

**Action Plan**  
**Between**  
**(the Government of ....)**  
**And**  
**The United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting**  
**to eliminate Sexual Violence against Children**

**Preamble**

Stressing the unconditional commitment of the Government to fully comply with its obligations under international law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols (when applicable)

Noting relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001), 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005) and 1998 (2011), which condemn, inter alia, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children in armed conflict and, in particular, Resolution 1882 (2009), in which the Security Council called upon parties listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General's Report on children and armed conflict that commit, in contravention of applicable international law, killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children in situations of armed conflict, to prepare time-bound action plans to halt those violations and abuses, and to address all other violations and abuses committed against children and undertake specific commitments and measures in this regard;

Working in close collaboration with the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (hereafter 'UNCTFMR'), and in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, local partners and members of civil society, which seek to promote and protect the rights of the child;

Noting the criteria and procedures used for listing and delisting parties to armed conflict in the annexes to the Reports of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, in particular the Report of 13 April 2010 (A/64/742 and S/2010/181), at paragraphs 167–180; and seeking to halt rape and sexual violence against children, as well as to implement measures to prevent their occurrences in the future;

Guided by the 'Paris Principles and Guidelines on children associated with the Armed Forces or Armed Groups of February 2007' and the 'Paris Commitments' (when applicable) signed in xx;

Mindful of the commitments made by the Government of (*name of country*) to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in (*date of SRSG's mission, if any*);

The Government of XX hereby undertakes to implement the following ‘Action Plan’ to halt sexual violence against children:

### **Article 1 – Scope**

1.1 This Action Plan applies to the Government and its Armed Forces (spell out if needed). Principles of this Action Plan should also be applicable, but not limited to, the following parties listed in the Annexes of the Secretary-General’s Report on Children and Armed Conflict to the Security Council (reference to last Secretary-General’s Report on CAAC: S/.../... and A/.../...), for whom supplementary Action Plans should be sought in conjunction with the Government of (name of country): *List of other party or parties to the conflict as referred to in the Annexes of the last Secretary-General’s Report on Children and Armed Conflict to the Security Council (if relevant to context).*

### **Article 2 – Purpose**

2.1 The Government undertakes to implement this Action Plan to halt rape and other forms of sexual violence against children in situations of armed conflict and shall be eligible for delisting from the annexes to the Reports of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict upon UN verification that sexual violence against children has ceased for a period of [xx], as spelled out in the commitments and activities below.

2.3 The Government further undertakes to implement this Action Plan for the purpose of taking measures to ensure the long-term prevention of sexual violence against children in the future.

### **Article 3 – Commitments**

3.1 The Government commits specifically to implement fully and effectively the following provisions:

- a) To prevent and halt the perpetration of rapes and all forms of sexual violence upon children committed by members of its Armed Forces, paramilitary groups under its control and private persons associated with the Armed Forces.
- b) To appoint focal points at the highest level within the Government and the Armed Forces to implement the activities enumerated in Article 4.1 of this Action Plan in collaboration with the UNCTFMR, in cooperation with relevant partners.
- c) To issue and disseminate a clear political executive directive to non-military persons associated with the Armed Forces and a military order to military rank and file to inform them about the precise terms and aims of this Action Plan.
- d) To provide unimpeded and regular access to its territory, including military bases, installations, camps, training facilities, recruitment centres, hospitals and schools, current and former battle sites or other relevant locations to the UNCTFMR to verify compliance with the provisions of this Action Plan.

- e) To guarantee free and confidential access to relevant staff of the United Nations and relevant local and international organizations to relevant persons, including child survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence, families, medical personnel, witnesses and members of civil society, and to institutions and areas such as hospitals, IDP /refugee sites, communities and other relevant locations, and to objects, such as documents, records and physical evidence. The Government undertakes to ensure that no retaliatory action is taken against monitors, survivors, witnesses or any third party in connection with monitoring and verification activities.
- f) To ensure the access of UN monitoring and reporting staff to all members of the Armed Forces, paramilitary groups and other persons associated with the Armed Forces and to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan between the Government and its Armed Forces and the UNCTFMR.
- g) To promptly and independently investigate allegations of rape and all forms of sexual violence against children, and to ensure the prosecution and punishment of, including, but not limited to, the taking of disciplinary measures, with due regard to international standards, against all perpetrators, including commanders, and to provide verifiable information with respect to such measures taken to ensure the accountability of perpetrators.
- h) To implement an agreed preventive strategy to address sexual violence, as referred to in the list of activities below.

