

Lesson 2.2



Child Protection Framework

The Lesson



Starting the Lesson 2.2



For an interactive start to lesson 2.2, ask learners:

Why do United Nations peacekeeping personnel have a legal and moral obligation to protect children?

OVERVIEW

This lesson will explore the child protection framework that applies to all United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The discussions should engage learners from the outset.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the legal obligation, mandate and authority to protect children
- Understand the main guiding frameworks on child protection:
 - The international legal framework for the protection of children in armed conflict
 - Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, and child protection provisions in peacekeeping
 - DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations (2017)
 - The Paris Principles and the Vancouver Principles
 - Safe Schools Declaration and Guidelines


ACTIVITIES

1. Child Protection Framework scenario exercise
2. Optional group discussions


HANDOUTS (FOR LEARNERS)

1. Excerpts from Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict
2. Paragraphs on child protection in Security Council resolutions (Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Central African Republic) (also used in Module 3)
3. UNMISS Force Commander's Child Protection Directive
4. Child Protection Framework scenarios
5. Convention on the Rights of the Child
6. ICRC, Legal Protection of Children in Armed Conflict (Factsheet 2003)

SLIDE 1: MODULE 2, LESSON 2: CHILD PROTECTION FRAMEWORK



Module 2, Lesson 2
CHILD PROTECTION
FRAMEWORK

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

- ☛ In this lesson, we will explore the Child Protection Framework that applies to all United Nations peacekeeping personnel. Children are entitled to special protection and care under international human rights and humanitarian law.

Furthermore, specific Security Council resolutions and DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations (2017) outline the obligations of peacekeeping personnel to protect children in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

SLIDE 2: LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning Objectives

- **Understand** the legal obligation, mandate and authority to protect children
- **Understand** the main guiding frameworks on child protection:
 - The international legal framework for the protection of children in armed conflict
 - Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, child protection provisions in peacekeeping
 - DPKO-DFS-DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations (2017)
 - The Paris Principles and the Vancouver Principles relating to peacekeeping and children associated with armed forces and groups
 - The Safe Schools Declaration and Guidelines on Military Use



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2

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: It is imperative that United Nations military personnel understand the legal framework on child protection in order to promote the obligations and the authority of military personnel to protect children.

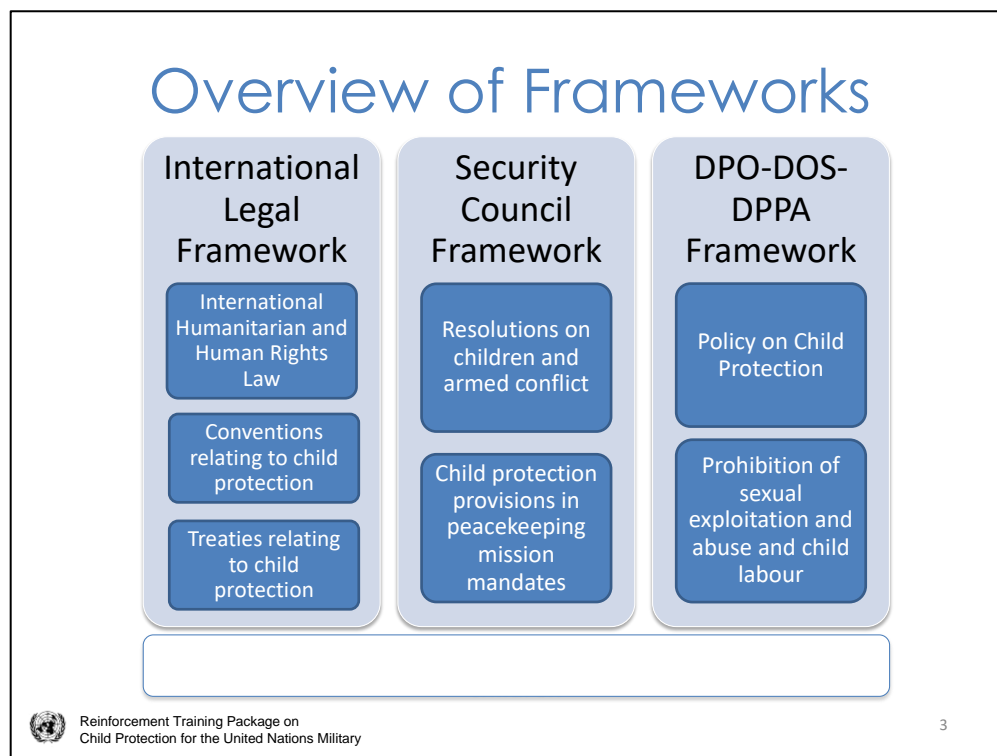
☞ The legal framework on child protection is vast. There is not enough time to cover all the legal issues in detail in this presentation. Provide a general overview of the legal provisions so that learners obtain a basic understanding. While learners will not be called upon to act as lawyers, they must be aware of the legal frameworks that guide child protection and the legal obligations of United Nations military personnel .

