



Individual Self Reflection 2020 on World Humanitarian Summit Commitments and Initiatives - UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC)



Stakeholder Information

Organisation Name

UN Special Representative of the
Secretary-General for Children and
Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC)

Organisational Type

UN

City and Country where Headquartered

New York, United States of America

Focal Point Name

James Cooke

Region

Global

Twitter ID

@childreninwar



2A Respect and protect civilians and civilian objects in the conduct of hostilities

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will continue high-level advocacy efforts and remind parties of their obligations vis-a-vis children and armed conflict under international humanitarian law, international human rights law and refugee law. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will also work to enhance the national and international legal frameworks for child protection, in particular through the "Children, Not Soldiers" campaign (which supports Member States to criminalise recruitment and use of children, build the rule of law, and institutionalise birth registration and age verification) and by continuing to encourage Member States to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.	Advocacy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will strengthen advocacy with parties to conflict to stop the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, which kill and maim children, destroy schools and hospitals and have consequences for the safety of children long after hostilities have ceased. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will also work with parties to conflict to protect educational institutions, in particular through advocating for and supporting the development of operational strategies to reduce the military use of schools in armed conflict.	Advocacy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to promote and enhance the protection of civilians and civilian objects, especially in the conduct of hostilities, for instance by working to prevent civilian harm resulting from the use of wide-area explosive weapons in populated areas, and by sparing civilian infrastructure from military use in the conduct of military operations.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

The "Children, Not Soldiers Campaign", an initiative of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC) and UNICEF, concluded in 2017 and focused on Afghanistan, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. All those countries have since signed Action Plans with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. The campaign is being replaced by a new advocacy campaign in 2018.

In November 2017, the Special Representative assessed the implementation of the child protection measures included in the Colombian Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army.



The Special Representative has advocated for the endorsement by States of the Safe Schools Declaration, which expresses broad political support for the protection and continuation of education in armed conflict. Nigeria and Yemen signed the Declaration in 2017.

2. A. How are you measuring progress toward achieving your commitments? Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- By reporting to, or using reports prepared for, UN principal organs, UN governing boards, or other international bodies

B. How are you assessing whether progress on your commitments is leading toward change in the direction of the transformation?

Through constant exchange and interaction with the Country Task-Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on the six grave violations against children and armed conflict. The CTFMR, a UN inter-agency body mandated by the Security Council, monitors and reports on the situation on the ground.

3. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

- Adherence to standards and/or humanitarian principles
 Field conditions, including insecurity and access
 Human resources/capacity

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Issues related to insecurity and lack of access make the operations of the CTFMR and the reporting mechanism to the Security Council more difficult, as well as complicating direct engagement with parties to the conflict which is essential to achieving change.

4. Highlight actions planned for 2018 to advance implementation of your commitments in order to achieve this transformation.

The Special Representative will conduct missions in the field, in particular Colombia, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan, to assess and advocate for the implementation by parties to the conflict of action plans to end and prevent the grave violations.

5. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

UN and other actors to strengthen engagement for the respect of international humanitarian law and protection of civilians.

Keywords

Education, IHL compliance and accountability, Protection



2B Ensure full access to and protection of the humanitarian and medical missions

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will place extra emphasis in reports to the Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council on attacks on hospitals and protected personnel in situations of armed conflict. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will engage directly with parties to conflict at every opportunity, including in the context of high-level meetings and peace talks, to end and prevent attacks on healthcare, including advocacy with relevant parties for the signature and implementation of Action Plans.	Advocacy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to ensure all populations in need receive rapid and unimpeded humanitarian assistance.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity
Commit to promote and enhance efforts to respect and protect medical personnel, transports and facilities, as well as humanitarian relief personnel and assets against attacks, threats or other violent acts.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC) dedicated parts of her reports to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council on attacks on schools, hospitals and protected personnel, as well as the denial of humanitarian access as it affects children. Reports were issued in August and January 2018.

The Special Representative raised the issue of protection of healthcare in her country visits, and in a number of bilateral meetings.

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B. How are you assessing whether progress on your commitments is leading toward change in the direction of the transformation?

Through constant exchange and interaction with the Country Task-Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on the six grave violations against children and armed conflict. The CTFMR, a UN inter-agency body mandated by the Security Council, monitors and reports on the situation on the ground.

3. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

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B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Issues related to insecurity and lack of access make the operations of the CTFMR and the reporting mechanism to the Security Council more difficult, as well as complicating direct engagement with parties to the conflict which is essential to achieving change.