3.2 The UNCTFMR, in collaboration with the Armed Forces, the Government as well as relevant partners, is committed to support programmatic initiatives, including mental health and psycho/social services, medical services, rehabilitation, educational and vocational programmes for children who were subjected to rape or other forms of sexual violence.

3.3 The Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict is committed to support the implementation of the provisions of this Action Plan.

**Article 4 – Process**

4.1 The following framework constitutes the activities and timelines for the implementation of the Action Plan.

| <b>Cooperation with the United Nations</b>  |   |                              |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Time frame</b>                           | <b>Responsible authority</b> |
| 1. Engage the UNCTFMR in the concrete implementation of this Action Plan, including the monitoring, reporting and verification of the successful completion of its terms. | Monthly meetings or more often, as required | Government and Armed Forces  |

|   |                              |                                    |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p>2. Issue a clear military order and political directive to all members of the Armed Forces, paramilitary and to private persons associated with the Armed Forces to inform them of the precise terms of the Action Plan. The order and directive should list the sanctions for their breach and require the reporting of any breaches to the appropriate authorities. They should be broadly and effectively disseminated in writing and orally.</p> | <p>Immediately</p>           | <p>Government and Armed Forces</p> |
| <p>3. Name high-level military and civilian focal points to oversee an appointed inter-ministerial Working Group responsible for the regular interaction with the UNCTFMR and child protection actors, including relevant national organizations, and to ensure the short- and long-term execution of the Action Plan.</p>  | <p>Immediately</p>           | <p>Government and Armed Forces</p> |
| <p>4. Expedite timely, approved clearance for entry into territory, areas, facilities, institutions, camps or other relevant locations or places to UNCTFMR staff and relevant partners and to their interpreters in order to monitor, report on and verify the implementation of the Action Plan.</p>  | <p>Immediate and ongoing</p> | <p>Government and Armed Forces</p> |
| <p>5. Grant to UNCTFMR staff and relevant partners and their interpreters' full and confidential access: to all relevant persons, including child survivors, members of the Armed Forces; to objects, such as documents, records and physical evidence, and; to relevant meetings, hearings, judicial or disciplinary procedures, in order to monitor,</p>  | <p>Immediate and ongoing</p> | <p>Government and Armed Forces</p> |

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| report and verify the implementation of the Action Plan.  |                                 |  |
| <b>Prevention of sexual violence</b>  |                                 |  |
| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Time frame</b>               | <b>Responsible authority</b>   |
| 6. The Government and the Armed Forces will develop and adopt a focused plan to address sexual violence in armed conflict, which:<br>- identifies gaps and initiates concrete measures to fulfil the state's international and national legal obligations;<br>- promotes the adoption of necessary laws, or the issuance of directives, ordinances and rules to further protect children from the impact of war;<br>- establish a policy of 'zero tolerance' for sexual violence; and<br>- re-enforces the civilian and military judicial sector's capacity to prosecute persons responsible for sexual violence, including persons in position of command. | Within three months and ongoing | Government and Armed Forces, together with UNCTFMR and relevant partners           |
| 8. The civilian and military focal points should implement a situational analysis and ongoing review mechanism, in conjunction with the CTFMR, to determine and address the origin, frequency and patterns of sexual violence attributable to members of the Armed Forces and associated persons with the aim to prevent sexual violence and to forewarn the Armed Forces' command structure and appropriate ministerial bodies of the potential for future incidents.  | Within three months             | Government and Armed Forces, UNCTFMR   |
| 9. The Government will conduct a sustained nationwide campaign to alert citizens, governmental entities, schools, hospitals, religious and education  | Within three months and ongoing | Government and Armed Forces, together with relevant UN agencies and local partners |

