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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 30 March 2026

61/21. Rights of the child: realizing the rights of the child affected by armed conflict

The Human Rights Council,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the international legal foundation for the respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of the child, bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, and calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation,

Recalling the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols,

Recalling also all relevant international human rights treaties, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in particular, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children,

Recalling all previous resolutions on the rights of the child of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, the most recent being General Assembly resolution 80/190 of 15 December 2025 and Human Rights Council resolution 55/29 of 5 April 2024,

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Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", while taking note of the interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and reaffirming the commitment at the heart of Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind, including children,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution of 51/77 (1996) establishing the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and all Security Council resolutions relevant to the children and armed conflict agenda, including 1612 (2005) that established the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on children and armed conflict under the Security Council's mandate, and further recalling the role of the Secretary-General in ensuring the effective implementation and follow-up of this Mechanism, as well as all subsequent relevant United Nations resolutions on children and armed conflict, and their important role in ensuring the documentation of grave violations, supporting action plans with parties to conflict, and promoting the release and reintegration of children,

Reaffirming the essential role of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the contributions of relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children, particularly those affected by armed conflict,

Recalling that Actions 14, 34 and 35 under the Pact for the Future affirm that ending violence against children is essential to achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies,

Taking note of the Paris Commitments and the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups, the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers, and the Safe Schools Declaration and its Guidelines, underscoring their role in promoting the protection of children affected by armed conflict,

Reaffirming that all parties to armed conflict must adhere to their obligations under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, underscoring the special protection afforded to children, schools, hospitals and humanitarian and medical personnel and transports, and that international human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming also the obligation of an occupying power, as a duty bearer under international law, to fully uphold its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law with respect to the population under occupation, in particular children, including by respecting, protecting and fulfilling their rights,

Expressing concern that, as documented in recent reports by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including through the contributions of children themselves, the number of children directly affected by armed conflict has reached 473 million and that grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict have reached unprecedented and alarming levels, with a 25 per cent surge just from 2023 to 2024,

Expressing serious concern that children are disproportionately affected by armed conflict, suffering some of its most serious and long-lasting consequences, including the six grave violations against children in armed conflict, and underscoring that armed conflict constitutes one of the gravest threats to the full enjoyment of a wide range of the rights of the child, inter alia, the right to life, development, identity, nationality, parental care, education, to engage in play and recreational activities and to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as protection from all forms of physical and mental violence, torture, cruel or inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment and unlawful or arbitrary deprivation of liberty,

Urging all parties to armed conflict to strictly comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in the conduct of hostilities,

Expressing grave concern about the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and the serious and long-term risks posed by explosive remnants of war, including unexploded ordnance and other explosive hazards left behind after armed conflict, which risks causing severe harm to children, who are especially vulnerable due to their smaller bodies, distinct physiology and limited access to paediatric care, and which threatens their lives, safety and well-being,

Strongly condemning attacks against civilian objects, in violation of international humanitarian law, including schools, hospitals and water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as their use for military purposes and other interferences with safe access to education and health services in situations of armed conflict; and further recognizing that the destruction or degradation of essential civilian infrastructure, such as critical energy infrastructure, including through cyberattacks, disproportionately affects children's survival, protection, health and their safe and sustained access to education, health and other essential services,

Recognizing that children orphaned or separated from their families as a result of armed conflict are among the most vulnerable, reaffirming the need to ensure that they are not left without appropriate care and protection and that their rights are respected, and reaffirming the obligation of States to promptly identify unaccompanied and separated children, facilitate family tracing and safe reunification in accordance with the best interests of the child, and to ensure interim care arrangements that are child-rights based, protection-oriented and in line with international standards while avoiding institutionalization,

Expressing grave concern about the significant increase in attacks against schools and other education facilities, including United Nations schools sheltering families, as well as attacks against students and educators, the abduction of children from schools, and use of schools for military purposes, resulting in the denial of children's right to education, and recognizing the immediate and negative long-term impacts of such attacks and military use on the safety, well-being and development of children, especially girls and children with disabilities, their families, their communities and on educational personnel, while calling on States to intensify efforts to protect educational facilities, students and educational personnel, in accordance with international humanitarian law, in order to uphold children's right to education,

Deeply concerned about the attacks on hospitals and the devastating impact on children, hindering children's access to essential and life-saving healthcare and jeopardizing their rights to life and to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health,

