

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
21st SESSION (10 to 28 September 2012)**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary
General for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui
(10 September 2012)**

Statement by India

Madam President,

We thank the Special Representative, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, for introducing the annual report and her detailed remarks. We also take this opportunity to congratulate her on this key appointment as the new Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

The UN has done some pioneering work in this area. We look forward to working closely with the new SRSG.

Madam President,

The SRSG has identified some continuing challenges including on fighting impunity as well as child protection issues and preventive measures to discourage children's association with armed forces and groups. I will briefly touch on some issues here.

A key challenge is the question of resources. More child protection advisers are required with more resources in UN missions.

We would encourage the SRSG to work with national authorities in developing capacities to deal with children in armed conflict. We agree with her that support for efforts by national authorities to end impunity and ensure accountability should be a key focus area. There is a need for the international community to discuss how to deal with persistent perpetrators.

Madam President,

We believe that there should be wider consultations by the SRSG with UN member states as the work in this area involves setting new normative framework and the fact that member States have primary responsibility for implementation. These consultations should also assess the functioning of the UN monitoring and reporting mechanism as also the process of listing and delisting.

As pointed out by several delegations before us, we are also concerned on the manner in which Security Council resolutions in this area are being interpreted. Briefly, the report refers to situations not covered under UN Security Council resolutions. This must be checked.

Madam President,

India deplores grave violations and crimes against children during armed conflict. We have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.

We will continue to work closely on the issue of children and armed conflict with a view to increasing efficiency, cost effectiveness and impact of UN efforts and those of Member States in dealing with this important question.
