



CONCEPT NOTE

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA FORMULA MEETING

“Combating forced separation and illegal exploitation of children”

Date: 10 November 2023

Time: 10 am

Venue: CR-4

Participation: All UN Member States, Permanent Observers, UN entities, civil society organizations and press are invited

The meeting will be held in all UN official languages and will be open to all UN Member States, Permanent Observers, UN entities, civil society organizations and press. It is our intention to webcast this meeting at the UN Web TV.

After Arria Formula meeting of the UN Security Council Members held on 5 April entitled “Children and armed conflict: Ukrainian crisis. Evacuating children from conflict zone” where the issue of forced separation of children of Ukrainian refugees in Europe was touched upon, appeals from those who faced similar problem were received and not all of them were Ukrainians. Therefore, the issues raised are only the tip of an iceberg and this problem is much bigger than initially estimated and includes also illegal exploitation of the children separated from their parents. A number of NGOs displayed interest to this problem and started to accumulate relevant facts and data that deserves further analyses and discussion.

The Arria Formula meeting is aimed at providing the participants with information on a critical and distressing issue of forced separation of children, especially refugees and asylum seekers, from their families and their subsequent trafficking and exploitation in various forms.

Background:

Children together with their parents remain the most vulnerable category of population in armed conflicts. They are subject to various grave violations such as abductions, recruitment, sexual violence and other crimes.

In order to escape all those horrors of conflicts parents and their children seek refuge in conflict-free countries, mainly in the West, hoping their misfortunes will end there. Many of them however face new problems abroad, such as forced separation from families.

The forced separation of children from their families and their subsequent trafficking and exploitation remains a grave violation of children's rights and a pressing global concern. These actions can take various forms, including forced labor, recruitment into criminal activity, trafficking in human organs, sexual exploitation and abuse.

The act of forcible separation of children from their families inflicts profound emotional and psychological scars, creating an environment of fear and instability that can ripple through generations. The trauma experienced by abducted and separated children and their families not only fractures personal relationships but also undermines societal bonds, potentially leading to intercommunal tensions and even further conflicts. Such practices not only deprive children of their childhood but also undermine their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, perpetuating cycles of injustice.

A society that values the well-being of its youngest members is better equipped to create lasting stability. Prevention through education and awareness campaigns is key, equipping children, families, and communities with knowledge to recognize their rights and resist illegal separation and exploitation attempts.

Objectives:

The Arria Formula meeting is aimed at providing Member States with objective information and raising awareness of the situation of children forcibly separated from families. Another objective is to find ways and measures for legal protection of children of migrants and providing legal assistance and support to refugees who face such actions in countries of destination.

Program:**Opening remarks:**

- **H.E. Mr. Vassily Nebenzia**, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Briefers:

- Ms. Mira Terada, head of Foundation to Battle Injustice, Russia;
 - Mr. Aarun Dohle, Director, NGO “Against child trafficking”, Netherlands;
- Other briefers – tbc

Discussion:

Statements by the UN Security Council Members and other UN Member States as time permits, Q&A. Interventions are suggested to be limited to 3 minutes.

Logistics:

To register and to request further information please contact the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, at *hrteam.rusun@gmail.com*.