

This should include finding ways to support, train and inform communities, especially with respect to international norms and standards;

- e) The importance of education should be recognised:
 - Pressure should be put on authorities not to close schools too readily unless children are in direct danger;
 - The re-establishment of educational services that have been disrupted should be a priority;
 - Education in all countries should aim to develop a culture of peace.
- f) In low intensity, long term conflicts, where communities become segregated, 'magnet' schools should be established, providing standards of education so excellent that parents will support their children's attendance across sectarian boundaries;
- g) Training issues at all levels. All responsible persons working with international organisations, including members of peace-keeping forces, should be trained in children's rights, with particular reference to:
 - Protection of children's rights;
 - Observing the principle of the 'best interests of the child';
 - Listening to the views of children and young people;
 - Appropriate ways of working with traumatised children;
 - The special factors involved in demobilising child soldiers.

3.3.4. *The role of the international community*

- a) International enforcement and monitoring bodies should be more effective. In particular:
 - Increased resources should be put at the disposal of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including raising the number of members from 10 to 18;
 - Developing and supporting the role and responsibilities of Child Protection Advisors in war zones.
- b) The unequal distribution of humanitarian aid and other programmes in conflict zones should be addressed through the development of cooperative action plans and strategies to implement international treaties, that include clear leadership and coordination for one appropriate agency;
- c) All action plans and peace process should have an automatic provision for involving children and young people. This must include all sectors of society and not just a limited group;
- d) An accurate knowledge base of information about the political economy of war should be developed, with particular attention to the financing of non-governmental armed groups;
- e) Systematic, independent evaluation of all interventions, whether by IGO/INGO/NGO/government should be established, building on the key principle of the 'best interests of the child' and including children and young people in the evaluation process.