**FORUM**: Human Rights Council

**QUESTION OF**: Establishing measures to ensure the reintegration of child soldiers

**MAIN SUBMITTER**: Norway

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Reaffirming* previous resolutions adopted by the Security council, 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001) and 1460 (2003),

*Further reaffirming* that Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which requires governments to do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and prohibits children under 15 years of age to participate in armed conflict,

*Referring* to the United Nations Children’ Fund’s (UNICEF’s) definition ofa child soldier as “any person under 18 years of age who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group in any capacity - including, but not limited to, combatants, cooks, porters, messengers and anyone accompanying such groups, other than family members”, which definition “also includes girls recruited for sexual purposes and forced marriage”,

*Noting with concern* that there are an estimated amount of 200,000 to 300,000 children soldiers still being affected by armed conflict,

*Welcoming* international attention towards this issue to increase Member States’ efforts and resources needed for reintegrating child soldiers in their communities,

*Recognizing* that child soldiers have limited opportunities as the majority may have had an incomplete education,

*Congratulating* the action and support that UNICEF put into aiding child soldiers and returning 100,000 children to their communities since 1998,

*Further noting with concern* that not all child soldiers are recruited forcefully and thus the responsibility lies with the governments and rebel groups recruiting children to abolish recruitment and propaganda,

*Fully alarmed* that child soldiers are sometimes forced to commit atrocities against their own family or neighbors in order to help ensure that the child is unable to reintegrate in their home community,

*Recalling* the International Labor Organization Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor which prohibits the forced or compulsory recruitment of children under the age of 18 for use in armed conflicts,

*Concerned by* the factthat 40% of Bolivia’s military force consists of children younger than the age of 18 and 20% are younger than the age of 16,

*Aware* of the need for long term solutions to ensure the definitive and permanent reintegration of child soldiers into their previous community as well as reminding member states that any previously implemented solutions are temporary and as not all conflict has been resolved, long term solutions must be implemented,

1. Encourages member states to create an organized knowledge base to collect, analyze and share data regarding former child soldiers and therefore collect reliable evidence to help guide the reintegration process of former child soldiers by methods including but not limited to:
   1. regulating and ensuring accurate data by:
      1. involving member states and NGO’s (Non-Governmental Organizations) such as the Human Rights Watch to take responsibility for this
      2. drawing attention to the current lack in concrete statistics and numbers concerning the presence of child soldiers in areas of conflict
   2. creating standardized measurements and methods of data collection
   3. creating profiles and a method of identification for former child soldiers that is applicable to and recognized by all states, under the conditions that:
      1. methods of identification aim to help tailoring care most suitable for the former child soldier
      2. results of investigation shall not infringe the privacy of the child soldier;
2. Calls upon member states to organize systematic support and rehabilitation programs at a local level which would be also financed by the UN and would provide former child soldiers with care including but not limited to:
   1. housing,
   2. therapy to help deal with:
      1. physical abuse or assault
      2. emotional abuse/psychological maltreatment
      3. traumatic grief
      4. violence which may include war, terrorism, and political violence,
   3. legal and financial support
   4. healthcare
   5. education;
3. Recommends member states to develop and implement education frameworks designed for former child soldiers and vulnerable children which will include the following but will not be limited to:
   1. limiting segregation of child soldiers from communities to avoid further discrimination
   2. a primary and secondary education and the possibility of a tertiary education
   3. adjustments based on the needs and the care of the former child soldiers depending on their profile as discussed in subclause 1c
   4. staff trained by the UN to specifically meet the needs of child soldiers
   5. training centers for vocational learning which will include the following:
      1. professional training like carpentry, mechanics, agriculture, handicrafts
      2. food for school cafeterias and training locations provided by the WFP (World Food Programme)
      3. reinsertion kits provided by the UNDP (UN Development Programme) after graduation in order for them to find employment
      4. the sponsoring of one of the parents of any student enrolled in the program by the UNDP on a temporary basis
      5. support from the planned National Institute for Professional Preparedness (NIPP) in order to promote vocational learning;
4. Urges Member States and international organizations to contribute to any long term solutions proposed in operative clause 2 by means such as:
   1. assessing the economic and political state of each nation to determine the extent to which they contribute means such as, but not limited to:
      1. financial support to spend on the improvement of infrastructure, on the educational system and on job opportunities
      2. medical, food and water resources,
      3. staffing and human labor
      4. resolving of conflict
      5. improvement of healthcare by means such as, but not limited to building hospitals and training medical personnel
   2. conducting diplomatic dialogue between government and NGO’s in order to uphold international standards of child rights according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
5. Further encourages the Disarmament Committee to introduce trading sanctions on any government which does not immediately begin to tackle the issue of child soldiers in their country;
6. Further recommends a sharper control in war zones by means such as, but not limited to, arresting any party who promotes or forces children to become soldiers including, but not limited to:
   1. terrorist groups
   2. warlords
   3. corrupted government members;
7. Further calls upon all governments to set their minimum age to join the military at 18 years;
8. Invites all member states to sign the Hague contract which states that all Nations should have abolished child soldiers by the end of 2020.