For the last three years, 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, Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, IRC, ICRC, ILO, OSRSG-CAAC, UNDP, UN-DPKO.

For more information:

→ The Paris Principles

→ The Paris Commitments

→ Permanent Mission of France to the UN

→ UNICEF
http://www.unicef.org/

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

95 Member States
Have endorsed the Paris Commitments

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

To make long term funding for community-based child protection programming available as early as possible benefiting a wide range of children affected by armed conflict.

The Paris Principles & 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.

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

→ Endorse the Paris Commitments and Paris Principles and Guidelines, and promote them as the key standard to guide funding, advocacy, prevention and response for the care and protection of children associated with armed forces and armed groups.

→ Ratify and effectively implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

→ Prohibit and criminalize the recruitment and use of children under age 18 by national armed forces and armed groups within national legislation, and prosecute perpetrators.

→ Support sustainable community-based rehabilitation and reintegration into civilian life of children associated with armed forces or armed groups together with other vulnerable conflict affected children, especially girls.

→ Raise awareness globally, nationally and locally as to the root causes and negative impact of children’s association with armed forces or armed groups.

→ Address political, economic, social and ideological root causes that lead to child recruitment.