



Office of the Special Representative
of the Secretary-General for
**CHILDREN AND
ARMED CONFLICT**



Media Advisory

What: The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, UNICEF and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict are co-organizing the second ministerial follow-up Forum on the 'Paris Commitments' and the 'Paris Principles' to protect children from recruitment and use by armed forces or armed groups.

The objectives of the meeting are to seek further Member State endorsement for the 'Paris Commitments' (political declaration) and assess the implementation of the 'Paris Principles' (technical guidelines). A panel discussion will be followed by an interactive dialogue, providing an opportunity to exchange lessons learned on the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces or armed groups. It will draw attention to the need for monitoring and reporting on compliance by parties to armed conflict and long-term funding to ensure successful prevention and reintegration programmes. An Official Ceremony for new Member State endorsements will close the event.

Where: Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Secretariat Building.

When: Tuesday, 29 September 2009, 3p.m. to 5p.m.

Who:

- Mr. Alain Joyandet, French Minister of State for Cooperation and Francophonie
- Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary - General on Children and Armed Conflict
- Ms. Ann M. Veneman, UNICEF Executive Director
- Mr. Walter A. Fuelleman, ICRC Head of Delegation and Permanent Observer to the United Nations (on behalf of the Paris Principles Steering Group on Children and Armed Conflict)

Why: Tens of thousands of children worldwide are still used by over 50 different armed forces and armed groups. Their release and reintegration as well as the protection of other vulnerable children affected by armed conflict, remain issues of grave concern on which the international community must mobilize.

The Paris Commitments and the Paris Principles were adopted during the International Conference "Free Children from War" held in February 2007 in Paris. To date, 76 countries have endorsed the Paris Commitments.

For further information:

Please visit www.un.org/children/conflict/english/parisprinciples.html or contact:

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