

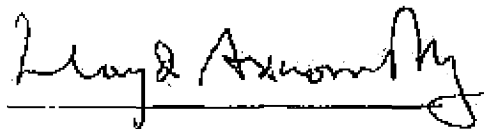
A much more comprehensive approach must be taken if we are to substantially and permanently improve the safety and security of the world's children. They require education, rehabilitation, medical care, counselling, opportunities for recreation, and vocational training and employment opportunities, as well as activities aimed at preventing their recruitment in the first place. In short, they are entitled to their childhood.

The Accra conference was a success because of the dedication of many people: within government and outside. This momentum must be carried on to Winnipeg and then New York. To do so, we must all remain involved. There are many more contributions to make and many who have yet to make theirs. Governments, parliamentarians, officials, armed forces, representatives of civil society organisations, and academics, the private sector and young people: all have a rôle to play.

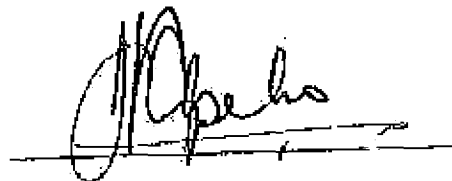
The collective work assembled within - the studies and reports, all of these contributions add to our knowledge and understanding of not only the children's agenda, but also of conflict prevention, management and peacekeeping.

In the Nkrumah tradition of "finding African solutions to deal with African problems", the Conference on War-Affected Children in West Africa, has made great strides. We encourage regional bodies to find regionally-appropriate solutions to the plight of war-affected children around the world. And we urge political and civil leaders to continue to build upon the principles and practices we have advanced.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Canada
The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd Axworthy", written over a horizontal line.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana
The Honourable James Victor Gbeho

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Victor Gbeho", written over a horizontal line.