☛ In this lesson, you will develop a thorough understanding of the main guiding frameworks for child protection:

1. The international legal framework for the protection of children in armed conflict, which includes international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and conventions and protocols on child protection.
2. The Security Council framework, which comprises resolutions on children and armed conflict and child protection provisions in peacekeeping and mission-specific mandates.

3. The DPO-DOS-DPPA framework, which includes DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations, as well as other policies and guidelines such as the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, civilian protection policies and guidelines, and the United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual (UNIBAM) developed by DPO, DOS and DPPA.
4. Guiding principles such as the Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (2007), the Safe Schools Declaration (2015) and Guidelines to Protect Schools and Universities from Military Use (2014), and the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers (2017).

SLIDE 3: OVERVIEW OF FRAMEWORKS



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The legal framework on child protection can be divided into three pillars: the international legal framework, the Security Council framework and the DPO-DOS-DPPA framework.

- The slide presents an overview of the child protection frameworks for peacekeeping personnel. We will explore each one in this presentation.

SLIDE 4: PROTECTION OF CHILDREN UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Protection of Children under International Humanitarian Law

- Children shall not be the objects of attack
- Children are entitled to special protection, care and aid
- Children must be evacuated from besieged or encircled areas
- If detained or interned, children must be held in separate quarters from adults
- Prohibitions apply to recruitment of children, participation of children in hostilities, the death penalty for children under 18 years of age



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4

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: International humanitarian law contains specific provisions to safeguard children during conflict.

🗨️ **Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (art. 77)** sets out the principle of special protection for children: “Children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault. The parties to the conflict shall provide them with the care and aid they require, whether because of their age or for any other reason.” These provisions apply in both international and non-international (i.e., internal) conflicts as customary humanitarian law.

Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions (art. 4) stipulates that: “Children shall be provided with the care and aid they require,” and lists special measures devoted exclusively to children.

👉 For more information on International Humanitarian Law see module 2.1.

SLIDE 5: PROTECTION OF CHILDREN UNDER INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Protection of Children under International Human Rights Law

- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)**
- **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000)**
 - Children are entitled to special protection during armed conflict
 - Prohibition against compulsory recruitment of persons under 18 years into ***national armed forces***
 - Prohibition against voluntary or compulsory recruitment of persons under 18 years into ***armed groups***



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5

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Under international human rights law, children are entitled to special protection in times of conflict.

- Children are entitled to special protection and care under international human rights law.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted in 1989, outlines the fundamental rights of children, including the right to protection from economic exploitation and harmful work, all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and physical and mental violence. Children are entitled to special protection in times of war. *The Convention is one of the most widely ratified human rights treaties.*

There are three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child: one outlaws the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, one prohibits the involvement of children in armed conflict, and one focuses on a communications procedure, through which children can report violations of their rights.

The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC), adopted in 2000, obligates States Parties to take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not reached the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities (art. 1). It prohibits non-State armed groups from recruiting or using in hostilities, under any circumstances, persons under the age of 18

years, and obligates States Parties to take measures to prevent, prohibit and criminalize such practices (art. 4).

Any voluntary recruitment into armed forces of individuals under the age of 18 must include sufficient safeguards.

☞ *In times of conflict, those safeguards usually cannot be ensured. Peacekeeping personnel encountering a child (anyone under 18 years) in host State armed forces or non-State armed groups must report it as a violation.*

☞ *For more information on International Human Rights Law see module 2.1.*

SLIDE 6: ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court



- There is ***NO impunity*** for those who commit violations against children
- Impunity means exemption or freedom from punishment, harm, or loss

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NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: There is no impunity for those who commit violations against children. Peacekeeping missions play a key role in reporting and documenting such violations.

☛ Impunity is defined as the “exemption or freedom from punishment, harm, or loss”. Perpetrators of crimes against children WILL BE punished.

The *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)* has established conscripting or enlisting children into national armed forces or using children under the age of 15 years in hostilities as a *war crime*.

☞ The participation of children between 15 and 18 years in hostilities is prohibited by the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC)* and is deemed a grave violation, but it does not constitute a war crime.

