all other armed groups cease immediately all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, continuing recruitment and use of children, destabilizing activities, human rights abuses, violations of international humanitarian law and attempts to undermine or supplant the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council stresses that all perpetrators of such abuses and violations should be held accountable. The Council further demands that the members of all armed groups immediately and permanently disband and lay down their arms, and calls for the restoration of State authority of the Government in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. It strongly condemns the large scale recruitment and use of children by armed groups. The Council emphasizes the renewed commitment of all countries of the region to neither tolerate nor provide assistance or support of any kind to armed groups (twelfth paragraph)
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The situation in the Middle East: Syrian Arab Republic

S/PRST/2013/15	The Security Council further condemns all grave violations and abuses committed against children in contravention of applicable international law, such as recruitment and use, killing and maiming, rape and all other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals as well as arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, ill treatment and use as human shields (seventh paragraph)
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The situation in the Central African Republic

Resolution 2121 (2013)	Also demands that all armed groups, in particular Séléka elements, prevent the recruitment and use of children, further demands that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed groups (para. 15)
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Resolution 2127 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Reiterates its demands that all armed groups, in particular former Séléka elements and anti-balaka elements, prevent and end the recruitment and use of children, that all parties protect and consider as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed groups (para. 20)
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Calls upon all parties to armed conflict in the Central African Republic, including former Séléka elements and anti-balaka elements, to issue clear orders prohibiting all violations and abuses committed against children in violation of applicable international law, such as their recruitment and use, killing and maiming, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals and further calls upon the transitional authorities to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable and to ensure that those responsible for such violations and abuses are excluded from the security sector (para. 22)

Action plans to end violations against children

The situation in Afghanistan

Resolution [2041 \(2012\)](#) Stresses the importance of implementing Council resolutions [1612 \(2005\)](#), [1882 \(2009\)](#) and [1998 \(2011\)](#), in this context, supports the decree by the Minister of the Interior of 6 July 2011 reaffirming the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to preventing violations of the rights of the child, welcomes the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Children and the subsequent signing by the Government of an action plan, and the annexes thereto, on children associated with national security forces in Afghanistan, calls for the full implementation of the provisions of the action plan, in close cooperation with the Mission, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the child protection component of the Mission (para. 33)

See also resolution [2096 \(2013\)](#), para. 33

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Resolution [2053 \(2012\)](#) (adopted under Chapter VII) Encourages the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to build on its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and to meet, without further delay, its commitments to adopt and implement an action plan to halt the recruitment and use of children by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in close collaboration with the Mission (para. 23)

See also resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#), para. 22

Resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#) (adopted under Chapter VII) Authorizes the Mission, through its civilian component, to contribute, in coordination with the United Nations country team and in support of national mechanisms to implement the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, to the following tasks:

...

- (i) Continue to collaborate with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the swift and vigorous implementation of the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence against children by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and continue dialogue with all listed parties to obtain further commitments and work towards the development and implementation of time-bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of children and other violations of international humanitarian law (para. 15)
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Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Resolution [2057 \(2012\)](#) (adopted under Chapter VII) Also welcomes the signing by the Government of South Sudan on 12 March 2012 of a new action plan to end child recruitment reaffirming the commitment to release all children from the Sudan People's Liberation Army, acknowledges the measures taken by the Government to implement the new action plan, calls for the further implementation of the action plan, requests the Mission to advise and assist the Government in this regard ... (para. 12)

Resolution [2109 \(2013\)](#) (adopted under Chapter VII) Welcomes the progress made on the demobilization of child soldiers and the signing by the Government of South Sudan on 12 March 2012 of an action plan to end child recruitment reaffirming the commitment to release all children from the Sudan People's Liberation Army, acknowledges the measures taken by the Government to implement the action plan, calls for the further implementation of the action plan, requests the Mission to advise and assist the Government in this regard, ... (para. 17)

