



Security Council

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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Conclusions on children and armed conflict in Yemen

1. At its 95th meeting, on 29 September 2021, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict of the Security Council examined the fifth report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Yemen ([S/2021/761](#)), covering the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020, which was introduced by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations also addressed the Working Group (see annex).

2. The members of the Working Group expressed grave concern at the scale, severity and recurrence of violations and abuses endured by children in Yemen and strongly condemned all violations and abuses that continue to be committed against children in Yemen, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized. The members expressed concern about the continued conflict and the increasing number of active front lines in Yemen, which resulted in an increase in the number of the six grave violations against children in armed conflict and had a devastating humanitarian impact on the lives of children. The members urged all parties to conflict in Yemen to work towards a comprehensive and inclusive negotiated political solution to end the conflict, as outlined in relevant Security Council resolutions, as the only sustainable way to end the suffering of children in Yemen. The members underlined the importance of accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of international human rights law or human rights abuses and stressed the importance of preventing and tackling impunity. In addition, the Working Group expressed concern at the security risks and access restrictions, which pose significant challenges for monitoring and verifying violations and abuses in Yemen.

3. The members of the Working Group welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, and in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions [1612 \(2005\)](#), [1882 \(2009\)](#), [1998 \(2011\)](#), [2068 \(2012\)](#), [2143 \(2014\)](#), [2225 \(2015\)](#), [2427 \(2018\)](#) and [2601 \(2021\)](#), agreed to the direct action as set out below.

Public statement by the Chair of the Working Group

4. The Working Group agreed to address the following message to all parties to the armed conflict in Yemen mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General, in particular non-State armed groups, such as the Houthis (who call themselves Ansar Allah), as well as Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and Islamic State, through a public statement by its Chair:



(a) Strongly condemning all violations and abuses that continue to be committed against children in Yemen, and noting with concern the increase in violations and the disproportionate negative impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on children, which further exacerbated existing challenges; demanding that all parties to the conflict immediately end and prevent all abuses and violations against children, including those involving the killing and maiming of children, the recruitment and use of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, abduction and the denial of humanitarian access, and that they comply with their obligations under international law;

(b) Calling upon all parties to further implement the previous conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen ([S/AC.51/2013/3](#) and [S/AC.51/2020/1](#));

(c) Stressing the importance of accountability for all violations and abuses against children in armed conflict and stressing that all those responsible must be brought to justice and held accountable without undue delay, including through timely and systematic investigations and, as appropriate, prosecution and conviction;

(d) Stressing that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration, and that the specific needs and vulnerabilities of girls and boys should be duly considered when planning and carrying out actions concerning children in situations of armed conflict;

(e) Strongly condemning the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict identified in the report, of which the majority were recruited and used by the Houthis; noting that some two thirds of the children were recruited and used in active combat, while approximately one third were used in other roles, including the guarding of military checkpoints and the placement or clearing of landmines; also noting that the recruitment and use of children was frequently connected to other of the six grave violations against children affected by armed conflict, in particular killing and maiming; strongly urging all armed forces and groups to immediately and without preconditions release all children associated with them and to end and prevent the further recruitment and use of children, consistent with their obligations under international law and, as applicable, the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the declaration made by Yemen upon accession thereto in 2007;

(f) Expressing concern about the deprivation of liberty of children by parties to armed conflict, for their alleged association with armed forces and armed groups and urging all parties to the conflict to release those children and to ensure their full reintegration through child protection programmes; urging that children allegedly associated with parties to the conflict should be treated primarily as victims, including those children who are accused of having committed crimes, and that detention should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, in line with international law as well as guided by the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles) endorsed by the Government of Yemen in December 2012;

