United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

Input for the 17 UPR Working Group Session on the Central African Republic

- Expressing serious concern at the use of children by local self-defence militias, and calling on the Government to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of all children associated with these groups, in particular through the immediate issuance of clear orders, including at the local level, to release children.

- Urge the Government to continue to uphold its national and international obligations with regard to the prohibition of under-age recruitment in its armed forces, including through the conduct of awareness campaigns;

- Urge the Government to undertake the necessary reforms to translate the provisions of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict into national law, including by taking feasible measures to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, such as the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices and by undertaking the reforms to national law necessary to bring domestic legislation in line with the obligations of the parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- Urge the Government to ensure that the National Council for Child Protection is able to function and to actively help in the adoption of measures to end and prevent violations and abuses against children;

- Further urge the Government to facilitate, as appropriate, the preparation of concrete and time-bound action plans to halt the recruitment and use of children in violation of applicable international law by the parties concerned, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005);