Noting with deep concern that conflict-related sexual violence against children results in severe and long-term physical, psychological and social harm, including trauma, sexually transmitted infections and child pregnancies, recognizing that girls who become pregnant as a result of conflict-related sexual violence may have different and specific needs and that children affected by conflict-related sexual violence, including those who witness such violations or whose caregivers have suffered them, face heightened risks such as severe and long-term psychological distress, secondary trauma and disrupted caregiving environments, contributing to transgenerational harm and reinforcing the cycle of vulnerability, and stressing that children born of such violence, along with their mothers, often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as stigmatization, exclusion and barriers to birth registration and legal identity, heightening the risk of statelessness,

Stressing that armed conflict exacerbates pre-existing gender inequalities and recognizing the gender specific and disproportionate impacts of armed conflict on children, whereby girls, in particular, face heightened and disproportionate risks of sexual and gender-based violence, acknowledging that boys can also be targeted, abduction and child, early and forced marriage, forced birth control, forced sterilizations, forced pregnancy and forced abortion, as well as forced labour and sexual exploitation, including sexual slavery, and barriers to accessing education and health, including sexual and reproductive health information, education and care services, while boys, in particular, face heightened risks of forced recruitment and use by armed groups or forces, detention, child labour and engagement in illicit activities, affecting their enjoyment of their rights to life, education,

social development and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health,

Recognizing that the incidence and risk of child, early and forced marriage are highly exacerbated during humanitarian emergencies, situations of forced displacement, armed conflict, public health emergencies and natural disasters because of various factors, including insecurity, increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence, the misconception of providing protection through marriage, gender inequalities, lack of access to continuous, inclusive and equitable quality education, the stigmatization of pregnancy outside marriage, the absence of family planning services, disruption in social networks and routines, increased poverty and the absence of livelihood opportunities, and that this requires increased attention, appropriate protection measures and coordinated action by all relevant stakeholders, with the full and meaningful participation of the women and girls affected, from the early stages of humanitarian emergencies, and recognizing further the importance of addressing the increased situation of vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation in those situations,

Recognizing also that the disproportionate impact of sexual violence and gender-based violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations on women and girls is exacerbated by discrimination against women and girls and by the underrepresentation of women in decision-making and leadership roles, the impact of discriminatory laws, the gender-biased enforcement and application of existing laws, harmful social norms and practices, structural inequalities, discriminatory views on women, girls or gender roles in society, and lack of availability of services for victims and survivors, and affirming the importance of promoting gender equality by addressing these and other root causes of sexual violence against all women and girls as part of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding,

Recognizing further the heightened vulnerability of children with disabilities, particularly girls, to violence, exclusion and obstacles to protection and humanitarian assistance, including barriers to evacuation, medical care and rehabilitation, and underlining the importance of targeted protection measures and timely, specialized, inclusive and accessible reintegration, rehabilitation and psychosocial support, to effectively address their needs,

Recognizing the heightened vulnerability of children belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, children of African descent, displaced children and other children in vulnerable and marginalized situations, and noting with concern how multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, race, religion, disability, refugee or migration or displacement status, can adversely shape the vulnerability of children in armed conflict and hinder their access to protection, assistance and humanitarian services,

Underlining the need for tailored, inclusive and accessible protection and humanitarian responses that are gender-, age-, and disability-responsive, responding to the lived reality of children, and developed with respect for the views, and the safe, meaningful participation, of affected children and their communities,

Strongly condemning all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, including those involving killing and maiming, abduction, rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, attacks against hospitals, schools and other educational facilities, and the military use of such facilities, the denial of humanitarian access, and the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, including those designated as terrorist groups by the United Nations, in violation of applicable international law,

Expressing deep concern about the increasing links between armed groups, and trafficking in persons, involving the exploitation of children, recognizing that girls are disproportionately affected by child, early and forced marriage, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, forced labour, and sexual exploitation, and that boys face a higher risk of forced labour or as combatants,

Emphasizing that children allegedly associated with armed forces or groups must be treated primarily as victims, as outlined in general comment No. 24 (2019) of the Committee

on the Rights of the Child on children's rights in the justice system and relevant General Assembly resolutions on administration of child justice, taking the best interests of the child as a primary consideration and respecting their rights; underlining that children must not be deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and calling upon all parties to cease unlawful or arbitrary detention, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to use arrest or detention only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period, with non-custodial alternatives actively sought,

Recognizing that the digital environment can facilitate the recruitment and exploitation of children by armed groups, including through the dissemination of misleading information aimed at influencing or manipulating children, and expressing concern about the increasing use of technology-facilitated solicitation and grooming of children for recruitment and use in armed conflict, trafficking, or other violations and abuses,

Concerned by potential adverse effects on the protection of children arising from the use of new technologies in armed conflict, such as autonomous weapons systems and systems enabled by artificial intelligence, and stressing the importance of assessing the impacts of the rights of the child and addressing the implications of such technologies in compliance with international law,