SLIDE 7: THE CASE OF THOMAS LUBANGA DYILO

The Case of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo

Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was found **GUILTY** of forcibly enlisting and conscripting children under the age of 15 years. Lubanga was the first war criminal convicted by the International Criminal Court and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment on 10 July 2012



first war criminal
convicted by the
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7

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The International Criminal Court plays a key role in seeking justice for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the recruitment and use of children in hostilities.

☛ On 26 January 2009, the International Criminal Court opened its first trial in the case against Congolese warlord *Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*. Lubanga was the first person charged in the Democratic Republic of Congo case as well as the Court's first detainee. The trial marked a turning point for the Rome Statute, the International Criminal Court's founding treaty, which entered into force only in 2002. The Lubanga proceedings included the first test of formal victim participation in an international

criminal trial. The case also highlighted the gravity of recruitment, enlistment and conscription of children. As the alleged leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) and the commander-in-chief of its military wing, the *Forces patriotiques pour la libération du Congo* (FPLC), Lubanga was accused of enlisting and conscripting children under the age of 15 years and using them to actively participate in hostilities from September 2002 to 13 August 2003.

☞ For more information, see:

1. <http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/cases/thomas-lubanga-dyilo>
2. <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CaselnformationSheets/LubangaEng.pdf>

☛ Another significant case was that of *Charles Taylor*, former President of Liberia, who, in 2012, was indicted, tried, and found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity by an international criminal tribunal – the Special Court for Sierra Leone –, including for enlisting and conscripting children under the age of 15 years and using them in active and direct participation in hostilities. He was sentenced to 50 years' imprisonment.

☞ For more information, see: <https://rscsl.org/the-scsf/cases/charles-taylor/>

SLIDE 8: OTHER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS

Other Relevant Conventions

- **International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 (1999):**
 - Prohibits and eliminates the worst forms of child labour, including forced and compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict
- **Mine Ban Treaty (1997) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008):**
 - Bans the use of mines and cluster munitions
 - Offers specific provisions for risk education, and gender- and age-appropriate victim/survivor assistance for affected individuals (including children) and communities

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: These conventions also provide specific provisions aimed at protecting children and prohibiting specific weapon systems that disproportionately impact them.

- In addition to international human rights and humanitarian law and the Statute of the International Criminal Court, other conventions also protect children.

The International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 (1999) on the worst forms of child labour established “forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in hostilities” as *one of the worst forms of child labour*.


Mines and explosive remnants of war pose a substantial threat to civilians, especially children in post-conflict areas, such as serious injuries and maiming. The Mine Ban Treaty (1997) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008) prohibit the use of those weapons and contain specific provisions for risk education, and gender- and age-appropriate victim/survivor assistance for individuals and communities affected by explosive remnants of war.

SLIDE 9: INTERNATIONAL LAWS VS. NATIONAL LAWS

International Laws vs. National Laws

In some cases, the national laws and traditional customs of a State may not fully reflect or even contradict international law. In such cases, ***international laws and standards supercede national laws***



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9

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: United Nations peacekeeping personnel must uphold and protect children in line with international child protection standards.

- National laws differ from country to country. One point that often causes confusion, especially among United Nations military personnel, is the relationship between

national and international laws, and how to respond if the two systems of law are in conflict. In such cases, international laws and standards supersede national laws.



Ask learners:

How old should one be to join your national armed forces?

- Many of you may have been 17 years. Does that mean that you were children associated with armed forces? Note that, under national laws, the army may be able to recruit individuals under the age of 18; however, under international law, an army shall not use soldiers under 18 years in active or direct combat.



Ask learners:

Should you report violations of international laws if they contradict national laws?

- Absolutely!
- Even if the age of adulthood in the host State is 15 years, peacekeeping personnel must report violations against children, i.e., persons under 18 years;

Even if under the host State's laws, the minimum age of service is 15 years, peacekeeping personnel must monitor and report any child associated with the armed forces, i.e., a person under 18 years.

SLIDE 10: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION – CHILD PROTECTION

Security Council Action – Child Protection

- Graça Machel's report, **Impact of Armed Conflict on Children** (1996), revealed the terrible impact of war on children
- In its resolution 1261 (1999), the Security Council decided that the situation of children in armed conflict was an **international peace and security concern**
- Specific child protection language is now included in peacekeeping mandates
- Peacekeeping missions have specific responsibilities regarding child protection

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The establishment of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC) in 1996, and Security Council resolution 1261 (1999) are considered key milestones that enhance the protection of children in conflict.

- 🗨️ In 1996, Graça Machel, an expert appointed by the Secretary-General, prepared a ground-breaking report (A/51/306) on the horrific impact of armed conflict on children, and called upon the international community to take action.

In 1997, upon the recommendation of General Assembly resolution 51/77, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict was established as the global advocate for children in armed conflict.

