

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 19 April 2021 from the President of the
Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General**

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter dated 15 April 2021 (see annex) from the Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by Security Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#), based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 17 December 2020 ([S/AC.51/2020/11](#)).

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
President of the Security Council



Annex

During a closed videoconference held on 20 November 2020, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the third report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Mali ([S/2020/1105](#)), which covers the period from July 2017 to March 2020 and was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group. The Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in Mali ([S/AC.51/2020/11](#)) on 17 December 2020.

In follow up to the recommendations of the Working Group and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [1612 \(2005\)](#), [1882 \(2009\)](#), [1998 \(2011\)](#), [2068 \(2012\)](#), [2143 \(2014\)](#), [2225 \(2015\)](#) and [2427 \(2018\)](#), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, to:

(a) Request you to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict in Mali and to maintain the child protection component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), including through the deployment of child protection advisers throughout MINUSMA areas of operation, in line with the mandate of the Mission, and note that their key tasks include, in line with the Policy on Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations adopted in 2017, monitoring and reporting on grave violations and abuses committed against children, mainstreaming child protection within the Mission, training the Mission personnel and engaging in dialogue on action plans;

(b) Also request you to ensure that MINUSMA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue their efforts to further support, in line with their respective mandates, the Malian authorities in mainstreaming the specific needs of children affected by the armed conflict and the protection of their rights in all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security sector reform, in establishing a joint mechanism for the review of cases of children detained on charges related to the armed conflict and association with armed groups, in conducting a screening and age assessment of the Malian Defence and Security Forces and in establishing recruitment procedures and age assessment measures to prevent underage recruitment;

(c) Further request you to ensure that the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting continues its advocacy for the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups and children detained on charges related to association with armed groups and prioritizes its efforts to reach out to non-State armed groups, with a view to developing action plans to end the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law, as well as rape and sexual violence, and to address other violations and abuses committed against children in Mali.

(Signed) Mona Juul

Chair

Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict