

**CHILD
SOLDIERS**
INTERNATIONAL



UN Security Council 2019-2020
Fostering Consensus
Acting for Peace

Canada



Permanent Mission of Colombia
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of the Republic
of Sierra Leone to the UN

Child Soldiers International, UNICEF and the Permanent UN Missions of Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France and Sierra Leone cordially invite you to an all-day event

**OPAC
TURNS 18**

in celebration of the 18th birthday of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC). The event aims to build momentum and support for efforts to prevent child recruitment and use and to ensure the reintegration and rehabilitation of children associated with armed forces and armed groups.

Wednesday, 21 February 2018

9:00am – 5:00pm

Conference Room 2, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Followed by a reception hosted by the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN

5:15 – 7:00pm

One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 885 Second Avenue at 47th Street, 41st Floor

A draft program follows


Please R.S.V.P. to Hiba Qaraman (hqaraman@child-soldiers.org) by February 16th and kindly indicate if your delegation would like to make a statement during the opening segment. Please also indicate if you require a UN grounds pass in your reply.

Draft Program and Confirmed Speakers

Time	Room/ Session	Theme	Chair	Panel Speakers*
<i>8:45-9:00 Arrivals</i>				
9:00-10:00	CR2 High-Level Opening Panel	Celebration and reflection on 18 years since OPAC – progress and new challenges for the protection of children from recruitment and use in conflict	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium • Ms. Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict • H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN • Mr. Gehad Madi, Member, Committee on the Rights of the Child • UNICEF Representative (to be confirmed) • Ms. Rachel Taylor, Director of Programmes, Child Soldiers International
10:00-11:30	CR2 High-Level Opening Segment – Statements	Celebration and reflection on 18 years since OPAC – progress and new challenges for the protection of children from recruitment and use in conflict	Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member State co-hosts • Statements from representatives from NY missions, intergovernmental organizations, UN and NGOs
<i>11:30-11:45 Coffee/Tea Break</i>				
11:45-1:15 (Panels 1 and 2 will run concurrently)	CR2 Panel 1	Achievements and lessons learned: implementation of standards, including regional and sub-regional approaches, and accountability	Representative from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Louise Sharene Bailey, Chargé d’Affaires, Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the UN

* Additional speakers to be confirmed.

Draft Program and Confirmed Speakers

Time	Room/ Session	Theme	Chair	Panel Speakers*
			Sierra Leone to the UN (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Shamila Batohi, Senior Legal Adviser and Head of the Legal Advisory Section in the Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court • Mr. Swen Dornig, Senior Child Protection Advisor, NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan • Ms. Chimène Mandakovic, former Child Protection Advisor in the UN DPKO mission in Nepal
	CR5 Panel 2	<p>Achievements and lessons learned: community-based prevention initiatives and current challenges and approaches to demobilization and reintegration</p> <p>This session will include the screening of a short video: <i>What Girls Say: The Difficult Journey Home</i> Produced by Child Soldiers International, in partnership with Education Above All Foundation</p> 	Representative from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN (to be confirmed) • Ms. Chiyuki Kozuka, Team Leader, Conflict Related Sexual Violence & Child Protection, DPKO • Mr. Simon Kangeta, Executive Director, Association des Jeunes pour la Développement Intégré-Kalundu (AJEDI-Ka), DRC • Ms. Christine McCormick, Child Protection Advisor - Fragile States, Save the Children • Ms. Amy Kapit, Education Under Attack Program Officer, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA)
13:15-14:15 Lunch				
14:15-15:45	CR2 Panel 3	Addressing the challenges of child recruitment and use by armed non-state	Representative from the Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Sima Bahous, Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the UN

Draft Program and Confirmed Speakers

Time	Room/ Session	Theme	Chair	Panel Speakers*
(Panels 3 and 4 will run concurrently)		actors and ensuring the protection of children in contexts of violent extremism	Mission of Canada to the UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (to be confirmed) • Mr. Philip Spoerri, Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the UN • Ms. Jo Becker, Advocacy Director, Children's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch • Mr. Hichem Khadhraoui, Director of Operations, Geneva Call
	CR5 Panel 4	Addressing child recruitment and use in the broader child rights framework and the Sustainable Development Goals	Representative from the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Susan Bissell, Director, Global Partnership to End Violence against Children • Representative from Alliance 8.7 (to be confirmed) • Mr. Justin Byworth, Global Director for Disaster Management, World Vision International • Mr. Mark Canavera, Associate Director, Child Protection in Crisis Learning Network, Columbia University
15:45-16:00 <i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>				
16:00-17:00	CR2	Closing Session: review of key themes, including report back from panels. Wrap-up and next steps for the agenda.	Representative from Child Soldiers International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs/Rapporteurs from thematic panel sessions
17:15-19:00 <i>Reception hosted by the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN</i> <i>One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 885 Second Avenue at 47th St., 41st Floor</i>				