



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 29 January 2024 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 25 January 2024 (see annex) from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#), based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 13 November 2023 ([S/AC.51/2023/3](#)).

(Signed) Nicolas **de Rivi re**  
President of the Security Council



**Annex**

[Original: English]

At a formal meeting held on 31 March 2023, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the fourth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Mali (S/2022/856), which covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022, and was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. A representative of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group. The Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in Mali on 13 November 2023 (S/AC.51/2023/3).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014), 2225 (2015), 2427 (2018) and 2601 (2021), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, to:

(a) Request you to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in Mali and to ensure the preservation and transfer of the child protection data and capacity of MINUSMA, in line with Security Council resolutions 2640 (2022) and 2690 (2023), to the United Nations country team in the plan for the transfer of MINUSMA tasks, including through the deployment of child protection advisers, and noting that their key tasks include, in line with the Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations adopted in 2017, monitoring and reporting on grave violations and abuses committed against children and engaging in dialogue on action plans;

(b) Also request you to ensure that the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue their efforts to further support, in line with their respective mandates, the Malian authorities in mainstreaming the specific needs of children affected by the armed conflict and the protection of their rights in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and in security sector reform, in establishing a joint mechanism for the review of cases of children detained on charges related to the armed conflict and association with armed groups, in conducting a screening and age assessment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces and in establishing recruitment procedures and age assessment measures to prevent underage recruitment;

(c) Further request you to ensure that the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting continues to monitor and report on the detention of children for association with armed forces and armed groups, and that it further continues its advocacy for the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups and children detained on charges related to association with armed groups and prioritizes its efforts to reach out to non-State armed groups, with a view to developing action plans to end the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, as well as rape and sexual violence, and to address other violations and abuses committed against children in Mali.

(Signed) Vanessa **Frazier**  
Chair

Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict