



**الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية**  
**REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE**

**Security Council open Arria-formula meeting**  
**7 May – 14h -17h**

**“on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on violations against children in  
situations of armed conflict”**

**Statement by H.E Sofiane MIMOUNI**  
**Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations**

**Madame the President,**

**Excellencies,**

Let me at the outset thank the Permanent Mission of Estonia and the co-sponsors for leading our discussions today. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Gamba and to the other panelists for their presentations.

As clearly outlined by the panelist, the Covid-19 pandemic had a devastating impact across the world with a disproportionate impact on children. While the full effect of the pandemic on children affected by conflict still needs to be fully analyzed, we have already witnessed a scourge in the numbers of killings, maiming of children, and recruitment of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence and abductions as well as attacks against hospitals. The attacks against schools by non-State armed groups have worsened during pandemic, putting children at the risk of being further abused and enrolled.

This tragic situation requires collective actions to address the multi-faceted and long-lasting consequences of the pandemic on children affected by conflict. The following measures should be prioritized, in this regard:

1. Ensure interaction between all areas of intervention, from effective reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups in society to the inclusion of the protection and well-being of children into all peace processes and peace agreements.
2. Ensure that peacekeeping missions receive the necessary training and requisite resources to effectively protect children and collect the necessary data. The importance of vaccination campaign for the staff of the peacekeeping mission is crucial, to ensure that they can perform their duties while remaining safe in the midst of the pandemic.
3. Include specific provisions on the protection of children in armed conflict in the context of peacekeeping processes, as provided in the peace and reconciliation agreement in Mali, signed in Algiers, which contains specific provisions related to the protection of children. Such provisions should inspire all ongoing peace processes.

**Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,**

Let me take the opportunity of our discussions today to underline the strong commitment of Algeria to the protection of children. My delegation firmly believes that regardless of the situation, any child who is in an armed conflict is by definition a victim, and that the place of children is in school and not in armed conflicts.

It is in this spirit, that Algeria has acceded to numerous international and regional legal instruments relating to the rights of the child and the protection of children in

armed conflicts. In March 2021, Algeria has endorsed the Safe School Declaration, as an additional step to strengthen our commitment to protect children in situation of armed conflicts.

Despite of our commitment and that of the international community, it is truly aberrant that while we speak today, thousands of children are still trapped in armed conflicts all over the world. During 2019, the UN verified more that 7000 children, as having been recruited and used in situations of armed conflict.

That is why, prevention strategies are required. In fact, I do believe that the prevention of violation against children in armed conflicts starts with tackling the root causes of such conflicts and forced displacement. It should also start with strengthening the human right mandate of UN peacekeeping Missions in conflict affected areas, allowing them to report on human rights violation, especially violation of children's rights.

The coordination and cooperation between the UN and the regional organizations, especially the African Union, is also an important element if the prevention strategy, to ensure a regional ownership in addressing the root causes of those conflicts and to strengthen the protection of children.

Let me conclude, Excellency, by reiterating my country's support for the work being done to ensure the protection of children in armed conflict and to advocate for the promotion and the well-being of all children and civilians.

**I thank you.**