Emphasizing the obligation of all parties to a conflict to allow and facilitate, under conditions prescribed by international humanitarian law, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief to children affected by armed conflict, and the need to protect humanitarian personnel, in full compliance with international law and the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, as well as guarantee the continuity of essential services while acknowledging that increasing restrictions on principled humanitarian access in conflict settings hinder the delivery of life-saving assistance and protection services to children,

Recognizing the profound and long-lasting psychological, cognitive and emotional impacts of armed conflict on children of all ages, including the toxic stress experienced during the earliest years of life, which can result in irreversible harm,

Stressing the importance of community-based psychosocial recovery and social reintegration through education and trauma-informed, long-term survivor-centred and gender-, age-, and disability-responsive rehabilitation, and recalling that the Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States to promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims of armed conflict, with the best interests of the child as a primary consideration,

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring accountability for violations against children in armed conflict through mechanisms that are child sensitive, human rights based, safe, accessible and inclusive, and that duly protect children's dignity, safety and privacy while avoiding retraumatization, including, as appropriate, through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, the removal of barriers to children´s access to justice, the establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms and the provision of support to victims and survivors,

Recognizing the contribution of the International Criminal Court, international criminal tribunals, special courts and transitional justice mechanisms in ending impunity for the most serious crimes against children, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and calling upon States not to grant amnesties for such crimes,

Reaffirming that children that are victims of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law have the right to access justice, effective remedies and reparation,

Emphasizing that the children and armed conflict agenda is an integral and distinct component of international peace and security, human rights, humanitarian and development frameworks, and that child protection considerations are relevant throughout all phases of the conflict cycle, including prevention, early warning protection, recovery and peacebuilding; and underscoring the need to systematically integrate the protection of children affected by armed conflict across the work of the United Nations with adequate and predictable resources to ensure effective implementation, including through strengthened coordination between the relevant actors,

Recognizing the right of children to be heard in all matters affecting them, and underlining the importance of ensuring their meaningful participation throughout all stages in the conflict cycle, including conflict prevention, peace and post-conflict processes, as well as those related to justice, accountability, reparation, reintegration, peace and post-conflict recovery, in particular through the integration of child protection provisions in peace agreements that put strong emphasis on the best interests of the child, emphasizing that such participation must be safe, voluntary, inclusive, ethical, gender-, age- and disability-responsive, culturally appropriate, and conducted in ways that prevent harm, avoid retraumatization and respect the best interests of the child,

1. *Condemns in the strongest terms* all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, including the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, killing and maiming, rape and/or other forms of sexual violence, abduction, attacks on and military use of schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian access, and other violations and abuses, including the forcible transfer and deportation of children;

2. *Affirms* that States bear the primary responsibility to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of children affected by armed conflict in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

3. *Urges* States to take effective and time-bound measures to prevent and end violations and abuses against the rights of the child and to protect children from their impact, ensuring, in all actions, the best interest of the child as a primary consideration, including through gender-, age-, and disability-responsive, survivor-centred support services, including mental health and psychosocial support, access to health services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare services, education, social protection and reintegration programmes;

4. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to strictly uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack, in order to prevent and mitigate harm to children and to civilian facilities and infrastructure essential for their survival;

5. *Calls upon* States to:

(a) consider ratifying and implementing international and regional legal instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as the Additional Protocols to the universally ratified Geneva Conventions;

(b) integrate specific child protection provisions into military doctrine and the standard operating procedures and rules of engagement of the military and security forces and reinforce implementation through training;

(c) ensure that United Nations peace operations and special political missions are equipped with strong child protection mandates, dedicated advisers and adequate resources, and provide financial resources to ensure the sustainability of this capacity in the United Nations country team following transitions;

(d) take concrete measures to ensure compliance with international law, including through criminalization as offences punishable in national legislation, training, effective investigations of alleged violations, and the prosecution of those responsible for violations;

6. *Invites* States to consider endorsing guidelines contained in different documents, inter alia, the Safe Schools Declaration and its Guidelines, the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers, the Paris Commitments and Principles on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, and relevant United Nations resolutions;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to restrict or refrain from, as appropriate, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, when their use may be expected to cause harm to civilians, including killings, maiming, lifelong disabilities and psychological trauma, or civilian objects, including essential civilian infrastructure, schools, medical facilities and places of worship, in accordance with international law, and to take all feasible precautions to minimize such harm, and urges States to strengthen assistance to child victims,

including medical care and rehabilitation as well as clearance of explosive remnants of war and risk education;

