

FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION

Purpose of the Cooperation Agreement

The purpose of this Cooperation Agreement between the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) and the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) is to protect and promote the rights of children affected by, or at risk of, conflict-related sexual violence, through:

- a. Advancing national level implementation of the rights of children affected by conflict-related sexual violence¹, including children born of rape, through the implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions on sexual violence (including SCRs 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2331 (2016) and 2467 (2019)) and the Committee's concluding observations to States parties; and
- b. Cooperating in the conduct of research and collection of data to promote accountability of Member States and other actors in regard to the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and other relevant international obligations and standards.

Areas of cooperation

Recognizing the common objectives and mutually-reinforcing mandates to protect and promote the rights of children affected by, or at risk of, conflict-related sexual violence, the Committee and the Office of the SRSG-SVC will collaborate in areas of mutual interest and engagement, where possible and appropriate, through:

1. Exchanging information regarding country situations under consideration by the Committee and those subject to visits and reports by the SRSG-SVC. This exchange of information should include substantive and administrative elements such as:
 - a. Submissions by the Office of SRSG-SVC of information on country situations, including on compliance with commitments and resolutions on children's rights and conflict-related sexual violence to inform the Committee's constructive dialogues and recommendations with States parties to the Convention;

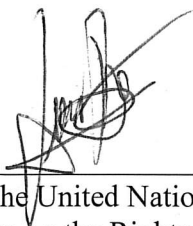
¹ "The term "conflict-related sexual violence" refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. That link may be evident in the profile of the perpetrator, who is often affiliated with a State or non-State armed group, which includes terrorist entities; the profile of the victim, who is frequently an actual or perceived member of a political, ethnic or religious minority group or targeted on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity; the climate of impunity, which is generally associated with State collapse, cross-border consequences such as displacement or trafficking, and/or violations of a ceasefire agreement. The term also encompasses trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual violence or exploitation, when committed in situations of conflict". Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (S/2019/280).

- b. Sharing by the Committee of background and other documents such as lists of issues, concluding observations, preliminary reports, and the Committee's digest of its jurisprudence; and
 - c. Sharing of calendars of relevant activities to facilitate the exchange of information and joint advocacy.
2. Contributing to the advancement of standards related to the rights of children affected by conflict-related sexual violence through consultations during the preparations of the Committee's General Comments and advocacy and research material prepared by the Office of the SRSO-SVC.
3. Using the various platforms available within the United Nations, such as the *Arria formula*, to protect and promote the rights of children affected by conflict-related sexual violence; and
4. Holding regular meetings and joint events, such as discussion panels, to take stock of the state of implementation of the various frameworks governing the promotion and protection of the rights of children affected by conflict-related sexual violence, including as part of strategies for prevention and deterrence.

Terms and modalities of collaborative activities

Any activity in support of the aforementioned areas of collaboration will be subject to the availability of sufficient financial and human resources for that purpose, as well as each mandate's programme of work, priority activities, internal rules, regulations, policies, administrative procedures and practices.

The Committee and the Office of the SRSO-SVC will nominate a focal point to facilitate coordination between them in respect of any matters related to the implementation of the agreed activities.



Chair of the United Nations
Committee on the Rights of the Child

Name: Mr. Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna

4 February 2020



United Nations Special Representative
of the Secretary-General
on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Name: Ms. Pramila Patten

4 February 2020