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provisions</i>
Resolution 2113 (2013)	Demands, furthermore, that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all violations and abuses against children, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure ... (b) continued dialogue with the parties to the conflict towards the development and implementation of time-bound action plans to end the recruitment and use of children and other violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law committed against children (para. 26)

The situation in Somalia

Resolution 2067 (2012)	Also welcomes the signing on 6 August 2012 by the Somali authorities and the United Nations of an action plan to eliminate the killing and maiming of children, noting that this is the first such action plan to be signed, calls upon the Somali authorities to vigorously implement both this action plan and the action plan on the recruitment and use of child soldiers of 3 July 2012, and stresses that any perpetrators of such acts must be brought to justice (para. 17)
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Resolution 2093 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Requests the Secretary-General to conduct a technical assessment mission on the implementation of the new United Nations mission, in full cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia, the African Union, regional bodies and Member States, on the basis of the guiding principles set out below: ... (d) Monitoring, reporting and helping to build capacity on human rights, including on sexual, gender-based and conflict-related violence and on violations against children — supporting the implementation of the two action plans on children and armed conflict signed by the Federal Government of Somalia (para. 22)
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Strongly condemns reports of grave violations against children, urges the Federal Government of Somalia, as a matter of priority, to implement the action plan to eliminate the killing and maiming of children signed on 6 August 2012 and the action plan to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers of 3 July 2012, and stresses the need for the Federal Government to take appropriate measures to bring to justice any perpetrator of such acts (para. 32)

S/PRST/2013/7	... The Council welcomes the commitments by the Federal Government to eliminate the killing and maiming of children and to end the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict. In this regard the Council underlines the importance of full and swift implementation of the two action plans signed by the Federal Government (fourteenth paragraph)
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Resolution 2102 (2013)	Also decides that the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) shall be as follows: ... (d) To help to build the capacity of the Federal Government of Somalia: ... (ii) To promote child protection and to implement the relevant action plans on children and armed conflict signed by the Federal Government of Somalia, including through the provision of child protection advisers (para. 2)
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Resolution 2124 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Calls upon the Federal Government of Somalia to continue its efforts, with the support of the Assistance Mission, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) (in accordance with their respective mandates), and other international partners to strengthen the Somali National Security Forces, including by mapping the structure of these forces, establishing clear command and control systems, implementing appropriate procedures, codes of conduct and training, including to ensure the safe storage, registration, maintenance and distribution of military equipment, and finalizing and implementing a national programme for the treatment and handling of disengaged combatants and promoting respect for human rights, including through implementing the relevant action plans on children and armed conflict of the Government (para. 18)
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The situation in the Central African Republic

Resolution
2088 (2013)

Demands that all armed groups, including the Séléka coalition (Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement, Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix, Convention patriotique pour le salut du Kodro, Union des forces républicaines), prevent the recruitment and use of children, calls upon relevant armed groups, in particular the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix and the Armée populaire pour la restauration de la République et la démocratie, to implement the provisions of the action plans signed with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in November 2011 immediately and furthermore demands that all parties protect and treat as victims those children who have been released or otherwise separated from armed forces and armed groups, and emphasizes the need to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with armed groups (para. 14)

The situation in the Middle East: Yemen

S/PRST/2013/3

The Council urges the Government of Yemen to pass legislation on transitional justice to support reconciliation without further delay. The Council further urges the need to respect the rule of law and protect human rights in accordance with Yemen's international legal obligations, particularly those of women and persons belonging to vulnerable groups, such as children. The Council welcomes in this regard the commitment by the Government to end the recruitment and use of children by the Yemeni security forces through the adoption and implementation of an action plan in line with resolution 1612 (2005) (seventh paragraph)

The situation in the Great Lakes region

S/PRST/2013/11

The Council further calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to implement its action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children as well as prevent and end all acts of sexual violence against children by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (seventeenth paragraph)

Monitoring and reporting on violations against children

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Resolution
2057 (2012)
(adopted under
Chapter VII)