8. *Calls upon* States and all parties to armed conflict to immediately end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, in violation of international law, to recognize children allegedly or formerly associated with armed forces or non-State armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups by the United Nations, primarily as victims, including by ensuring their swift release from the custody of parties to conflict and their handover to civilian protection actors and to adopt and implement comprehensive, gender-, age- and disability-responsive community-based programmes for the demobilization, reintegration, rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery, and social reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups, including through access to education and vocational training, and ensuring quality, sustained mental health and psychosocial support; and further stresses the need to allocate, as appropriate, sustainable resources to ensure the long-term success of such programmes;

9. *Encourages* efforts to prevent and address the online recruitment and exploitation of children by armed actors, including through measures to criminalize and sanction technology-facilitated solicitation and grooming of children, awareness-raising and digital-literacy programmes, engagement with technology companies, as well as measures to reduce children's exposure to harmful or deceptive online content used for recruitment and addressing risks arising from the misuse of digital surveillance technologies and children's data;

10. *Strongly condemns* rape and other forms sexual violence against children, and all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children affected by armed conflict, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, but that boys are also targets, recognizing that such acts may constitute torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; and calls upon States to ensure that all children affected by conflict-related sexual violence have access to timely, confidential, non-discriminatory and gender-, age- and disability-responsive support measures, including health services, ensuring the right of the child to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive healthcare services, as well as education, psychosocial support, universal, free and non-discriminatory birth registration and access to civil documentation, to adopt effective, adequately resourced measures to prevent statelessness, particularly for children born of conflict-related sexual violence, and to address stigma, discrimination and promote the full recovery, dignity and social integration of affected children;

11. *Calls upon* States to develop and implement measures to address the increased risk of vulnerability among women and girls to forced marriage, including those women and girls who are hardest to reach and are already married, in particular adolescent girls, in consultation with and with the participation of women and girls, and integrating them into humanitarian responses, from the early stages of humanitarian emergencies, and protecting women and girls from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation during humanitarian emergencies, situations of forced displacement, armed conflict, natural hazard and public health emergencies, including by ensuring their access to such services as health and education, providing inclusive and equitable quality education, and strengthening follow-up and interventions to prevent and eliminate forced marriage in humanitarian settings and to address the needs of those affected;

12. *Reaffirms* all parties to armed conflicts must take immediate and concrete measures to prevent, halt and respond to attacks against schools, hospitals and other critical civilian infrastructure, including United Nations and humanitarian premises, and to uphold their protected status, as applicable, under international humanitarian law; further urges them to refrain from any action that endangers or impedes children's safe access to education and health services, including any military use of educational or health facilities or any other action that compromises the civilian character of such facilities;

13. *Calls upon* States to safeguard, protect, respect, fulfil and promote the right to education, including in situations of armed conflict, reaffirming its contribution to the achievement of peace and security and its essential role as life-saving and protective spaces

for children, and encourages States, with the support of the United Nations and relevant humanitarian and development actors, to ensure the continuation of education for all children affected by armed conflict, through safe and appropriate alternative education modalities, distance or remote learning solutions when feasible, catch-up programmes, measures to recognize children's existing education credentials, ensuring relevant education personnel and access to necessary learning materials, while taking into account girls' equal access to education and addressing gender-based discrimination, gender stereotypes and negative social norms in education systems;

14. *Reaffirms* the obligations, under international humanitarian law, of all parties to armed conflict to allow, facilitate and enable the rapid and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance, in accordance with the principles of humanity, impartiality, in particular food and medicine and other essential supplies, to populations under their control, and to facilitate humanitarian operations, including medical evacuations, without discrimination of any kind while, for all civilians in need, taking into account the particular needs of children;

15. *Calls upon* all parties to respect and protect humanitarian personnel and assets, to refrain from actions that compromise principled humanitarian action or the safety of humanitarian actors delivering assistance to children in line with international humanitarian law;

16. *Calls upon* States to uphold the principle of non-refoulement and to ensure access to child-sensitive asylum and international protection procedures for children affected by armed conflict, irrespective of their status, and to respect family unity in accordance with their obligations under international law;

17. *Expresses deep concern* at the abduction, trafficking, forcible transfer, unlawful deportation and separation of children from their families and legal guardians in situations of armed conflict, practices which constitute grave violations against children, recalling that such acts, including the unlawful transfer of children and any forced change of their personal status or obstruction of access to identity documentation, are prohibited under international humanitarian law and international human rights law; and further emphasizes the urgent need to ensure the safe, rapid and unconditional reunification of affected children with their families and legal guardians, and to prevent any further such violations;

