

New York, 23 June 2006

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to convey to you this letter on behalf of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional group of countries, which includes Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, Slovenia and South Africa as an observer.

Members of the Human Security Network, welcome the recent adoption by the Working Group of its terms of reference. This step will allow for the Working Group to tackle concrete cases soon. We encourage the Members of the Working Group to circulate also its 2006 work programme, as well as the reporting guidelines for the Secretary General's reports as soon as possible.

Members of the Human Security Network welcome the recent adoption by the Working Group of its terms of reference which will allow for the Working Group to work on concrete cases as soon as possible.

We acknowledge and appreciate the commitment of the Working Group to examine information on compliance and progress in ending the recruitment and deployment of children in armed conflicts and other violations against them in situations of armed conflicts (see A/59/695-S/2005/72 on Annex I and II). Furthermore, we commend the commitment of the Working Group to enhance the transparency of its work by holding press conferences and issuing press releases following its informal meetings.

Members of the Network support the strengthening of the monitoring and reporting mechanism and strongly encourage a specific focus on child soldiers (from both state and non-state armed actors) in disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and rehabilitation processes. We also encourage the initiative to conduct follow-ups specifically on demobilised children.

We particularly welcome the publication of the Secretary-General's reports addressed to the Working Group under the monitoring and reporting system, enhancing thereby the commitment of the Working Group to more transparency and accountability.

We are convinced that the time is ripe for action, and we therefore strongly encourage the Working Group to produce as soon as possible concrete and tangible results that address the situation of boys and girls affected by armed conflicts.

As members of the Human Security Network, we undertake to give wholehearted support to the endeavours of the Working Group with a view to advancing the goal of ending grave violations and abuses against children in situations of armed conflict.

Please accept, Mr Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Roman Kirn, Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the UN