(g) Calling upon all parties who have not yet done so to enhance their engagement with the United Nations to develop and adopt appropriate standard operating procedures for the release and reintegration of children associated with parties to the conflict and to grant immediate access to civilian child protection actors to facilitate their release and reintegration into their communities; underlining that family- and community-based reintegration of children formerly associated with parties to the conflict is essential to provide a future to these children, as well as to prevent the risks of re-recruitment in violation of international law; and welcoming in this regard efforts undertaken by the Government of Yemen and the Coalition to

Support Legitimacy in Yemen to reunite children formerly associated with armed groups with their families;

(h) Strongly condemning the high number of children killed and maimed, including by mortar and artillery shelling, by ground fighting, including small arms fire and by snipers, by mines and explosive remnants of war, and by air strikes and other aerial attacks, and noting an increasing trend of child casualties due to military vehicle collisions; urging all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality and the obligation to take all feasible precautions to avoid and in any event minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects; and, in this context, expressing deep concern over the fact that shelling is often carried out in built-up residential areas;

(i) Expressing deep concern at the cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against children and at the lack of appropriate services for survivors; strongly urging all parties to the armed conflict to take immediate and specific measures to put an end to and prevent the perpetration of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children and stressing the importance of accountability for those responsible for sexual and gender-based violence against children; noting with concern that rape and other forms of sexual violence continue to be underreported due to fear of stigmatization, cultural norms, lack of awareness, fear of reprisals, and threats and lack of adequate support services; and stressing the importance of providing non-discriminatory and comprehensive specialized services, including psychosocial, health, including sexual and reproductive health services, legal and livelihood support and services to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence;

(j) Strongly condemning the attacks on schools and hospitals, including protected persons in contravention of international law, which threaten children's right to education; noting with concern that schools were used for the dissemination of propaganda and for recruitment purposes which, in some cases, led to students being unable to attend classes; calling upon all parties to the armed conflict to comply with applicable international law, to respect the civilian character of schools and hospitals, including their personnel, and to end and prevent attacks or threats of attacks against those institutions and their personnel in violation of international law; expressing deep concern at numbers of incidents of military use of schools and hospitals and the disruption caused to the education of thousands of children in Yemen;

(k) Expressing deep concern at the abduction of children, including for the purpose of recruitment and use by parties to the conflict and for other forms of exploitation, as well as for ransom, and calling upon all concerned parties to cease the abduction of children and immediately release all abducted children;

(l) Expressing grave concern at the humanitarian crisis in Yemen; strongly condemning the unprecedented high number of incidents of denial of humanitarian access to children, including attacks on humanitarian personnel, facilities and assets, noting in particular reports of delays and hold-up of humanitarian personnel at checkpoints; and calling upon all parties to the armed conflict, in particular the Houthis, to allow and facilitate, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, safe, timely and unhindered access to children, and recalling also the United Nations guiding principles adopted in General Assembly resolution [46/182](#) as well as the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and to respect the exclusively humanitarian nature and impartiality of humanitarian aid, and to respect the work of all United Nations humanitarian agencies and their humanitarian partners, without adverse distinction;

(m) Encouraging those who are or will be engaged in peace talks and agreements to ensure that child protection provisions, including those relating to the release and reintegration of children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups, as well as provisions on the rights and well-being of children, are integrated when relevant and appropriate into peace negotiations, ceasefire and peace agreements and into provisions for ceasefire monitoring, and taking into account children's views, where possible, in these processes;

(n) Expressing grave concern at the security, access and other challenges faced by United Nations personnel of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict, and demanding that parties to the conflict facilitate their safe and unhindered access to territories for monitoring and reporting purposes and immediately halt threats against mechanism personnel, including monitors, and communities where allegations of violations and abuses are being reviewed;

(o) Calling upon all parties to the conflict listed in the annexes to the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (see [A/75/873-S/2021/437](#), annexes I and II) to sign and implement an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the six grave violations against children, if they have not yet done so, and to this effect enter into a dialogue with the United Nations, and also calling upon them to implement the previous conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen;

To the Houthis

(p) Expressing grave concern at and strongly condemning all violations and abuses that continue to be committed against children in Yemen by the Houthis; noting that the Houthis are the main perpetrators of the six grave violations against children affected by armed conflict in Yemen; acknowledging the steps taken by the Houthis regarding the formalization of a child-protection-focused dialogue with the United Nations in July 2019, the development of a joint action plan and the signing in April 2020 of a protocol for the handover of children captured during military operations; urging the Houthis to immediately take all necessary actions to meet their obligations under international law, to enhance their ongoing dialogue with the United Nations in Yemen and to implement the action plan and the existing handover protocol; and calling upon them to implement the previous conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen.