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| <p>institutions, social service providers, etc., of the prohibition of sexual violence. The Government will utilize the campaign to inform citizens of the measures to be taken to prevent such crimes and to punish offenders, including commanders. The campaign will use all effective means of communication, including the mass media.</p>   |  |  |
| <p>10. Issuance of an order to members of the Armed Forces and a political directive to persons associated with the Armed Forces to immediately halt the sexual violence in contravention of international law. The order and directive should list the sanctions for its breach and require the reporting of any breaches to the appropriate authorities. Effectively dispense the order and directive in writing and orally. Broadcast it by any means of mass communication as deemed necessary.</p> |  |  |

| <b>Awareness-raising and capacity-building</b>   |                                    |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Time frame</b>                  | <b>Responsible authority</b>            |
| <p>11. The Government, in consultation with the UNCTFMR and relevant partners, should undertake a Recognition Initiative addressed to communities immediately affected by sexual violence by the Armed Forces, paramilitary or associated persons, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- denounces sexual violence;</li> <li>- disseminates the aforementioned order and the directive to halt sexual violence;</li> </ul> | <p>Within 3 months and ongoing</p> | <p>Government and relevant partners</p> |

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| <p>- reiterates the Armed Forces' duty to investigate, prosecute and punish, or take relevant disciplinary measures, should a crime be committed; and</p> <p>- informs the affected communities of the Governments' duty to comply with international and national law governing children during periods of armed conflict.</p> |   |  |
| <p>12. Together with the UNCTFMR, establish training for members of the Armed Forces, including the command structure to ensure compliance with the relevant military directives, national law and international law that prohibit sexual violence.</p>   | <p>Within the first four months and ongoing</p> | <p>Government, Armed Forces and UNCTFMR</p>        |
| <p>13. Coordinate with the UNCTFMR and other partners to monitor the awareness among military forces, especially commanders, of obligations concerning child protection and the rights of the child to be free from all forms of sexual violence.</p>   | <p>Within six months and ongoing</p>            | <p>Armed Forces, UNCTFMR and relevant partners</p> |

| <b>Support services to survivors, their families and communities</b>   |                                    |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Time frame</b>                  | <b>Responsible authority</b>                  |
| <p>14. The Government will coordinate with the UNCT and relevant partners to provide, strengthen and support the ongoing medical care, both physical and psychological, and social, economic, educational and rehabilitative support services for survivors of sexual violence, including children formerly associated with the Armed Forces or children who are born as a result of rape.</p> | <p>Within one week and ongoing</p> | <p>Government, UNCT and relevant partners</p> |
| <p>15. The Government authorities will set up emergency services, in conjunction with the UNCT and relevant partners or with local health, psychological and social service providers, for new survivors of sexual</p>   | <p>Within one month</p>            | <p>Government, UNCT and relevant partners</p> |

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| violence, or emergency health needs of previous survivors of sexual violence, including sexual violence-related problems of children born of rape, such as HIV status. |  |  |
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| <b>Redress, legal enforcement and discipline</b>  |                               |  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Activity</b>   | <b>Time frame</b>             | <b>Responsible authority</b>   |
| 16. Establish or re-enforce accessible, confidential and effective complaint procedures, which are widely communicated to the public, to report incidents of sexual violence by members of the Armed Forces, including commanders responsible for their subordinates' acts. The procedures should respect the confidentiality and security concerns of all survivors, families, witnesses and their support persons. These procedures will allow for monitoring by the UNCTFMR.                 | Within two weeks to one month | Government, Armed Forces and UNCTFMR and relevant partners   |
| 17. Diligently investigate, prosecute, adjudicate or discipline prior incidents, recent cases and ongoing complaints of sexual violence committed by members of the Armed Forces or persons associated with the Armed Forces, including commanders responsible for their subordinates' acts. Investigations, prosecutions and disciplinary measures should take into due consideration the interests and rights to confidentiality of child survivors, families, witnesses and support persons. | Immediate and ongoing         | Government, Armed Forces and UNCTFMR   |
| 18. Whenever possible, grant reparations, compensation or other forms of recognition to survivors of sexual violence as a result of judicial, disciplinary, reconciliation procedures or other means of acknowledgement.  | Ongoing                       | Government, Armed Forces, UNCTFMR and relevant partners, in close collaboration with local communities |



