**FORUM:** Human Rights Council

**QUESTION OF:** Establishing Measures to Ensure the Reintegration of Child Soldiers

**SUBMITTED BY:** Myanmar

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Noting* that, although an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 child soldiers (according to Human Rights Watch) continue to suffer and must be liberated, many child soldiers are returning home, and thus should be re-integrated into civil society,

*Concerned* by the attitudes which have been instilled in these minors and by the frequent lack of quality education and rehabilitation facilities in their countries of origin,

*Recognizing* the worldwide benefits of programs that could transform former child soldiers in unstable member states into highly-functioning, nonviolent leaders with first-hand experiences of the horrors of armed conflict,

*Defining* a child soldier, in accordance with the definition employed by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), as any minor, so any person under the age of 18, who takes part in any kind of armed military body in any capacity, also including girls recruited for sexual proposes and forced marriage in the definition,

*Welcoming* all relevant decisions and resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

*Encouraging* the United Nations and all member states to vote in favor of helping former child soldiers,

1. Suggests the creation of the United Nations Inquiry into the Success of Reintegration of Child Soldiers into Society (UNISRCSS) to:
   1. evaluate to what extent the process defined in clauses 3 to 5 has been successful, both on a nationwide level and on a personal level,
   2. ensure that if the process is effective it continues and flourishes in the best conditions possible, or if the process is not, analyze the mistakes made and improve it;
2. Calls for the Security Council to condemn recruitment and deployment of child soldiers and urges member states with children fighting in their armed forces to take immediate action to bring these minors home, with the UNHRC further supporting:
   1. trade sanctions placed on countries not making efforts to disband child soldiers within their national ranks according to the judgement of the UNISRCSS,
   2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which will rescue minors from armies not associated with a particular national government, as the majority of child soldiers are currently fighting in regions with civil wars;
3. Recommends the establishment of NGO-sponsored centers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Republic of Congo and Somalia – as well as in other member states with child soldiers and demonstrated need for support – to administer initial disbanding and care for children formerly within the ranks of national and para-national militaries, emphasizing that these centers will not serve as long-term housing and will provide:
   1. asylum and protection from conflict within their respective states, as well as resources, including but not limited to:
      1. water,
      2. food,
      3. shelter,
      4. medication,
      5. extensive care,
   2. soft discipline for children who demonstrate violence or resentment toward NGO workers, as well as immediate education regarding the disadvantages of armed conflict,
   3. tutoring and education classes for all children to take part in to compensate for missed years of schooling and schooling up till 18 years old with the opportunity to apply to university and pursue further career options,
   4. rehabilitation and therapy for minors suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or overtly demonstrating violence and intolerance,
   5. relocation services to centers in other member states when the need arises,
   6. compensation for the families of the child soldiers (if relevant and possible) and aid to help ensure the security of the child,
   7. advice on further orientation of children such as studies or employment, and search for a tutor in their future social function to undertake the follow-up care as they leave the center;
4. Supports initiatives – both government- and NGO-related – to return child soldiers to their families when this is a relevant option, with continued support as minors are reintegrated into their former communities as functioning members of society;
5. Endorses the altercation of foster care and adoption systems to cooperate with centers such as those outlined in clause 3, such that:
   1. liberated child soldiers should become part of families both inside and outside their respective member states that, with continued support from the education and rehabilitation centers, ultimately allow them to attend school and establish peaceful friendships as functioning members of a community,
   2. additional resources are allocated to ensure positive relationships within foster and adoptive families;
6. Commends organizations like UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and Child Soldiers International for their efforts to solve this universally troubling issue;
7. Implores all member states – concerned by violence and conflict in the developing world or not – to support these efforts at human rights expansion;
8. Further urges that educational talks and presentations take place in schools in which former child soldiers have joined to ensure that:
   1. as little discrimination as possible is levelled against returning child soldiers by their peers,
   2. further enlistment of children into armed forces does not take place;
9. Encourages the implementation of medical care facilities as outlined in clause 3 for girls who faced sexual abuse, including abortion clinics in countries where abortion is legal, and for those countries where abortion isn’t legal, to provide financial aid for teen mothers;
10. Asks the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly to fund the aforementioned initiatives along with NGOs and national governments seized of the matter.
11. Stresses the need for family reunification, foster placement or support for independent living through means such as but not limited to:
    1. working closely with family and community members to determine the best possible biological or foster family placement,
    2. family tracing in cases where family members’ whereabouts are unknown,
    3. the arrangement of foster family placements arranged by save the children or partner agencies,
    4. the placement of older adolescents in group homes where the child is:
       1. actively supervised and cared for by the surrounding community
       2. Supervised and supported adult,
    5. institutionalization in an orphanage, only as a temporary last resort;
12. Recommends all member states to set the age of recruitment to a minimum of18 years old, for all child soldiers.