In 1999, the Security Council (resolution 1261 (1999)) recognized that the protection of children in armed conflict situations was an international peace and security issue and decided to include it on its agenda going forward. Since then, the Security Council includes specific language on child protection in mission mandates and has also decided to deploy civilian Child Protection staff in peacekeeping missions.

- 👉 Depending on their future roles in the mission, some learners may be interested in learning more about Security Council resolutions and the Monitoring and Reporting

mechanism (MRM). Refer them to the civilian Child Protection staff in the mission or the UNICEF Child Protection Specialist, and recommend the Reinforcement Training Package on Child Protection and the suggested references.

SLIDE 11: SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS – CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT (1)


Security Council Resolutions - Children and Armed Conflict (1)

Resolution 1261 (1999): Child protection is a **concern for international peace and security**. All peacekeeping personnel **must be trained** on child protection

Resolution 1612 (2005): Peacekeeping missions **must monitor and report** on grave violations against children. Armed groups/forces committing those grave violations will be **listed** in the Secretary-General's annual reports on children and armed conflict (the "Shame List")

✓ *Peacekeeping personnel have the responsibility to monitor and report on the six grave violations.*



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11

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Security Council resolutions define specific responsibilities for Member States and peacekeeping missions, including training on child protection for all peacekeeping personnel, and monitoring and reporting the six grave violations.

- Security Council resolution 1261 (1999) recognized that the situation of children in armed conflict was a concern for international peace and security, as evidenced by the prevalence of children associated with armed forces and groups, and condemned the six grave violations against children in armed conflict.

Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) established an elaborate monitoring and reporting mechanism to track the six grave violations against children. Parties to conflict who commit any of the six grave violations, namely recruitment or use, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abduction, attacks against schools or hospitals, or denial of humanitarian access, will be included in the Secretary-General's annual reports on children and armed conflict.

This public naming and shaming have led many armed forces and armed groups to sign action plans with the United Nations to stop the recruitment and use of children, or the commission of any grave violations for which the party has been listed. The peacekeeping missions support the implementation of the action plans.

☞ For example, action plans have been signed by FARDC – the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, SPLA – Sudan People's Liberation Army (South Sudan), CMA – Coordination of Azawad Movements (Mali), MPC – Central African Patriotic Movement (Central African Republic), SAF – Sudanese Armed Forces (Sudan), as well as various armed groups in Sudan. For information on action plans, see <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/tools-for-action/action-plans/>

● The responsibility of peacekeeping personnel is to monitor and report on these grave violations and support the implementation of action plans through screening of troops, capacity-building, among others.

☐ Handout: Excerpts from Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict

SLIDE 12: SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS – CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT (2)

Security Council Resolutions – Children and Armed Conflict (2)


Resolutions 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011) and 2225 (2015): Rape and sexual violence, killing and maiming (res. 1882), attacks against schools and hospitals (res. 1998), and abduction (res. 2225) added to criteria for listing in the Secretary-General's reports

Resolution 2143 (2014): Reaffirms the urgency of child protection, and monitoring and reporting in peacekeeping missions; strongly encourages **training for peacekeepers** to effectively contribute to **monitoring and reporting**

Resolution 2427 (2018): urges the inclusion of **child protection in military training and standard operating procedures**; urges appropriate preventive action, such as **mandatory pre-deployment child protection training** for peacekeepers

Resolution 2601 (2021): Condemns **attacks and threats of attacks on schools, civilians connected with schools**; and the **military use of schools**; underlines importance of adequate **pre-deployment and in-mission training** on child protection, including on **attacks on schools, prevention and response**, for peacekeepers

✓ *Child protection should be integrated in pre-deployment and in-mission training, standard operating procedures, security sector reform, etc.*



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12

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Military peacekeeping components must ensure that child protection is fully emphasized in pre-deployment training, in-mission training, standard operating procedures (SOP) and military guidance.