4.2 The signatories hereto are responsible for the implementation of this Action Plan. In addition, the following institutions and Governmental authorities are also made particularly responsible for overseeing, facilitating and ensuring the timely and effective execution of this Action Plan:

- a) The high-level civilian and military focal points of the Government and Armed Forces are responsible for ensuring timely and regular interaction with the UNCTFMR.
- b) The aforementioned high-level focal points are also responsible for the implementation of an inter-ministerial Working Group to halt sexual violence, as referred to in Article 4.1 of this Action Plan, and made of, but not limited to, (list Ministries). The role and obligations of this Working Group are to ensure the timely and continual execution of commitments taken in the Action Plan, to link with relevant governmental and local authorities, and to monitor and report on progress and challenges.

4.3 *The high-level civilian and military focal points* shall undertake coordination meetings on a bimonthly basis, or more often if required, with the UNCTFMR.

4.4 The *Government and the Armed Forces* shall report on a bimonthly basis to the UNCTFMR on progress achieved in regard to the implementation of the Action Plan. This will be reflected in the bimonthly notes of the UNCTFMR to the Office of the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict. This report will also be regularly reviewed by the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

## **Article 5 – Applicable principles**

In implementation of all its work on behalf of children affected by armed conflict, the Government and its Armed Forces will be guided by the following overarching principles:

- 5.1 *Best interests of the child* – All measures to assure the protection from and the prevention of sexual violence inflicted upon children shall be determined by the best interests of such children.
- 5.2 *Participation and respect for the views of the child* – All children associated with the Armed Forces and who were subjected to sexual violence will be provided protection. Their reintegration into society shall include the active participation of the communities, the children and the families concerned. All activities to provide protection shall respect the views of the child.

- 5.3** *Respect for the child’s right not to be subjected to rape or other forms of sexual violence.* All inflictions of sexual violence are unlawful and, thus, never justifiable.
- 5.4** *Non-discrimination* – There shall be no advantage given or denied to children based on their ethnicity, their race, their gender, their age, nor any other trait, characteristic, vulnerability or other arbitrary criteria.
- 5.5** *Accountability and transparency* – The Government will be accountable for implementation of the Action Plan; interact transparently with the UNCTFMR, the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and other relevant partners; will establish or re-enforce and use mechanisms to monitor and report violations; and will hold those responsible for violations accountable.
- 5.6** *Confidentiality and informed consent* – Personal information related to violations of children’s rights, including infliction of rape and other forms of sexual violence or violations abuse by the Armed Forces or persons associated with the Armed Forces, shall be treated as confidential. The confidentiality of the information collected by the UNCTFMR through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism will be respected. The informed consent of the parent or guardian, as well as that of the child, shall be given due regard in all monitoring and reporting activities covered in this Action Plan. Guarantees of protection, security and confidentiality for survivors, witnesses, families, sources of information, third parties such as medical, social or psychological care providers, or administrators shall also be given due regard.

## **Article 6 – Time frame and applicability of this Action Plan**

- 6.1 The activities outlined in the Action Plan will be verified and monitored for a period of xx months from their commencement, and will be extended based on a review by the Government and the UNCTFMR, in conjunction with the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.
- 6.2 This Action Plan may be amended or revised at any time by the written mutual consent of the Government and the UNCTFMR in conjunction with the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. The parties should seek the advice of the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in the event of a need for clarification.
- 6.3 This Action Plan takes effect on the date of signature.

In witness whereof, the duly authorized representatives of the parties to this Action Plan have put their signatures on this day being xx xxx

For and on behalf of

For and on behalf of

*(name of party to which the Action Plan applies)*

**Secretary-General's Special Representative for CAAC**

Name:

Name:

Title:

Title:

Signature: Armed Forces

Signature:

Date:  
Government

Date:  
**Co-Chair of the Country Task Force (UNICEF)**

Name

Name

Title

Title

Date

Date

Signature

Signature

**SRSR or RC**

**Co-Chair of the Country Task Force (If there are more than 2 co-chairs or other UN bodies should sign.)**

Name:

**Name:**

Title:

Title:

Signature:

Signature:

Date:

Date:

Name: Witness

Name:

Title:

Title:

Signature:

Signature:

Date:

Date: