**FORUM:** UNICEF

**QUESTION OF:** Implementing Measures to Combat the Use of Children as Soldiers

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** Morocco

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Slovakia, EU, Congo DR, Costa Rica, Chad, China, Algeria, Norway

UNICEF,

*Alarmed by* the fact, that some child soldiers are under the age of 10,

*Deeply concerned* about the fact, that child soldiers are not only utilised by non-state but also by state armed forces,

*Emphasising* that a child soldier is a human being, which is less than 18 years old and has been recruited by a party in an armed conflict,

*Fully alarmed* about the increase of attacks on schools to recruit children of young ages and the alarming number of children being denied their right to education, as this is very important to educate peace and international justice,

*Further emphasising* that children are volunteering to become child soldiers due to poverty and lack of safety,

*Pointing out* the fact, that according to Article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Children, children have a limited punishment that can be given,

*Recognizing* the importance of a complete education amongst children until the age of 18, in choice of military recruitment,

*Remaining* however deeply concerned about the following events of child recruitment through forceful measures where parties to conflict continue to violate with impunity the relevant provisions of applicable international law regarding the rights and protection of children,

*Taking into consideration* that mental and physical problems are a common consequence of former child soldiers,

1. Proposes measures to ensure support and a larger understanding for those, who already have served as child soldiers:
2. making medical and mental support available for former child soldiers, that is funded by, but not limited to:
   1. NGO’s
   2. donations
   3. UNICEF
3. campaigns to spread the experience of child soldiers, especially in regions with high usage of child soldiers,
4. including the unconditional release of former child soldiers,
5. ensuring no child soldier is going to be prosecuted;
6. Calls upon all states to fulfil basic events to prevent the use of child soldiers, by:
   1. not recruiting children under the age of 18 to send them to the battlefield,
   2. take legislation to prohibit and criminalise the recruitment of children under 18 and their involvement in hostility,
   3. providing physical and psychological recovery services and help their social reintegration after being a soldier;
7. Calls for uniform penalties against groups or countries that make use of forced child soldiers, by, but not limited to;
   1. prison time for those who are actively involved in the employment and use of child soldiers,
   2. sanctions against governments who forcibly employ children in state armed forces,
   3. international embargo of military supplies to parties that are known or suspected of using child soldiers;
8. Requests advocacy from any involved party in combating the use of child soldiers, by,
   1. spreading awareness of children’s rights through a variety of programmes including,
      1. education and training for military and other armed services, in the field of youths being illegally in the army
      2. as well as initiatives to contact children and their family
   2. monitoring and documenting the abuse of children's rights
   3. analysing the targeted children which are at highest risk of recruitment and protecting them by all possible means;
9. Further encourages all states to provide children with a decent education and a safe place for them to live, with implementations of, but not limited to:
   1. foster families,
   2. volunteers who help with educating,
   3. education programs for demobilised child soldiers to provide equal education opportunities and guarantee literacy,
   4. lower tuition fees for schools,
   5. more schools;
10. Emphasises the major obligation of any state to prevent conflicts and to support activities performed by the UN in the context of peacekeeping operations which should enhance and supplement the peacebuilding roles of national governments.