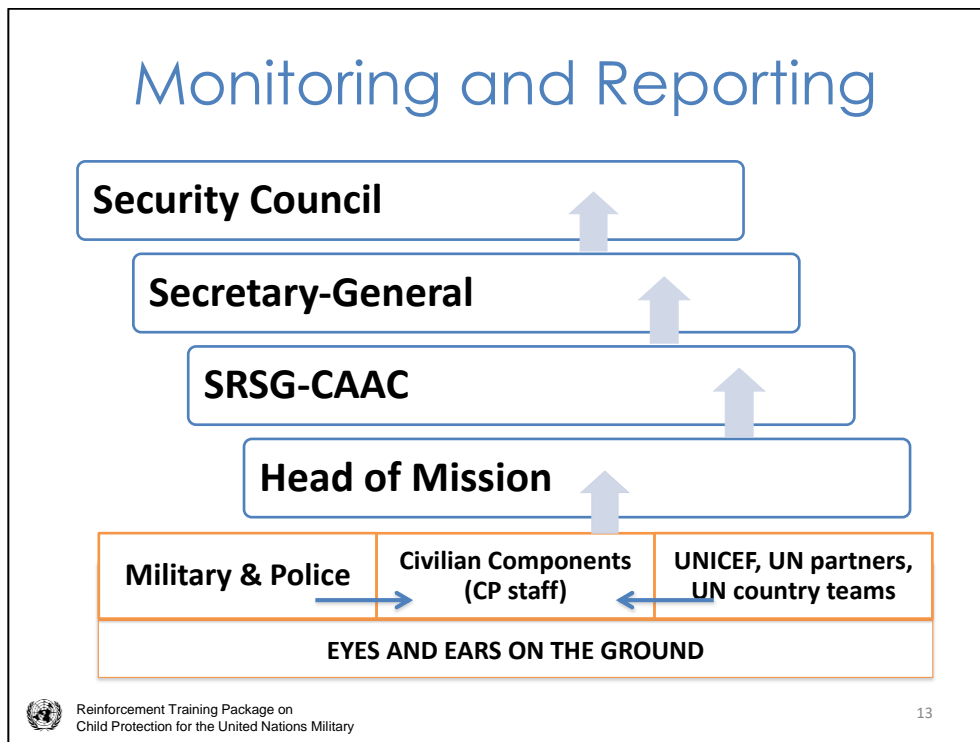
- The criteria for listing in the Secretary-General's reports have been expanded to include rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools or hospitals, and abduction of children.
- On 7 March 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2143 (2014) on protection of children in armed conflict, and reiterated the importance of child protection training for United Nations peacekeepers (para. 20):

"Recommends that Member States include child protection in military training and standard operating procedures, as well as in military guidance as appropriate; ... that United Nations entities and United Nations peacekeeping troop and police contributing countries undertake targeted and operational trainings for the preparation of United Nations mission personnel, including troop and police contingents on their contribution in preventing violations against children so as to give all mission personnel the ability to effectively recognize, report and respond to violations and abuses committed against children and to successfully support child protection activities for better implementation of their respective mandates".

Security Council resolutions 2225 (2015), 2427(2018), and 2601 (2021) also stress the need for mandatory pre-deployment child protection training for peacekeepers.

- The latest Security Council resolution 2601 (2021) was the first resolution dedicated to the protection of education, and stresses the need for comprehensive measures to prevent attacks of schools, children, teachers and other related civilians, and against the military use of school.

SLIDE 13: MONITORING AND REPORTING



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: United Nations military personnel play a key role in the monitoring and reporting mechanism.

☛ The diagram (slide 13) shows how the monitoring and reporting mechanism works.

United Nations military personnel are crucial to the reporting process. They play an important role as “the eyes and ears” of the mission on the ground. When military personnel see or hear about the commission of any of the six grave violations, it is their duty to alert the civilian Child Protection staff in the mission, who will investigate the information and include it in their reports to the Head of Mission.

The mission's reports on violations are then sent to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), for inclusion in the Secretary-General's annual report to the Security Council.

Based on these reports, the Security Council can determine which parties to the conflict are committing grave violations, and take measures against the perpetrators, including sanctions.

SLIDE 14: UNDERSTANDING THE CHILD PROTECTION MANDATE

Understanding the Child Protection Mandate


Security Council resolution 2640 (2022) - Mali

Preambular paragraph: *Strongly condemning* all violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law ..., as well as **killing, maiming, recruitment and use of children, attacks against schools, humanitarian actors and services, and medical personnel and infrastructure ...**;

26(a)(iii): ...to support the cantonment, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups ..., taking into account the **particular needs of women and children ...**;

26(c)(iii): To provide specific protection and assistance for women and **children affected by armed conflict, including through Protection Advisors, Child Protection Advisors, ...**, and address the needs of victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict ...;

26(d)(ii): To **monitor, ...and report** on violations and abuses committed against women and **children...and contribute to efforts to prevent such violations and abuses...**



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Child Protection for the United Nations Military

14

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Understand the child protection mandate. What are the specified and implied tasks for the military component?

- Slide 14 contains an example of a child protection mandate in Security Council resolution 2640 (2022) on the situation in Mali. We will examine the child protection mandate in detail in Module 3.

But you can already see here that child protection involves more than the physical protection of children; it entails disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, monitoring and reporting, and other activities by which United Nations military personnel support the implementation of the child protection mandate.

