



**Permanent Mission of Ecuador
to the United Nations**

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Cristian Espinosa
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations,

Arria Formula meeting of the Security Council on:

**"The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on violations against
children in situations of armed conflict"**

7 May 2021- 2pm

AS DELIVERED

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen

1. I thank Estonia and all the cosponsors for organizing this Security Council Arria Formula Meeting. I also thank the briefers for their presentations.
2. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the situation of children all over the world and this has happened in any context.
3. Millions of children have been pushed back into poverty, often extreme poverty.
4. A serious learning crisis in education with a massive closure of schools across countries exacerbated the digital divide with remote learning being out of reach for over 500 million children, increasing the exposure to violent extremism in fragile zones.
5. As on everything else, conflict amplifies the situation and exacerbate the dire circumstances plays an amplifier role.
6. In one hand the Covid-19 pandemic has deteriorated the situation of those leaving in conflict zones and on the other hand it has affected the capacity of States, Civil Society and International Organizations –including the United Nations- to monitor and respond.
7. The capacity and capabilities to monitor are vital.
8. The challenges are huge, however as we have listen from the briefers we are not starting from scratch.
9. In 2019 we marked the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the child. Last year (in 2020) in the midst of the pandemic we commemorated the 15th anniversary

of the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1612 on Children and armed conflict. This year (2021) we are commemorating the 25th anniversary of the report on the “Impact of armed conflict on children”.

10. We have a framework in which we can develop a stronger response. And the best way to commemorate all these anniversaries is through implementation and by remaining deeply committed to combat and prevent all forms of violence against children, including sexual violence, as well as the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

Excellencies,

11. The study prepared by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict on the “Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on violations against children in situations of armed conflict” is a valuable tool to better understand the challenges on the ground and to strengthen our efforts in the field.
12. I would also like to recall that in our joint declaration of support to the UN Secretary-General’s appeal for a global ceasefire we alerted that the continuation of hostilities in various parts of the world would have a devastating impact on children.
13. Today I reiterate the need to ensure the implementation of Security Council’s resolutions 2532 and 2565.
14. In concluding I wish to adhere myself to the statement delivered by Canada on behalf of the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict, and I join those who called upon the Security Council to ACT.

Thank you very much,