5. The Working Group agreed to address a message, through a public statement by the Chair of the Working Group, to community and religious leaders:

(a) Emphasizing the important role of community and religious leaders in strengthening the protection of children affected by armed conflict;

(b) Urging them to strengthen community-level protection and to publicly condemn, and continue to advocate the ending and preventing of violations and abuses against children, notably those involving recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks and threats of attacks on schools and hospitals, abductions and denial of humanitarian access, and to engage with the Government of Yemen, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to support the reintegration and rehabilitation of children affected by armed conflict in their communities, including by raising awareness to prevent the stigmatization of those children.

Recommendations to the Security Council

6. The Working Group agreed to recommend the following to the Security Council:

(a) Encouraging the Security Council to take into due consideration the situation of children and armed conflict in Yemen;

(b) Encouraging the Security Council to consider that the country task force on monitoring and reporting in Yemen receives adequate support in order to fulfil its mandate, as given by the Security Council.

7. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter addressed to the Government of Yemen, referring to the Group's public statement, on the violations and abuses that continue to be committed against children in Yemen, and:

(a) Expressing grave concern at the scale, severity and recurrence of violations and abuses committed against children in Yemen and that they continue to be severely affected;

(b) Welcoming the progress made and the concrete steps taken by the Government of Yemen to end and prevent child recruitment and use, including through its action plan signed in 2014 and the related road map adopted in December 2018, noting the appointment of 90 child protection focal points within the Yemeni armed forces in 2019, and the issuance of political and military directives by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Interior regarding the prohibition of child recruitment in February 2020, as well as the issuance of a presidential directive on the prevention of recruitment and use of children in the security and armed forces in March 2020; in this regard welcoming the renewed commitment to the action plan and road map by the newly appointed ministers of the Government of Yemen in late 2020, and encouraging the Government of Yemen to continue its engagement with the United Nations to fully implement the activities agreed in the road map;

(c) Urging the Government of Yemen to take immediate and concrete measures to end and prevent the killing and maiming of children attributed to government forces, also urging them to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality and the obligation to take all feasible precautions to avoid and in any event minimize harm to civilians and civilian objects, and in this regard urging the Government to hold accountable those who are responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of international human rights law or human rights abuses;

(d) Urging the Government of Yemen to take concrete steps to prevent and reduce the impact of mines, unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war on children by prioritizing the clearance of mines, unexploded ordnance and other explosives, as well as by prioritizing risk education and risk reduction activities;

(e) Calling upon the Government of Yemen to take immediate steps to address the significant increase in incidents of denial of humanitarian access and to facilitate safe, rapid and unhindered access for humanitarian supplies and personnel;

(f) Urging the Government of Yemen to take immediate and specific measures to put an end to and prevent the perpetration of rape and other forms of sexual violence against children and to facilitate access to services for survivors of sexual violence against children;

(g) Calling upon the Government of Yemen to consider non-judicial measures as alternatives to detention and prosecution that focus on the rehabilitation and reintegration of children, further calling upon the Government to adopt standard

operating procedures for the release of children from detention and to facilitate their handover to civilian child protection authorities and noting that the Government of Yemen endorsed the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles) in December 2012;

