



THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

By H.E. Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy
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To the United Nations
At the Security Council Arria Formula Meeting on
Children and Armed Conflict
New York, 07 May 2021

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me join other colleagues in thanking Estonia for organizing this meeting. I would also like to thank SRSG Virginia Gamba for launching a new study on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Children Affected by Conflict and other briefers for their insightful remarks.

Mr. Chair

In any war or conflict, children are the biggest sufferers of loss and grief. It is heart-breaking to learn that in the last ten years, nearly ten thousand children have been killed or maimed in conflicts. Millions of children in armed conflict have had no access to school and other essential services due to the destruction of civilian infrastructure. As a result, they have been increasingly recruited and used by armed groups.

Moreover, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this situation and caused more difficulties for the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM). It has interrupted the United Nations-led verification process.

Against this backdrop, I wish to highlight the following points:

First, States bear the primary responsibility to protect their civilians, especially children affected by armed conflict. They should spare no effort in preventing violence against children, providing children with full access to basic needs and complying with international humanitarian and human rights laws. In addition, we call on States who have not done so to become parties to key international frameworks on the protection of children and education, including the Safe School Declaration and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

Second, education empowers children and tackles the root causes of conflicts by cultivating and promoting the culture of peace in their heart and mind. We urge parties concerned to ensure education continuation for children in armed conflicts. In this connection, we call on parties to armed conflict to immediately prevent and end all attacks on schools including on their personnel.

Third, to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 on the implementation of national, regional and the United Nations agendas on children, we call for greater efforts and cooperation by all member states, relevant stakeholders and the whole UN system in monitoring these impacts and taking timely measures to ensure the protection of children in armed conflict. In this connection, funding for children protection and MRM activities is essential.

I thank you./.