- Handout: Paragraphs on child protection in Security Council resolutions on Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

☞ Mention to learners that this handout will also be used in the exercise in Module 3.

DPKO-DFS-DPA Policy on Child Protection in UN Peace Operations

- Designate a Child Protection Focal Point at mission HQ, and Child Protection Officers at Battalion and Company levels (military)
- Ensure that all peacekeeping personnel are trained on child protection (military, police and civilian components)
- Monitor and report on grave violations against children
- Engage in dialogue for action plans on grave violations
- Advocacy on child protection issues
- Role and function of civilian Child Protection staff
- Collaborate with United Nations and non-UN actors



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations defines the scope and core responsibilities of missions and peacekeeping personnel with regard to child protection.

- Child protection responsibilities of peacekeeping missions and peacekeeping personnel are outlined in the DPKO/DFS/DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations, which was adopted in June 2017. The Policy will be discussed in more detail in Module 3.

The purpose of the Policy is to strengthen, institutionalize and streamline DPO's engagement in children and armed conflict, on the basis of specific provisions of Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict.

The Policy defines the scope of DPO's engagement in the protection of children affected by armed conflict and applies to all peacekeeping personnel.

The Policy states, inter alia, that:

- Principles and obligations on child protection are mainstreamed and integrated across all operational decisions, activities and processes of United Nations peace operations, including considerations in relation to child protection in core mission

planning and mandate implementation documents, and in the overarching documents guiding the work of the military, police and civilian components (para. 11);

- All personnel in a peacekeeping mission contribute to the protection of children (para. 5).
- It defines the core child protection responsibilities of peacekeeping personnel, including dealing with violations such as sexual exploitation and abuse, child labour, detention, use of schools by armed groups, and providing support to non-United Nations security forces.

SLIDE 16: MISSION-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Mission-specific Guidance

- Mission guidelines on child protection
- Force Commander's directives/ guidelines on child protection for the military component
- Concept of operations (CONOPS), plans and orders
- Rules of engagement



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16

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: Mission-specific guidance, including the Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection, operational and tactical orders and SOPs, supports the military component's child protection activities.

- In addition to international legal instruments and mandates contained in Security Council resolutions, there are mission-specific documents on child protection. The

Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection must be disseminated to the military component.

Battalion commanders, unit commanders and staff officers should refer to the mission-specific documents when making decisions about their activities in the field.


In carrying out their activities, military personnel should address their questions about the application of these instruments to their commanding officers and/or the mission's legal adviser. If necessary, they may refer their questions to United Nations Headquarters.


☞ See also other key operational documents, such as the concept of operations and rules of engagement, in the Core Pre-deployment Training Materials package. Explain to learners that rules of engagement, including directives on the use of force, will be addressed during the scenario discussions in Module 3.

SLIDE 17: UNMISS MILITARY GUIDELINES

UNMISS Military Guidelines

- Know to identify who is a child and the six grave violations
- Know how to implement plans and procedures during military operations
- Know the specific roles and responsibilities of the Force
- Know how to report violations
- Recognize the warning indicators of possible violations against children:
 - ✓ Presence of children
 - ✓ Gender ratio in a village
 - ✓ Military use of schools
 - ✓ Presence of military/weaponry
 - ✓ Movement of unaccompanied children
 - ✓ Changes in movement patterns, etc.



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Child Protection for the United Nations Military

17

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: All missions with a child protection mandate and a military component should develop specific guidance on child protection for military personnel.

- Some missions have specific guidelines on child protection. See slide 17 for guidance based on UNMISS Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection. We will examine the sample Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection in detail in Module 3.


☐ Handouts:

- UNMISS Force Commander's Directive on Child Protection;
- Paragraphs on child protection in Security Council resolutions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

SLIDE 18: PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES OR ARMED GROUPS (THE PARIS PRINCIPLES)

Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (The Paris Principles)

- **Guide international interventions to:**
 - Prevent recruitment or use of children
 - Facilitate the release and reintegration of children associated with armed groups/forces
 - Ensure the most protective environment for children
- **Provides definitions and overarching principles for engagement with children associated with armed groups or armed forces**
- **Addresses the specific situation of girls**

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Child Protection for the United Nations Military

18

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The Paris Principles are a set of principles and guidelines intended to prevent and minimize the impact of the recruitment of children by armed forces and armed groups. The protection and needs of girls are emphasized.

- The Paris Principles aim to guide interventions for the protection and well-being of children, with the following objectives (para. 1.11):

- Prevent unlawful recruitment or use of children;
- Facilitate the release of children associated with armed forces/groups;
- Facilitate the reintegration into society of all children associated with armed forces/groups;

- Ensure the most protective environment for all children.