(h) Encouraging the Government of Yemen to give priority to the provision of comprehensive and sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation opportunities, including those that are family- and community-based, for children affected by armed conflict, that are gender- and age-sensitive, including equal access to health care, psychosocial support and education programmes, as well as to raising awareness and working with communities to avoid stigmatization of these children, facilitate their return and minimize the risk of re-recruitment in violation of international law, while taking into account the specific needs of girls and boys, including those of children with disabilities, in order to contribute to the well-being of children and to sustainable peace and security;

(i) Commending the Government of Yemen for its endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration in October 2017, and encouraging the Government to implement it and to ensure that attacks on schools and military use of schools are investigated and that those responsible are duly prosecuted;

(j) Urging the Government of Yemen to make every effort to end and to avoid further attacks on schools, hospitals and humanitarian actors and urging the Government not to use schools for military purposes and to comply with its obligation under international humanitarian law to respect and protect hospitals and other medical facilities;

(k) Recalling that it is the primary responsibility of the Government of Yemen to ensure the provision of basic services to children and their protection in situations of armed conflict and particularly calling upon the Government of Yemen to facilitate the immediate access of children to basic services, including health care and education services, nutrition and immunization assistance;

(l) Reminding the Government of Yemen that monitors of the monitoring and reporting mechanism and community members should be protected from repercussions for documenting and denouncing violations and abuses against children;

(m) Calling upon the Government of Yemen to ensure that all incidents or allegations of incidents attributed to the Government are duly investigated, in line with international law, so as to ensure accountability;

(n) Calling upon the Government of Yemen to further implement the previous conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Yemen ([S/AC.51/2020/1](#)).

8. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter to the Secretary-General:

(a) Encouraging the Secretary-General to continue to call upon all parties engaged in armed conflict in Yemen to fully respect international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, as applicable, and noting the Secretary-General's global call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, as supported in Security Council resolutions [2532 \(2020\)](#) and [2565 \(2021\)](#);

(b) Calling upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations continues its efforts regarding the action plan with the Houthis, who are the main perpetrators, to end and prevent the six grave violations against children, as well as engagement with other parties to the conflict for the purpose of signing and implementing action plans;

(c) Encouraging the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations continues its engagement with the Government of Yemen and with the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen;

(d) Strongly encouraging the Secretary-General to ensure that relevant activities foreseen in the action plans with parties to the conflict are mainstreamed within the peacebuilding activities of the United Nations in Yemen, in particular the reintegration and rehabilitation of children and the development of sustainable livelihood opportunities, in order to empower them and prevent their recruitment and use by parties to armed conflict in violation of international law;

(e) Calling upon the Secretary-General to ensure that child protection expertise is available in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen so as to mainstream child protection into peace negotiations, ceasefire and peace agreements, and into provisions for ceasefire monitoring, as appropriate, to ensure that the need for child protection advisers is systematically assessed during the preparation and renewal of the political mission, and to encourage briefings to the Security Council on Yemen to take into account the situation of children in Yemen;

(f) Requesting the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

9. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the President of the Security Council transmit a letter to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) concerning Yemen:

(a) Recalling paragraph 9 (c) of resolution [1998 \(2011\)](#), in which the Security Council requested enhanced communication between the Working Group and relevant Security Council sanctions committees, including through the exchange of pertinent information on violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and also recalling the listing criteria in paragraph 18 (c) of resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#), paragraph 19 of resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#), paragraph 6 of resolution [2511 \(2020\)](#) and paragraph 8 of resolution [2564 \(2021\)](#);

(b) Encouraging the Committee to consider the designation for sanctions of individuals and entities, in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the Committee, and in this regard also encouraging the continued exchange of pertinent information between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Committee;

(c) Welcoming in this regard the briefing to the Committee by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on 16 July 2021.

