Children and armed conflict

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1539 (2004), by which the Council requested me to submit a report on the implementation of that resolution and its resolutions 1379 (2001) and 1460 (2003), providing information on compliance and progress in ending the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict by those parties mentioned in my 2003 report (A/58/546-S/2003/1053 and Corr.1 and 2), including information on other grave violations and abuses (see resolution 1539 (2004), para. 15 (a)); the action plan for a systematic and comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanism (ibid., para. 2); incorporation of best practices for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes (ibid., para. 15 (c)); and measures to control illicit subregional and cross-border activities that are harmful to children (ibid., para. 3).

II. Information on compliance and progress in ending the recruitment and use of children and other violations being committed against children

2. The present report provides information on developments covering the period from the issuance of my last report, on 10 November 2003, through December 2004.

3. The preparation of the present report involved broad consultations within the United Nations, particularly with the Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict at Headquarters, peacekeeping missions and country teams, as well as with Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations. United Nations peacekeeping missions and United Nations country teams were the primary sources of the information contained in the report. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1539 (2004), my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict brought to the attention of United Nations peacekeeping missions and