The Paris Principles provide a framework for child protection and bring together ideas and approaches, which have been used successfully across the globe.

They recognize that there is usually a significant number of girls among children associated with armed forces or armed groups. For a range of reasons, however, these girls are rarely provided with assistance. While there are commonalities between the circumstances and experiences of girls and boys, the situation for girls can be very different in terms of the reasons and manner in which they join the armed forces or armed groups, the potential for their release, the effects of their experience on their physical, social and emotional well-being, and the consequences on their ability to reintegrate into community life (para. 4.0).

They also cover children in other situations, including refugee and internally displaced children, and children and justice mechanisms.

SLIDE 19: THE SAFE SCHOOLS DECLARATION AND GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES FROM MILITARY USE DURING ARMED CONFLICT

The Safe School Declaration and Guidelines on Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use

- Aim to strengthen the protection of education from attack, and restrict use of schools and universities for military purposes by armed forces and armed groups
- Specify the actions that armed forces and armed groups can take to deter military use of education facilities:
 - Functioning education facilities should not be used
 - Abandoned or evacuated education facilities should not be used
 - Schools and universities must never be destroyed
 - Parties to conflict should consider alternative measures before attacking schools or universities that are being militarily used
 - Fighting forces should not be employed to provide security for education facilities
 - Parties to conflict should incorporate the Guidelines into their doctrine, military manuals, ROE, and operational orders



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The Safe Schools Declaration and Guidelines aim to strengthen the protection of education from attack, and restrict use of schools and universities for military purposes by armed forces and armed groups.

• The Safe School Declaration is a set of political commitments endorsed by Member States to protect and ensure the continuation of education in times of armed conflict, with regard to:

- collecting reliable data on attacks and military use of schools and universities;
- providing assistance to victims of attacks;
- investigating allegations of violations of national and international law and prosecuting perpetrators;
- developing and promoting 'conflict sensitive' approaches to education;
- seeking to continue education during armed conflict.

The Guidelines specify the actions that armed forces and armed groups can take to deter military use of education facilities, to reduce the risk of attack, and to mitigate the impact of attacks and military use when they occur. It aims to help military commanders involved in the planning and execution of military operations reduce the effects of military use on student safety and education.

SLIDE 20: THE VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES ON PEACEKEEPING AND THE PREVENTION OF THE RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

The Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers

- Aim to prioritize and operationalize child protection within United Nations peacekeeping missions to ensure that peacekeepers are prepared to prevent the recruitment and use of children
- Specify actions that Member States should take with regard to training and planning, and the conduct of their national forces in peacekeeping
- Contribute to monitoring and reporting, prevention, early warning, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, protection and care of children, including in detention

NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

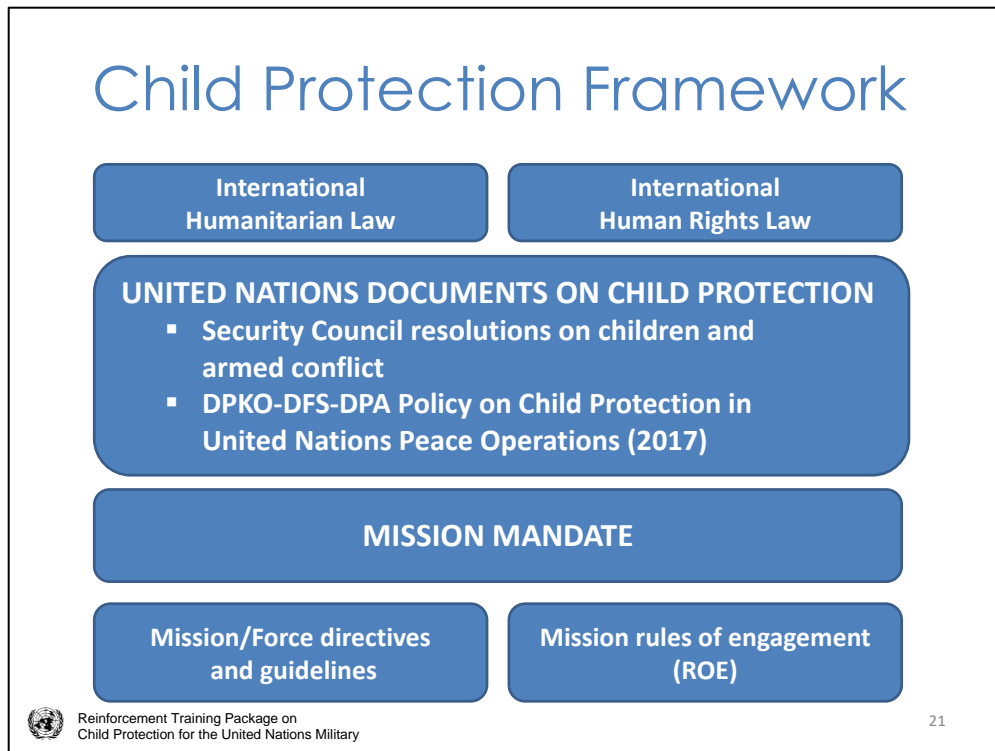
Key Message: The Vancouver Principles aim to ensure that United Nations military personnel receive specific training on dealing with issues related to the recruitment and use of children, so as to enhance military capability to support child protection.

