

**Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2012,**  
**Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mr. SHIN Dong-Ik, Permanent Mission of The Republic of Korea to the United Nations*

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me express my sincere appreciation to you for convening this meaningful open debate on Children and Armed Conflict. I would like to extend a special welcome to the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Leila Zerrougui. My delegation is confident that her extensive experience and in-depth wisdom will contribute greatly to achieving our noble cause of protecting children in armed conflicts. My appreciation also goes to the Executive Director of UNICEF, Mr. Anthony Lake, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Herve Ladsous, and President of the International Center for Transitional Justice, Mr. David Tolbert, for their insightful remarks.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea highly values the meaningful progress made during last couple of years in terms of normative framework for the protection of children in armed conflicts. The most recent achievements include last year's adoption of Security Council resolution 1998. My delegation notes with satisfaction that, in accordance with the request by the Security Council through resolution 1998, the report of the Secretary-General included, for the first time, parties to conflict that engage in attacks on schools and hospitals.

Despite the progress, however, my delegation is concerned over the continued plight of children affected by armed conflict in many parts of the world. Of particular concern is the growing list of persistent perpetrators of grave violations against children, which has doubled since last year. According to the Secretary-General's report, 32 parties have been listed as persistent perpetrators. My delegation believes decisive and immediate action against them needs to be taken.

Against this backdrop, my delegation would like to underline the following four points with regards to the targeted measures to address the issue of children in armed conflict.

First, linkages with the Security Council sanctions regime should be further developed and strengthened. My delegation is pleased that the Security Council Sanctions Committee on Somalia and Eritrea expanded its sanctions designation criteria to include grave violations against children last July, which increased the number of sanctions committees with designation criteria from two to four. We hope all other sanctions regimes include these designation criteria.

Second, the UN's efforts to mainstream the protection of children in armed conflict need to be further strengthened. We share the view of the Secretary-General's report that specific provisions for the protection of children should continue to be included in all relevant mandates of UN peacekeeping operations as well as political and peace building missions, including the deployment of child protection advisers to all relevant missions.

Third, we would like to encourage those parties listed in the Secretary-General's report, but have yet to conclude action plans, to do so as soon as possible. It is encouraging that the parties to conflict in Nepal and Sri Lanka were de-listed after their successful completion of Security Council-mandated action plans to end the recruitment and use of children. Additionally, five more parties entered into similar agreements with the UN in 2011. Through these action plans, my delegation hopes that perpetrators be brought to justice with thorough investigation and prosecutions.

Fourth, my delegation believes that continued attention needs to be paid to the issue of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children in situations of armed conflict. We have been strongly supportive of the listing of the parties responsible for the sexual crimes against children, as pursuant to Security Council resolution 1882, adopted in 2009. In this connection, we encourage closer cooperation between the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to better address the difficulty in collecting and systematizing information on sexual violence against children in conflict situations.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea hopes that today's open debate will serve as a valuable occasion to reconfirm the strong commitment of the international community to alleviate the suffering of children affected by armed conflict. In closing, my delegation reaffirms its commitment to the continued cooperation with the international community to this end.

Thank you. /End/