4. Highlight actions planned for 2018 to advance implementation of your commitments in order to achieve this transformation.

The Special Representative will conduct mission in the field, to assess and advocate for the implementation by parties to the conflict of action plans to end and prevent the grave violations, including the denial of humanitarian access.

5. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

UN and other actors to strengthen engagement for the respect of international humanitarian law and protection of civilians.

Keywords

Humanitarian principles, IHL compliance and accountability, Protection



2C Speak out on violations

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will use all appropriate fora to speak out and systematically condemn serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, and will advocate directly with relevant parties to conflict, and those who have influence on them, to make concrete commitments to stop and end grave violations against children. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will also advocate for and provide strong support to national and international accountability efforts.	Advocacy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to speak out and systematically condemn serious violations of international humanitarian law and serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and to take concrete steps to ensure accountability of perpetrators when these acts amount to crimes under international law.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC) continued to monitor and report, through the Country Task-Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), on the six grave violations against children and armed conflict to the Security Council. Two additional action plans were signed by parties to end and prevent violations against children and conflict: in March 2017 in Mali, and in September 2017 in Nigeria.

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B. How are you assessing whether progress on your commitments is leading toward change in the direction of the transformation?

Through constant exchange and interaction with the Country Task-Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on the six grave violations against children and armed conflict. The CTFMR, a UN inter-agency body mandated by the Security Council, monitors and reports on the situation on the ground.

3. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

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B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Issues related to insecurity and lack of access make the operations of the CTFMR and the reporting mechanism to the Security Council more difficult, as well as complicating direct engagement with parties to the conflict which is essential to achieving change.



4. Highlight actions planned for 2018 to advance implementation of your commitments in order to achieve this transformation.

The Special Representative will conduct missions in the field, in particular Colombia, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan, to assess and advocate for the implementation by parties to the conflict of action plans to end and prevent the grave violations.

Keywords

IHL compliance and accountability, Protection



3A Reduce and address displacement

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict will use high-level advocacy to emphasize that internally displaced and refugee children must be granted safety and security, protected against violations and abuse and taken into account in efforts to implement Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.	Advocacy	Leave No One Behind

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to a new approach to addressing forced displacement that not only meets immediate humanitarian needs but reduces vulnerability and improves the resilience, self-reliance and protection of refugees and IDPs. Commit to implementing this new approach through coherent international, regional and national efforts that recognize both the humanitarian and development challenges of displacement. Commit to take the necessary political, policy, legal and financial steps required to address these challenges for the specific context.	Leave No One Behind
Commit to promote and support safe, dignified and durable solutions for internally displaced persons and refugees. Commit to do so in a coherent and measurable manner through international, regional and national programs and by taking the necessary policy, legal and financial steps required for the specific contexts and in order to work towards a target of 50 percent reduction in internal displacement by 2030.	Leave No One Behind
Acknowledge the global public good provided by countries and communities which are hosting large numbers of refugees. Commit to providing communities with large numbers of displaced population or receiving large numbers of returnees with the necessary political, policy and financial, support to address the humanitarian and socio-economic impact. To this end, commit to strengthen multilateral financing instruments. Commit to foster host communities' self-reliance and resilience, as part of the comprehensive and integrated approach outlined in core commitment 1.	Leave No One Behind
Commit to collectively work towards a Global Compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees to safeguard the rights of refugees, while also effectively and predictably supporting States affected by such movements.	Leave No One Behind
Commit to actively work to uphold the institution of asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. Commit to support further accession to and strengthened implementation of national, regional and international laws and policy frameworks that ensure and improve the protection of refugees and IDPs, such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol or the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala convention) or the Guiding Principles on internal displacement.	Leave No One Behind



1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

Other-3A

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSR CAAC) dedicated special sections on the displacement of children in her reports to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council. Speeches to these bodies also featured appeals on the importance to specifically protect children displaced by armed conflict.

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B. How are you assessing whether progress on your commitments is leading toward change in the direction of the transformation?

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- Field conditions, including insecurity and access
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B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

Issues related to insecurity and lack of access make the operations of the CTFMR and the reporting mechanism to the Security Council more difficult, as well as complicating direct engagement with parties to the conflict which is essential to achieving change.

4. Highlight actions planned for 2018 to advance implementation of your commitments in order to achieve this transformation.

The Special Representative will conduct missions in the field, in particular Colombia, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan, to assess and advocate for the implementation by parties to the conflict of action plans to end and prevent the grave violations.

Keywords

Displacement, Protection