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

Input for the 18 UPR Working Group Session on Yemen

[Throughout 2012, the United Nations verified 53 reports of recruitment and use of children aged between 13 and 17 years. Of these, 25 boys were recruited by Government forces, including the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF), the Republic Guards, the newly-integrated First Armoured Division, the Military Police, and the Central Security Forces. The United Nations also verified the use of three boys by the Al-Houthi in Hajja governorate, for the purpose of manning checkpoints or "guarding" health centres. The association of three children aged 13, 16 and 17 years with pro-government militias was also documentedin Abyan governorate. In 2012, 50 cases of killing of children were documented, and 165 children were maimed, mainly in incidents related to landmines, unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war. Attacks on education are a major concern: in 2012, the United Nations received reports of 165 incidents of attacks on schools, the majority of which occurred in the governorates of Sana'a and Abyan. Ansar Al Shari'a, the First Armoured Division, and the Al Houthi were responsible for these incidents. In 61 incidents, teachers and students were threatened or intimidated. In another 57 incidents, schools were physically damaged as a result of shelling, aerial bombardments and use of improvised explosive devices. Incidents of denial of humanitarian access affecting children, as well as sexual violence and forced marriage of girls, as well as attacks on hospitals, were also documented in 2012.]

- Encourage the Government to follow-up on the commitment made to the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in November 2012, and finalize an action plan to address the recruitment and use of children by the Government Forces, in line with Security Council Resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011); ratify the proposed amendments of five relevant military laws, and allocate adequate resources for their effective implementation.

- Welcome the progress made by the Government, in particular the Military Affairs Committee, to accelerate the restructuring of the military and establish appropriate age verification procedures in recruitment centres and screening of all underage recruits. Call on the Government to ensure screening of the recently dismantled First Armored Division and the Republican Guard to ensure that no children are integrated in the army.

- Welcome the Government's efforts in convening the National Dialogue Conference, and encourage all stakeholders to consider children's issues and needs in the context of the National Dialogue. In particular, urge the Government to prioritize the development of sustainable livelihood opportunities, including through vocational training and employment for

youth, to positively empower them and prevent their involvement in armed violence.

- Welcome the Government's intention to expand its mine action programme in accordance with international standards. Urge the Government to prioritize the revision and expansion of survivor assistance programmes, including child friendly programmes, given the increased incidence of child victims of mines, UXOs, ERWs and IEDs.