

possible for the Special Representative to launch his activities. A Trust Fund has now been established at the United Nations Secretariat in New York for receiving voluntary contributions from Governments and other institutions.

In his report to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, the Special Representative will provide further information on the status of the Trust Fund and staff support.

The Graça Machel Report presented a disturbing and compelling account of the abomination being committed today against children in theatres of conflict all over the world. This is so in spite of the existence of a formidable body of international instruments and local norms. Indeed this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of a landmark instrument in this context - the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Special Representative believes that the most important and pressing challenge today is how to translate these standards and commitments into action that can make a tangible difference to the fate of children exposed to danger on the ground. This means, above all, concerted political action at both the international and national levels. Clearly, the time has come to make the protection and welfare of children - all our children - a common cause that can unite us across the boundaries of our political orientations, religious affiliations and cultural traditions. The Special Representative will work with all concerned partners for the promotion and realisation of this project.

Note: The statistics cited in this interim report were compiled from UNICEF sources and materials.