● The Vancouver Principles are a set of political commitments endorsed by Member States to prioritize and further operationalize child protection in United Nations peacekeeping, and to ensure that, in the context of peacekeeping operations, peacekeepers are prepared to prioritize the prevention of the recruitment and use of children.

The Principles specify the actions that Member States may undertake with regard to training, planning and the conduct of their national police and military forces, in a peacekeeping context:

- Prioritize the prevention of the recruitment and the use of children in the strategic and operational planning of all peacekeeping operations;
- Appoint child protection focal points throughout mission command structures, both military and police, to support the development of an international standard;
- Contribute to monitoring and reporting, prevention, early warning of violations, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, protection and care of children, including in detention.

SLIDE 21: CHILD PROTECTION FRAMEWORK



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: The child protection framework (slide 21) provides the legal authority and establishes the legal and moral obligation of peacekeeping personnel to protect children in peacekeeping missions.

- Slide 21 outlines the framework that protects children's rights. It is based on international humanitarian and human rights law and refers to specific United Nations documents and mandates on child protection.

Although these are different types of documents, peacekeeping personnel are bound by all of them.

This comprehensive legal framework gives peacekeeping personnel the authority and the responsibility to act and respond to child protection violations that they encounter on the ground.

SLIDE 22: TAKEAWAYS

Takeaways

- Peacekeeping personnel must know the legal instruments on child protection and the mission's mandate
- Military personnel have a legal obligation to protect children
- Officers and troops must be trained on child protection, the child protection mandate, the mission context, and the six grave violations against children in the mission area
- All military operations must be in full compliance with international humanitarian law and the rules of engagement of the mission



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

Key Message: All peacekeeping personnel have a legal and moral obligation to protect children.

- Military personnel have a legal obligation to protect the rights of children.

In order to effectively protect children, officers and troops must be trained on child protection, and must be fully aware of the child protection mandate and the context of the mission, and of the common grave violations against children in their areas of responsibility.

Mission-specific directives and guidelines related to child protection must be key aspects of pre-deployment and in-mission training. Military personnel must also understand and correctly apply rules of engagement and guidance on the use of force, if they encounter children associated with armed forces or groups. International laws and other legal provisions presented in this training course apply to all peacekeeping personnel.

Summary

Takeaways from Lesson 2.2:

- Peacekeeping personnel must know the legal instruments on child protection and the mission's mandate
- Military personnel have a legal obligation to protect children
- Officers and troops must be trained on child protection, the child protection mandate, the mission context, and the six grave violations against children in the mission area
- All military operations must be in full compliance with international humanitarian law and the rules of engagement of the mission

SLIDE 23: REFERENCES (1/3)

References (1/3)

- United Nations, DPKO-DFS-DPA Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations, 2017
- United Nations, DPKO (Integrated Training Service), Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials, 2017
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (see also http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30160.html)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 2002
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000



SLIDE 24: REFERENCES (2/3)

References (2/3)

- 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols
- International Labour Organization (ILO), Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182), 1999
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998
- Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict: 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001), 1460 (2003), 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012), 2143 (2014), 2225 (2015), 2427 (2018), 2601 (2021)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), “Legal protection of children in armed conflict”, Factsheet, 2003



SLIDE 25: REFERENCES (3/3)

References (3/3)

- United Nations, DPKO/UNICEF/OSRSG-CAAC, Field Manual: Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations Against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict, 2014
- Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (The Paris Principles), 2007
- The Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers, 2017
- Safe Schools Declaration and Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use in Armed Conflict, 2015
- International Criminal Court, Lubanga Case (<https://www.icc-cpi.int/drc/lubanga>)



SLIDE 26: QUESTIONS

Questions



NOTES (FOR TRAINER)

- ☞ *Allow sufficient time for questions to be asked/answered. Actively encourage questions from learners.*
- ☞ *Also encourage learners to conduct additional personal research to gain a more detailed and in-depth understanding of child protection mandate.*

