

4. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
5. The Maputo Resolution on Child Soldiers
6. The Neighbourhood Initiative of Olara Otunnu
7. The Convention on the Rights of the Child
8. National laws

Let us use these instruments to end the abuse of children. Civil society can and must pressure governments and rebels to implement the above. Public awareness is essential. The media have an important role to play.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by stressing the need for us not to repeat history. The organisers, and we the participants, need to make history and by this statement, I mean we need not pass resolutions that we are not capable of implementing.

Let us think and discuss ways and means of advancing this important agenda of preventing child soldiering in the sub-region. If, a small efficient and resourced structure is needed to build the capacities of the States and civil society in the sub-region to help end the unacceptable situation of children in armed conflict, let us do so by Friday. By this singular act history shall be made.

Africa needs to mobilise local resources to facilitate this structure and we hope our good friends north of the St. Lawrence Seaway shall help us make history.

Thank you