Direct action by the Working Group

10. The Working Group agreed to recommend that the Chair of the Working Group transmit a letter in response to the letter dated 18 November 2020 from the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen:

(a) Welcoming the continued engagement of the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Coalition on 25 March 2019, to strengthen the protection of children affected by the armed conflict in Yemen, as well as the engagement with the Working Group;

(b) Recognizing the Coalition's continued efforts to implement all aspects of the memorandum of understanding to further advance the protection of children,

schools and hospitals, in line with its members' obligations under international law, and encouraging the Coalition to continue its efforts, including, where appropriate, to ensure accountability in line with applicable domestic and international law.

11. The Working Group agreed to send letters from the Chair of the Working Group to the World Bank and donors:

(a) Requesting them to ensure long-term financial support for the implementation of child protection programmes and sustainable reintegration programmes that are gender- and age-sensitive, which are indispensable for the reintegration and the rehabilitation of children affected by the conflict in Yemen, including by bolstering the education and health system, providing mental health and psychosocial support and ensuring timely and appropriate care for child survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence by facilitating the provision of services, reparations and redress for survivors;

(b) Requesting them to support, through the provision of sustained resources, the continuing work of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on violations and abuses against children affected by armed conflict in Yemen;

(c) Requesting them to allocate funds to finance initiatives to support access to adequate health care and nutrition, as well as the continuation of education of children, including education programmes by the United Nations Children's Fund.

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Statement of the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations before the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Allow me at the outset to thank the Kingdom of Norway, as Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, for its efforts in this regard, including convening this important meeting. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for her report and her efforts to protect and safeguard children's rights in Yemen and around the world.

In Yemen, children suffer ongoing major abuses at the hands of the Houthi militias, including murder, disfigurement, abduction, sexual abuse and the recruitment of children for the Houthis' senseless war against the Yemeni people. Since 2014, Houthi militias have recruited more than 35,000 children to fight in their ranks, 17 per cent of whom were under the age of 11. According to Houthi militia media, between January 2020 and June 2021, more than 2,000 children thrown into the front lines by the Houthi militias were killed.

Those militias see Yemenis, including children, as nothing more than cannon fodder. In their efforts to mobilize more fighters, they use schools, mosques and summer camps to brainwash children, give them rushed training and send them to die on the front lines. The Houthi militia's official spokesman has publicly stated that summer camps have targeted 60,000 child combatants this year alone.

The Houthi militias' serious violations against children are not limited to areas under their control. As well as using schools for military activities, storing weapons and firing ballistic missiles and drones, militias are targeting schools in areas they do not control, attacking camps for displaced persons and killing children in indiscriminate attacks on civilian facilities, most notably last June's militia attack on a Ma'rib gas station, in which several children were killed, including a child whose body was charred. In addition, Houthi militia snipers continue to inhumanly take the lives of children in Ta'izz, which has suffocating under a Houthi siege for seven years.

Sadly, four days ago, the world witnessed another example of the gross violations that Houthi militias openly inflict on children when they executed a child in a public square, just like the terrorist groups Al-Qaida and Da'esh. The child had been arrested by the militias at the age of 14, tortured for three years, permanently disabled in the spine, and denied the right to see his family before being executed. These criminal militias proudly took this innocent life in public and broadcast their crime on video channels.

The international community must act immediately to stop these heinous crimes being committed by the Houthis against children and the Yemeni people. The Government of Yemen is deeply concerned about the fate of at least 6 million children in areas controlled by the Houthis. Without a collective effort by the international community to protect children and pressure the Houthis to cease their violations, the suffering of children in Yemen will continue.

With regard to the report that Ms. Gamba has been kind enough to submit, permit me to make the following observations:

- The Government of Yemen appreciates the efforts being made by the United Nations under Ms. Gamba's leadership to protect children in conflict situations

in Yemen and around the world. The Government of Yemen reaffirms its commitment to providing any kind of cooperation and facilitation in this regard.

