



11 March 2014 – The United Nations has launched a new initiative to eliminate the use of children in war by 2016, as thousands of children are currently being used to serve armies and opposition groups in armed conflicts around the world.

“When we help a former child soldier overcome such a terrible experience and prepare for a new future, we do more than mend a broken life. We begin to bind the wounds of a nation torn by conflict,” UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake states. The [‘Children, Not Soldiers’](#) campaign calls on Governments, regional and non-governmental organizations to work with the UN to intensify efforts to meet the goal of zero use of children by any Government forces.

Ten years ago, the Security Council demanded that the countries using child soldiers collaborate with the UN to devise concrete plans to eliminate the use of child soldiers. Today, eight Government security forces are still on the list of countries recruiting and using child soldiers in armed conflict in the Secretary-Generals Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict.

These countries are Afghanistan, Chad, South Sudan, Myanmar, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen and Sudan. The six first-mentioned countries have signed action plans with the UN, and Yemen and Sudan are in dialogue with the UN and have expressed their commitment to the matter.