... further requests the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in United Nations system activities in South Sudan and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children, and welcomes the establishment in September 2011 of the United Nations country task force on the monitoring and reporting mechanism (para. 12)

See also resolution 2109 (2013), para. 17

Resolution
2113 (2013)

Demands, furthermore, that the parties to the conflict immediately cease all violations and abuses against children, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure (a) continued monitoring and reporting, including as part of the reports referred to in paragraph 14 [of the resolution], of the situation of children, including through enhanced cooperation with child protection actors ... (para. 26)

The situation in Somalia

Resolution
2093 (2013)
(adopted under
Chapter VII)

Requests the Secretary-General to conduct a technical assessment mission on the implementation of the new United Nations mission, in full cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia, the African Union, regional bodies and Member States, on the basis of the guiding principles as set out below:

...

(d) Monitoring, reporting and helping to build capacity on human rights, including on sexual, gender-based and conflict-related violence and on violations against children — supporting the implementation of the two action plans on children and armed conflict signed by the Federal Government of Somalia (para. 22)

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Provisions</i>
Resolution 2102 (2013)	Also decides that the mandate of UNSOM shall be as follows: ... (e) To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Security Council on, and help to prevent: ... (ii) any violations or abuses committed against children in Somalia (para. 2)

The situation in Mali

Resolution 2100 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Decides that the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) shall be the following: ... (d) Promotion and protection of human rights ... (iii) To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Council specifically on violations and abuses committed against children as well as violations committed against women, including all forms of sexual violence in armed conflict (para. 16)
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The situation in the Central African Republic

Resolution 2121 (2013)	Decides that the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) shall be reinforced and updated as follows: ... (d) Promotion and protection of human rights: ... – To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Council, specifically on violations and abuses committed against children as well as violations committed against women including all forms of sexual violence in armed conflict, including through the deployment of women protection advisers and child protection advisers (para. 10)
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Child protection advisers

The situation in Somalia

Resolution 2102 (2013)	Also decides that the mandate of UNSOM shall be as follows: ... (d) To help to build the capacity of the Federal Government of Somalia: ... (ii) To promote child protection and to implement the relevant action plans on children and armed conflict signed by the Federal Government of Somalia, including through the provision of child protection advisers (para. 2)
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Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Resolution 2109 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	... further requests the Secretary-General to strengthen child protection in United Nations system activities in South Sudan, including through the continued deployment of child protection advisers within the Mission, and ensure continued monitoring and reporting of the situation of children, and welcomes the work of the United Nations country task force on the monitoring and reporting mechanism, established in September 2011 (para. 17)
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Decision

Provisions

The situation in the Central African Republic

Resolution 2121 (2013)	Decides that the mandate of BINUCA shall be reinforced and updated as follows: ... (d) Promotion and protection of human rights: ... – To monitor, help to investigate and report to the Council, specifically on violations and abuses committed against children as well as violations committed against women, including all forms of sexual violence in armed conflict, including through the deployment of women’s protection advisers and child protection advisers (para. 10)
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Central African region

S/PRST/2013/6	The Council reiterates its support for the African Union Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord’s Resistance Army, welcomes the finalization of the concept of operations and other strategic documents required for the operationalization of the African Union Regional Task Force, and encourages the deployment of child protection advisers ... (fourth paragraph)
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Measures against perpetrators of violations against children

The situation in Côte d’Ivoire

Resolution 2045 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Recalls paragraph 7 of resolution 1960 (2010) and paragraph 9 of resolution 1998 (2011) regarding sexual and gender-based violence and children in armed conflict, and welcomes the information-sharing between the Committee and the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and on Sexual Violence in Conflict, in accordance with their respective mandates and as appropriate (para. 24)
Resolution 2101 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Requests the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to continue sharing relevant information with the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 1960 (2010) and paragraph 9 of resolution 1998 (2011) (para. 29)