- The Government notes that, despite numerous dialogues with the Office of the Special Representative, reports concerning Yemen are still in need of greater efforts to verify the accuracy of the sources of information cited and to avoid language that may inadvertently send false and politicized messages.
- In paragraph 4, the report mentions the deployment of Al-Qaida and Da'esh in areas controlled by the Government of Yemen as a reason for the Group's inability to gain access those areas for monitoring purposes, forcing it to rely on undocumented and politicized sources that make accusations against the Government that lack credibility. In that connection, I should like to emphasize that the Government of Yemen, with the support of the Arab Coalition, has been engaged a war to eradicate terrorist organizations, which no longer have any presence on the ground. All humanitarian organizations, as well as the National Commission to Investigate Alleged Human Rights Violations, now operate in all these areas with complete freedom. The Panel of Experts on Yemen established pursuant to Security Council resolution [2140 \(2014\)](#) has also made repeated visits to areas mentioned in the report. We call on the Office of the Special Representative to kindly reassess the situation in government-controlled areas and visit them again to check allegations against the Government. I reiterate my Government's readiness to provide all forms of support to the United Nations in this regard.
- The report holds the Government and the coalition responsible for the deaths of numerous children in combat. Our question here is what is meant by "responsibility"? Does it refer to children recruited by the Houthis and thrown into the front lines to attack Yemeni cities who are killed while fighting in the Houthi ranks? Are the Yemeni armed forces expected to check the ages of the troops attacking them before responding in self-defence?
- In paragraph 22, the report holds the Government of Yemen responsible for the arrest on the front lines of 25 children fighting in the Houthi ranks. They were handled in accordance with the protocol on the handover of children. We do not know where the Government erred and how it violated the rights of the children in question. In the same paragraph, the report refers to the capture by the Houthis of 68 children during military operations. That is completely untrue. The fact of the matter is that is that the Houthis arrested those children in Sana'a; the Government of Yemen had nothing to do with it, as evidenced by the fact that the children were handed over to their families, which were still residing in Sana'a.
- In paragraph 27, the report lumps all parties together in assigning responsibility for planting mines. In fact, Government forces have not laid a single mine. It is the Houthi militias that are doing that. The United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement has asked the Houthis to hand over mine maps, but the militias refuse to do so.
- A distinction should be made between the civilian victims – mostly women and children – of indiscriminate bombings in Ma'rib, Ta'izz, Hudaydah and a number of other populated areas, and the victims of bombings in Houthi camps, who include many children recruited by the Houthi militias. The people targeting children in cities, schools, hospitals or their own homes are the same ones who recruit children in the camps, throw them into the front lines, and put them at risk of being killed.

- In paragraph 41, the report lumps together serious infractions committed by the Houthis with legal measures taken by the Government. In that paragraph, the report claims that Government forces attacked a health complex in the city of Shahr in Hadramawt governorate and detained workers there for two days. The truth, which the Ministry of Health made clarified immediately after the incident, was that the incident was connected with the first case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) registered in Yemen. Government measures required all workers in the health complex to be quarantined to make sure they were not carrying the virus, for their own safety and the safety of their families and the rest of Yemeni society. Although this information has been made officially available, the report has unfortunately failed to clarify this and has disseminated information in a way that could be misinterpreted by those who are unaware of the circumstances of the incident.
- In paragraph 44, the report states that the Hadramawt Elite Forces abducted three children. However, the report does not explain the true circumstances of the incident, which had to do with a non-peaceful protest in the city of Mukalla during which demonstrators vandalized public and private property. The security forces took legal measures, including the arrest of the violators. The competent authorities released the three children to their families immediately.
- With regard to education, the report ignored Houthi crimes having to do with curricula. The militias have tried to alter educational curricula to incorporate racist concepts that incite extremism, terrorism and hatred of the other. That poses a threat to the future of children and future generations by sowing the seeds of hatred and extremism.

Lastly, I should like to reaffirm the steadfast commitment of the Government of Yemen to protecting children and preventing grave violations against them. In particular, I should like to reiterate the Government's readiness to continue to enhance ongoing cooperation with the international community, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba, and her team, to protect children in Yemen and around the world.
