



United Nations Security Council approves resolution that extends the frame of application of the monitoring and reporting mechanism

Bogotá, August 18 2009

The Coalition against the involvement of boys, girls and youth to the armed conflict in Colombia (Coalico in Spanish) welcomes the approval of Resolution 1882 of the United Nations Security Council.

On the basis of this resolution, the United Nations Secretary General will be able to include in his annual listings and monitor those parties in the armed conflict responsible for sexual violence, homicides, and maiming against children, and not only those responsible for their recruitment, as was foreseen up until Security Council Resolution 1612.

Resolution 1882, approved on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 by this United Nations organ, strengthens the international framework for the protection of boys, girls, and young people affected by war throughout the world. Further, it calls attention to the obligations of the countries in armed conflict, such as Colombia, regarding prevention, protection, and attention to this sector of the population and reminds the States of their responsibility to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other atrocious crimes perpetrated against children.

Claude Heller, president of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) has explained how, through this resolution, the Security Council has reasserted its “unequivocal commitment to the protection of children in situations of armed conflict.” To Heller, this is a very clear political signal “in the sense that the obligations that international law imposes on the parties in armed conflicts with regard to the safety and wellbeing of children must be respected, without exception.”

The procedures for the resolution were carried out by Mexico, the country presiding the Group, and co-sponsored by nine members of the Security Council and other 24 United Nations member States. Resolution 1882 is the seventh resolution adopted by the Council; through it, the framework is strengthened for the safeguard of children in armed conflicts.¹

The United Nation’s Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, has underscored that this resolution is a very important step forward in the struggle against impunity in crimes against children and toward the acknowledgment of an irrefutable reality in present armed conflicts.

¹ The previously adopted resolutions are: 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001), 1460 (2003), 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005).

Recommendations of the Coalition-Colombia

In this context, the Coalition-Colombia reminds the State of its responsibility in the prevention and guarantee of non-repetition of such crimes against Colombian children. Likewise, as does the Resolution, it calls upon the State to adopt decisive and immediate measures against those who commit reiterated violations and abuses against boys and girls in the framework of the armed conflict, as well as to bring to justice those responsible for such violations, forbidden by international law and by national norms currently in force.

Furthermore, the Coalition emphasizes the importance that the Colombian Task Force –integrated by the United Nations agencies present in Colombia, NGOs with experience in defending the rights of the child, and the Ombudsman’s Office– should strengthen the monitoring of these categories and continue reporting to the Secretary General information regarding all the groups that take part in the hostilities, including the armed forces.

The Coalition against the involvement of boys, girls and youth to the armed conflict in Colombia is a platform of 12 national and international organizations:

- Acción colectiva de objetores y objetoras de conciencia, Acooc.
- Benposta Nación de Muchachos.
- Corporación “Paz y Democracia”.
- Corporación Vínculos.
- Defensa de los niños internacional –DNI–, Colombia.
- Fundación Creciendo Unidos.
- Fundación para la Educación y el Desarrollo, Fedes.
- Justapaz.
- Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados.
- Taller de Vida.
- Tierra de hombres, Alemania.
- War Child, Holland.

For more information, visit www.coalico.org