18. *Calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure accountability for all violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict, and encourages all relevant accountability mechanisms, including transitional justice mechanisms, to systematically apply a child-rights-based approach, by including child rights expertise and appropriate resources in their mandates, and ensuring that investigations and prosecutions fully respect the rights of the child and take into account their experiences, while ensuring the dignity, safety, privacy and participation of children, including children with disabilities, while avoiding retraumatization and protecting them from reprisals;

19. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen monitoring and reporting of violations and abuses against children affected by armed conflict through the systematic collection of disaggregated data and cooperation with national human rights institutions, civil society, and community-level actors;

20. *Further calls upon* States to ensure that children that are victims of violations or abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law have full access to justice, including through prompt, independent and impartial investigations into violations, and access to effective and prompt remedies and reparation, including through restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition in a systematic and thorough way at the national and international level, developed in consultation with victims and survivors, and underlines that remedies should be gender-, age- and disability-responsive and contribute to restoring children's rights, dignity and long-term well-being in an inclusive and non-discriminatory manner;

21. *Urges* States to ensure that counter-terrorism measures involving children comply with international law, including international human rights law and international

humanitarian law, and do not result in unlawful detention, transfer to adult facilities or separation from caregivers, and that such measures fully respect the best interests of the child;

22. *Calls upon* States and all parties to armed conflict to integrate the protection of children affected by armed conflict throughout all phases of the conflict cycle, including during post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding efforts; and further encourages States to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for child protection programmes, including quality, sustained and community-based mental health and psychosocial support programmes, safe and child-sensitive counselling, as well as complaint and reporting mechanisms and other safeguards for the rights of all affected children;

23. *Invites* States to ensure the meaningful participation of children affected by armed conflict in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and programmes throughout the conflict cycle, including conflict prevention, peace and post-conflict processes, including protection, justice, accountability, reparation and recovery, in a manner that is ethical, meaningful and safe;

24. *Encourages* strengthened cooperation between States, the United Nations and other relevant actors to support the development and implementation of measures aimed at ending and preventing violations and abuses against children affected by armed conflict, including through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Children and Armed Conflict, and to ensure safe and unhindered access for child protection actors, inter alia through enhanced collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other relevant actors;

25. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with the United Nations, including UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other relevant humanitarian child-protection organizations, to prioritize the prompt identification, family tracing and safe reunification of unaccompanied and separated children, including through the strengthening of national child-protection systems, cross-border coordination where appropriate, and the use of child-sensitive procedures and safeguards in line with international standards; and to ensure interim care arrangements that are child-rights based, protection-oriented and in line with international standards, pending family tracing and reunification;

26. *Encourages* States and relevant United Nations entities to continue to take into consideration and to ensure systemic and effective application of the Secretary-General´s Guidance Note on Child Rights Mainstreaming, including through active, meaningful, ethical and safe engagement and participation of children, particularly those most at risk of being left behind, in all relevant decision-making processes, actions and forums, including in the context of ongoing United Nations reforms;

27. *Invites* all human rights treaty bodies to continue to integrate the rights of the child into their work, within their respective mandates, in particular their concluding observations and general comments and recommendations, paying attention to the adverse impact of armed conflict on children and on the full enjoyment of the rights of the child, and encourages them to consult children in an ethical, meaningful and safe manner;

28. *Calls upon* all human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, including subsidiary and advisory bodies, as relevant, to monitor and analyse more consistently the root causes of child rights violations and abuses, including in the context of armed conflict through disaggregated data, considering all children in marginalized and vulnerable situations, and to translate that analysis into specific and action-oriented recommendations for all relevant stakeholders to promote accountability for children's rights;

29. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of the rights of the child in accordance with its programme of work and its resolutions 7/29 of 28 March 2008 and 19/37 of 23 March 2012, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to organize its annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child in 2027 on the theme of the promotion of children´s mental health and well-being, to ensure appropriate resources to support and facilitate the participation of children, ensuring that they have easy access to relevant

premises, and to make the discussion fully accessible to children and to persons with disabilities;

30. *Requests* the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence, in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including States, relevant special procedure mandate holders, other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, regional organizations and human rights bodies, national human rights institutions and civil society, including through consultations with children themselves, to make the report available in an accessible and child-friendly format and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-sixth session, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to organize the annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child in 2028 on the theme of the rights of the child and artificial intelligence, to ensure appropriate resources to support the participation of children, ensuring that they have easy access to relevant premises, and to make the discussion fully accessible to children and to persons with disabilities.

53rd meeting
30 March 2026

[Adopted without a vote.]