

(i) Public advocacy

The Special Representative will give a public voice to children who have been victimized by the chaos, cruelty and lawlessness that characterize contemporary armed conflicts. He will work to raise greater public and official awareness of international instruments and local norms that provide for the rights, protection and welfare of children, even as he highlights the horrific impact of conflict on them. He will be a public advocate and a voice for prevention, protection, and rehabilitation. The Special Representative will seek to draw official and public attention to the abomination against children and mobilise action through various activities, including field visits, media outreach, addressing opinion leaders and policy makers, and other awareness-raising strategies.

(ii) Promoting concrete initiatives

In situations of active violence where the security and well-being of children are seriously endangered, the Special Representative will engage in political and humanitarian diplomacy, proposing concrete initiatives to prevent or mitigate the suffering of children. He will, in effect, serve as a facilitator and a resource for the agencies, funds, programmes, offices, bodies and mechanisms which operate on the ground. He will work with them, for example, to unblock difficult political situations and to seek access to civilian populations in distress, the worst affected of whom are always children and women. This sensitive political role will require close coordination with partners within and outside the UN community, especially the relief and humanitarian organizations whose work on the ground would be facilitated by such initiatives.

(iii) Mobilising coordinated response to post-conflict needs

In countries that are emerging from conflict, the Special Representative will highlight the needs of children and women whose lives have been shattered by war. Cessation of hostilities does not mean that war is over, particularly for children who have been extensively exposed to the culture of violence. Only with a systematic programme of healing and reintegration into society will the cycle of violence be broken. The healing and rehabilitation needs of children should therefore constitute a central theme and not an afterthought of post-conflict peace-building programmes. The Special Representative will work to promote this concern with agencies, funds, programmes, offices, bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. Some of the issues and needs that should be addressed in a collaborative manner include the demobilisation of child soldiers and their social reintegration, the return and reintegration of displaced and refugee children, mine-clearance and mine-awareness programmes, psychological recovery, educational and vocational training, and issues of juvenile justice.

V. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

To advance these objectives, the Special Representative will work to broaden the ownership of this agenda and seek the participation and collaboration of key actors from several sectors, official and non-official. To carry out a broad strategy of advocacy and collaborative action, he will seek to build