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

S/PRST/2012/22	The Council calls for perpetrators, including individuals responsible for violence against children and acts of sexual violence, to be apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable for violations of applicable international law. The Council expresses its intention to apply targeted sanctions against the leadership of the 23 March Movement and those acting in violation of the sanctions regime and the arms embargo and calls upon all Member States to submit, as a matter of urgency, listing proposals to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) (third paragraph)
Resolution 2078 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Decides that the measures referred to in paragraph 3 [of the resolution] shall apply to the following individuals and, as appropriate, entities, as designated by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) : ... (d) Political and military leaders operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and recruiting or using children in armed conflict contrary to applicable international law; (e) Individuals or entities operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and committing serious violations involving the targeting of children or women in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual violence, abduction and forced displacement (para. 4)

Decision

Provisions

Decides that, when appropriate and no later than 1 February 2014, it shall review the measures set forth in the present resolution, with a view to adjusting them, as appropriate, in the light of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular progress in security sector reform, including the integration of the armed forces and the reform of the national police, and in disarming, demobilizing, repatriating, resettling and reintegrating, as appropriate, Congolese and foreign armed groups, with a particular focus on child soldiers (para. 23)

The situation in Somalia

Resolution
[2093 \(2013\)](#)
(adopted under
Chapter VII)

Decides that the measures in paragraphs 1, 3 and 7 of resolution [1844 \(2008\)](#) of 20 November 2008 shall apply to individuals, and that the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 7 of that resolution shall apply to entities, designated by the Committee:

...

(d) As being political or military leaders recruiting or using children in armed conflicts in Somalia in violation of applicable international law;

(e) As being responsible for violations of applicable international law in Somalia involving the targeting of civilians, including children and women, in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and abduction and forced displacement (para. 43)

The situation in the Central African Republic

Resolution
[2127 \(2013\)](#)
(adopted under
Chapter VII)

Expresses its strong intent to swiftly consider imposing targeted measures, including travel bans and asset freezes, against individuals who act to undermine the peace, stability and security, including by engaging in acts that threaten or violate transitional agreements, or by engaging in or providing support for actions that threaten or impede the political process or fuel violence, including through violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, sexual violence or supporting the illegal armed groups or criminal networks through the illicit exploitation of natural resources, including diamonds, in the Central African Republic, or by violating the arms embargo established in paragraph 54 [of the resolution] (para. 56)

Table 3

Decisions relating to children and armed conflict, by thematic issue: selected provisions

Decision

Provisions

Post-conflict peacebuilding

[S/PRST/2012/29](#) The Council reaffirms its decision in paragraph 14 of its resolution [1998 \(2011\)](#) to continue to include specific provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of relevant United Nations missions (seventeenth paragraph)

United Nations peacekeeping operations: United Nations peacekeeping — a multidimensional approach

Resolution [2086 \(2013\)](#) Reiterates the importance, when establishing and renewing the mandates of United Nations missions, to include provisions on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in post-conflict situations and on children and armed conflict, including through the appointment of gender advisers, women's protection advisers and experts and child protection advisers, as appropriate ... (para. 12)

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

[S/PRST/2013/2](#) The Council remains committed to addressing the impact of armed conflict on civilians and its consequences in post-conflict situations, in particular on women and children ... The Council expresses grave concern about situations in which armed forces and groups persist in committing violations and abuses against children exposed to and affected by armed conflict and post-conflict situations, in open disregard of applicable international law and the resolutions of the Council on this matter. The Council demands that all relevant parties immediately put an end to these violations and abuses, calls upon them to cooperate with the United Nations, and reaffirms its readiness to adopt targeted and graduated measures. The Council calls upon States to ensure that perpetrators of violations and abuses of international law are held fully accountable (seventh paragraph)

... The Council welcomes progress made by the Secretary-General in elaborating a conceptual framework, outlining resource and capability requirements and developing operational tools for the implementation of protection of civilian mandates. In this context, the Council reiterates the importance of including provisions on the protection of women and children, including the appointment of gender advisers, women protection advisers and child protection advisers, as appropriate, in the mandates of United Nations missions (twenty-second paragraph)

