

Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict
Wednesday, 16th June 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by Ambassador Horváth Fekszti, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations

The Republic of Hungary welcomes this open debate and the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict (S/2010/181). I should like to express my gratitude to Mexico for its work as chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. I should also like to convey our appreciation to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Ms. Coomaraswamy, for their comprehensive contribution to the protection of children in armed conflict and for bringing this issue to the forefront of the international agenda.

The Republic of Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European delegation on behalf of the European Union.

The Government of the Republic of Hungary strongly supports resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009) and the implementation of an effective monitoring and reporting mechanism on violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict. We attach special importance to the expansion of the triggers for listing, in particular sexual violence, killing and maiming. We share concerns regarding the alarming issue of systematic sexual violence being used as a tactic of war in order to deliberately target civilians, including women and children. Such infamous assaults significantly aggravate armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and their lasting negative impact may seriously impede the recovery process. In this regard, we should spare no effort to take effective steps to respond, and ultimately to put an end, to such acts and any kind of violence against children, both girls and boys, and women, with a special emphasis on sexual violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations.

Furthermore, we believe that the work of the sanctions committees constitutes a significant step towards implementing the relevant resolutions and other international documents.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Republic of Hungary deposited the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict with the United Nations on 24 February 2010, and I should like to reaffirm that my Government is fully committed to the principles and norms of the relevant international instruments. We welcome and firmly support the campaign for the universal ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was launched on 25 May.

The Republic of Hungary strongly encourages the Council to continue its work to fight against the recruitment of child soldiers, while taking into consideration the recommendations proposed by the Secretary-General in the current report. I should like to assure the Council once again of the Republic of Hungary's commitment to and engagement on enhancing the protection of children in armed conflict.