

Since 2008, UNICEF, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and France have co-hosted Ministerial Forums on the Paris Commitments and Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups.

The forums have been organized in collaboration with the Paris Principles Steering Group, co-chaired by Save the Children and UNICEF, whose members include Child Fund, Child Soldiers International, IRC, ICRC, ILO, OSRSG-CAAC, UN-DPKO, UNDP and War Child.

For more information:

→The Paris Principles

http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58012.html

→The Paris Commitments

http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58012.html

→ Permanent Mission of France to the UN

<http://www.franceonu.org/spip.php?rubrique2>

→ UNICEF

<http://www.unicef.org/>

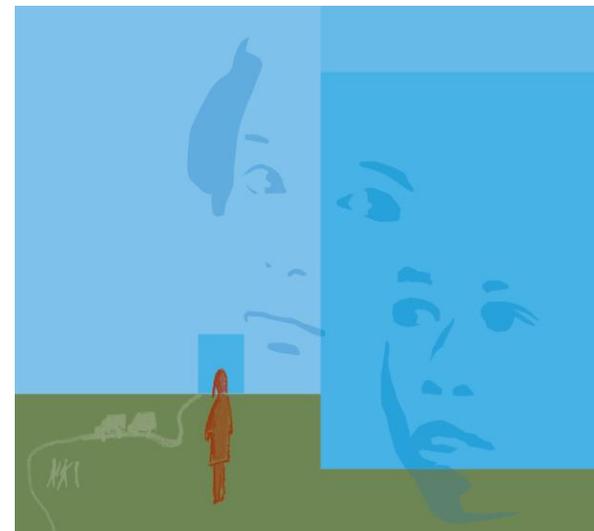
→ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

<http://www.un.org/children/conflict>

100 Member States

Have endorsed the Paris Commitments

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. AFGHANISTAN | 51. JAPAN |
| 2. ALBANIA | 52. LAOS |
| 3. ANDORRA | 53. LATVIA |
| 4. ANGOLA | 54. LIBERIA |
| 5. ARGENTINA | 55. LIECHTENSTEIN |
| 6. ARMENIA | 56. LITHUANIA |
| 7. AUSTRALIA | 57. LUXEMBOURG |
| 8. AUSTRIA | 58. MALI |
| 9. BELGIUM | 59. MALTA |
| 10. BENIN | 60. MAURITANIA |
| 11. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA | 61. MEXICO |
| 12. BRAZIL | 62. MOLDOVA |
| 13. BULGARIA | 63. MONACO |
| 14. BURKINA FASO | 64. MONTENEGRO |
| 15. BURUNDI | 65. MOROCCO |
| 16. CAMBODIA | 66. NEPAL |
| 17. CAMEROON | 67. NETHERLANDS |
| 18. CANADA | 68. NEW ZEALAND |
| 19. CAPE VERDE | 69. NIGER |
| 20. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | 70. NORWAY |
| 21. CHAD | 71. PANAMA |
| 22. CHILE | 72. PARAGUAY |
| 23. CHINA | 73. PERU |
| 24. COLOMBIA | 74. POLAND |
| 25. COSTA RICA | 75. PORTUGAL |
| 26. CROATIA | 76. QATAR |
| 27. CYPRUS | 77. REPUBLIC OF CONGO |
| 28. CZECH REPUBLIC | 78. ROMANIA |
| 29. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO | 79. RUSSIA |
| 30. DENMARK | 80. SAN MARINO |
| 31. ERITREA | 81. SAUDI ARABIA |
| 32. ESTONIA | 82. SENEGAL |
| 33. FINLAND | 83. SERBIA |
| 34. FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC | 84. SIERRA LEONE |
| 35. FRANCE | 85. SLOVAKIA |
| 36. GABON | 86. SLOVENIA |
| 37. GEORGIA | 87. SOMALIA |
| 38. GERMANY | 88. SOUTH AFRICA |
| 39. GHANA | 89. SOUTH KOREA |
| 40. GREECE | 90. SPAIN |
| 41. GUATEMALA | 91. SRI LANKA |
| 42. GUINEA | 92. SUDAN |
| 43. HAITI | 93. SWEDEN |
| 44. HUNGARY | 94. SWITZERLAND |
| 45. ICELAND | 95. TIMOR-LESTE |
| 46. INDONESIA | 96. TOGO |
| 47. IRELAND | 97. UGANDA |
| 48. ITALY | 98. UKRAINE |
| 49. IVORY COAST | 99. UNITED KINGDOM |
| 50. JAMAICA | 100. URUGUAY |



Paris Commitments and Paris Principles on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups



unicef 



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for

CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

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The Paris Commitments

To seek the release of all children recruited by armed forces or armed groups unconditionally and at all times including during armed conflict.

To ensure that conscription and enlistment procedures comply with applicable international law, including the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*, and take all feasible measures to prevent armed groups within the jurisdiction of the State from recruiting or using children in hostilities.

To use all available means to monitor and report at national, regional and international levels on violations of child rights during armed conflict and to effectively investigate and prosecute those who have unlawfully recruited children into armed forces or armed groups.

To ensure that children who are accused of crimes against international law after being unlawfully recruited by armed forces or armed groups are considered primarily as victims of violations against international law and not only as alleged perpetrators.

To spare no effort to end the unlawful recruitment and use of children by armed forces or armed groups in all regions of the world, including through the ratification and effective implementation of all relevant international instruments and backing of initiatives that support social cohesion and international cooperation.

To set aside specific and long term funding for community-based child protection programming available as early as possible to benefit a wide range of children affected by armed conflict.

The Paris Principles and Guidelines

Reintegration into civilian life is the ultimate goal of the process of securing children's release from armed forces or armed groups.

Reintegration programmes must be inclusive to support children who have left armed forces or armed groups through formal (i.e. controlled disarmament and demobilization) and informal (e.g. capture, self-demobilization) processes, as well as other vulnerable conflict affected children in need of protection, such as girl mothers.

A community-based approach to reintegration reduces stigmatization and tensions, while promoting greater equity in the delivery of assistance. A critical element is to mobilize the community and strengthen existing services and support structures.

By promoting children's access to safe schools, appropriate health services and information, and fostering a sense of caring in families and other adults, reintegration programmes provide an important protective role in preventing (re-)recruitment.

A comprehensive system that supports all children through simultaneous provision of formal and non-formal support requires early, sustained and flexible funding over a minimum of 2-3 years and should ensure geographic coverage of services and capacity building of different sectors.

The best interests of the child should guide all release, protection and prevention measures for children affected by armed conflict and the child's views should inform these measures.

Take Action

→ **Ratify and effectively implement** the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*, and endorse the Paris Commitments and Paris Principles and Guidelines.

→ **Prohibit and criminalize the recruitment and use of children under age 18** by armed forces and armed groups within national legislation, and ensure the criminal justice system is able to effectively investigate and prosecute perpetrators who unlawfully recruit children or use them in hostilities; or aid and abet the commission of such crimes.

→ **Strengthen the capacity of military and civilian officials** to effectively prevent and respond to child recruitment and use, and ensure adherence to international standards.

→ **Support sustainable community-based rehabilitation and reintegration** into civilian life of boys and girls associated with armed forces or armed groups, together with other vulnerable conflict affected children. Regularly **monitor and assess** progress on reaching the most vulnerable.

→ **Raise awareness in communities** of child rights and risks of children's association with armed forces or armed groups.

→ **Address political, economic and social root causes** that lead to child recruitment, in particular, by positively influencing social attitudes, behaviors and practices to protect and empower children.