Peace and security in Africa: prevention of conflicts in Africa — addressing the root causes

[S/PRST/2013/4](#) The Council reaffirms the importance of protecting children in armed conflict in building sustainable peace and encourages initiatives by regional and subregional organizations and arrangements for the protection of children affected by armed conflict. The Council further encourages continued mainstreaming of child protection into their advocacy, policies and programmes, in line with its resolutions [1612 \(2005\)](#), [1882 \(2009\)](#), [1998 \(2011\)](#) and [2068 \(2012\)](#) (sixteenth paragraph)

Women and peace and security

Resolution [2106 \(2013\)](#) Requests the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations entities to assist national authorities, with the effective participation of women, in addressing sexual violence concerns explicitly in:

(a) Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, including by establishing protection mechanisms for women and children in cantonment sites, as well as for civilians in close proximity to cantonment sites and in communities of return, and by offering trauma and reintegration support to women and children formerly associated with armed groups, as well as ex-combatants (para. 16)

29. Protection of civilians in armed conflict

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings and adopted one presidential statement under the item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.

In its deliberations, the Council considered a wide range of issues, focusing, *inter alia*, on the need for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to armed conflict, on the need to ensure accountability for crimes perpetrated against civilians in the context of armed conflict and on the criteria for the implementation of authorized use of force by peacekeeping missions. The Council also discussed the protection of journalists in conflict zones.

The Council continued to include provisions relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict both in its country-specific decisions and in its decisions relating to other thematic issues.⁹²⁷

Table 1 lists the meetings at which the item was considered and gives information relating to, *inter alia*, invitees, speakers and decisions adopted. Tables 2 and 3 feature a selection of relevant provisions in decisions adopted under country-specific and thematic items, respectively.

First open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 25 June 2012, the Council held an open debate to consider the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.⁹²⁸ In his statement, the Secretary-General called attention to the fact that civilians were sometimes caught in the crossfire and frequently targeted in places that should be sanctuaries, such as hospitals, schools and places of worship. He stated that meeting the five core challenges for civilian protection, namely, compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, engagement with non-State armed groups, resources for peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, humanitarian access and

accountability, required political will.⁹²⁹ It also required the will on the part of the Council to deliver on its long-standing commitment to the protection of civilians by consistently using the tools at its disposal, including the imposition of arms embargoes, targeted sanctions and referral of situations to the International Criminal Court.⁹³⁰

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator stressed the need for a comprehensive arms trade treaty. She also emphasized the need for action to address the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and urged the Council to be more proactive and systematic in calling on all parties to conflicts to refrain from using explosive weapons in populated areas and to consider more robust actions against the leadership of those using such weapons. She stressed the need for more systematic recording of civilian casualties and for perpetrators of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law to be held accountable.⁹³¹

Stressing that the human rights monitoring and protection work undertaken by the United Nations was essential to safeguard civilians, the Assistant Secretary-General in the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights urged the Council to continue to include protection and accountability provisions in its resolutions. He also emphasized that missions with human rights-related mandates required necessary materiel and personnel to carry out their duties effectively.⁹³²

The Director for International Law and Cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross highlighted three main areas of concern: threats affecting the security and delivery of health care; the availability and use of arms; and the failure to comply with international humanitarian law. He urged members of the Council to take resolute action to counter a wide range of threats to health care, to adopt a strong arms

⁹²⁷ For information on other cross-cutting issues before the Council, see part I, sect. 28, “Children and armed conflict” and sect. 31, “Women and peace and security”.

⁹²⁸ [S/2012/376](#).

⁹²⁹ See also previous reports of the Secretary-General in which he addressed the five core challenges ([S/2007/643](#) and [S/2009/277](#)).

⁹³⁰ [S/PV.6790](#), pp. 2-3.

⁹³¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-5.

⁹³² *Ibid.*, pp. 7.