



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/2002/L.19
16 April 2002

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 13

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Nigeria (on behalf of States members of the African Group): draft resolution

2002/... Abduction of children from northern Uganda

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights (A/CONF.157/23), which expressed concern about violations of human rights during armed conflicts affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled,

Recalling also the obligation to respect and strictly observe international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war, the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and other applicable instruments of international law,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict, which strengthens international standards that protect war-affected children,

Recalling its resolution 2000/60 of 26 April 2000, in which it requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an assessment of the situation of the abduction of children from northern Uganda on the ground in the affected areas,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/56/342-S/2001/852) submitted to the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the findings and recommendations presented in the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (A/56/453),

Deeply concerned at the continuing abduction, torture, detention, rape, enslavement and forced recruitment of children from northern Uganda,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the mission undertaken by her Office pursuant to Commission resolution 2000/60 to assess the situation on the ground with regard to the abduction of children from northern Uganda (E/CN.4/2002/86);

2. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the Lord's Resistance Army for the continued abduction, torture, killing, rape, enslavement and forcible recruitment of children in northern Uganda;

3. *Demands* the immediate cessation of all abductions and attacks on civilian populations, particularly women and children, in northern Uganda by the Lord's Resistance Army;

4. *Calls* for the immediate and unconditional release and safe return of all abducted children currently held by the Lord's Resistance Army;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, to continue to provide assistance to the victims and their families suffering from the effects of torture inflicted by the Lord's Resistance Army;

6. *Urges* Member States, international organizations, humanitarian bodies and all other concerned parties with any influence on the Lord's Resistance Army to exert all possible pressure on it to release, immediately and unconditionally, all children abducted from northern Uganda;

7. *Also urges* all Member States to support sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for abducted children and their dependants, including the provision of psychosocial assistance, basic education and vocational training, taking into account the special protection needs of girls and women;
8. *Welcomes* the bilateral agreement between the Sudan and Uganda signed by the Presidents of the two countries at Nairobi on 8 December 1999;
9. *Also welcomes* the re-establishment of full diplomatic relations between the Sudan and Uganda and the reopening of resident embassies by the two countries in Khartoum and Kampala;
10. *Further welcomes* the return of some of the abducted children and calls for more efforts to be exerted to release the remaining children held in captivity by the rebels;
11. *Expresses its appreciation* of the commitment made by the Governments of the Sudan and Uganda to make a special effort to locate persons, especially children, who have been abducted in the past and to return them to their families;
12. *Notes* the recent efforts exerted by the Governments of the Sudan and Uganda, complemented by those of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund and intergovernmental organizations, which resulted in the identification and reunification of more of those children with their families;
13. *Underscores* the gravity of the matter and urges the United Nations and the international community to continue concerted efforts aimed at improving the situation concerning the abduction of children and meeting the needs of the victims;
14. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-ninth session under the same agenda item.
