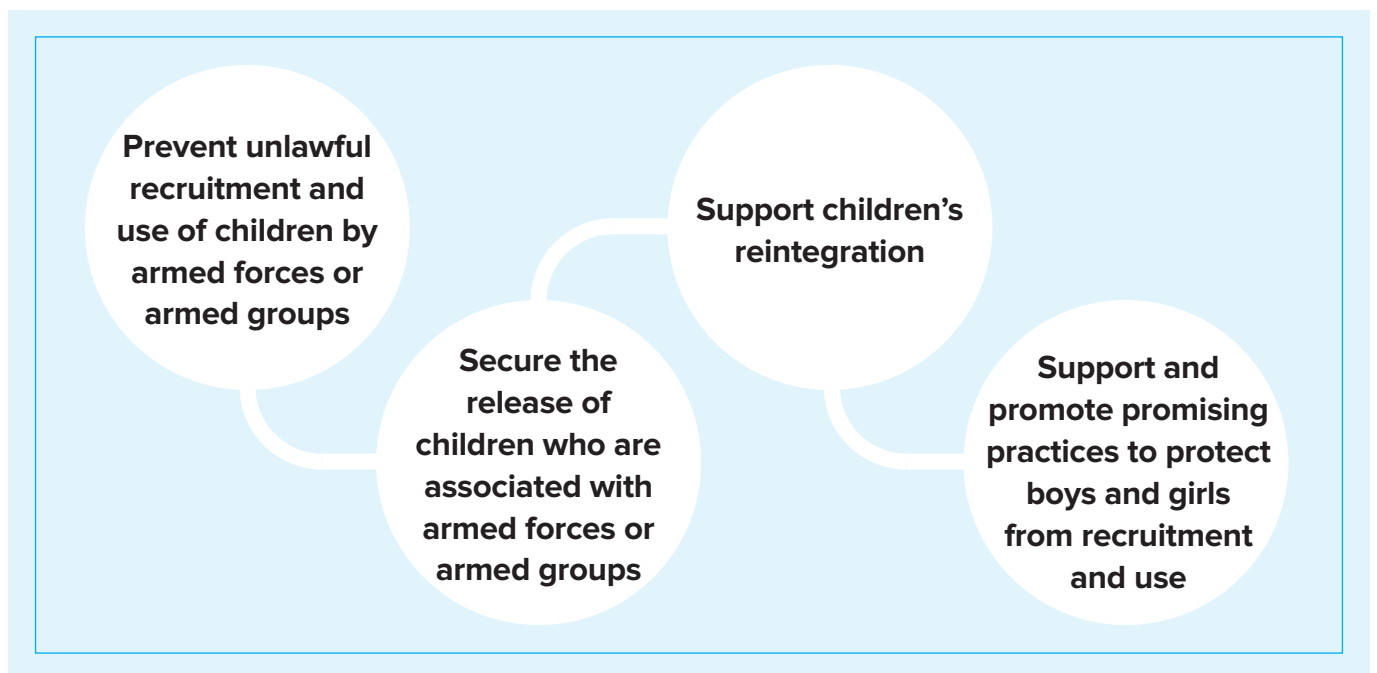




# Paris Principles and Commitments on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups

## Explanatory Note: What are the Paris Principles and Commitments?

The *Paris Principles and Commitments on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups* were adopted in 2007 to combat the unlawful recruitment and use of boys and girls by armed forces or armed groups. Their specific objectives are to:



The *Paris Commitments* are political and, in endorsing them, Member States agree to uphold and support implementation of the Paris Principles, to put in place measures to ensure that children are not recruited, and to support the release, reintegration and recovery of all children who have been recruited and used by armed forces or armed groups. The Commitments recall, reaffirm and support the implementation of existing international law governing the protection of children from recruitment or use in armed conflict. They complement existing legal and political instruments and mechanisms, including the

Convention of the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions.

The *Paris Principles* set out practical ways in which boys and girls can be protected from recruitment and use by armed forces or armed groups and have their rights respected, upheld and fulfilled. They detail essential actions to support safe release and reintegration of all boys and girls from armed actors. These actions include the following.



## Preventing unlawful recruitment or use of children in armed conflict

- Conducting information campaigns for armed forces or groups
- Supporting alternatives to child association, such as education and vocational training
- Preventing family separation
- Supporting conflict reduction in local communities
- Criminalizing child recruitment in domestic law
- Increasing community awareness of risk factors for child association
- Raising awareness of differentiated risks and needs of children based on gender analysis.



## Releasing children

- Planning release processes that are as quick as possible
- Seeking the inclusion of the release of children within ceasefire and peace agreements.



## Reintegration

- Adopting an inclusive approach and prioritizing family reunion
- Providing support to enable full reintegration of children into civilian life.

Endorsing the Paris Principles and Commitments is a clear signifier of a State's recognition of children's rights nationally and internationally. Endorsing the Principles and Commitments contributes to creating and strengthening a global moral obligation on the acceptable treatment of children in situations of armed conflict. This contributes to creating a safer, more secure and stable environment for States, local communities and children affected by armed conflict. Critically, by providing these opportunities and promoting

acceptance, the Commitments and Principles also contribute to social cohesion and addressing underlying drivers of conflict.

States interested in endorsing the Paris Principles and Commitments can approach the Government of France in New York (at the United Nations), in Paris or at embassies around the world to indicate their interest. Endorsements should be made in writing as a Note Verbale to be transmitted to New York or Paris.

\*The Paris Principles Steering Group is an inter-agency group dedicated to enabling and supporting the endorsement and implementation of the Paris Principles and Commitments.



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



**Save the Children**



**ICRC**



**International  
Labour  
Organization**



**ChildFund  
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Justice  
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