Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your joint letter addressed to the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General welcomes your engagement, takes note of your concerns, and values the close cooperation and exchange with civil society organizations as key partners in the protection of children.

The Secretary-General continues to prioritize the plight of children affected by armed conflict. He has emphasised that those children are particularly vulnerable, both in his appeal for a global ceasefire of 23 March and in the Policy Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on Children, of 16 April.

In 2019, the engagement of his Special Representative, and that of the United Nations, resulted in additional concrete time-bound commitments by listed parties to end and prevent violations. This demonstrates the continued relevance of the constructive engagement of the United Nations to address trends identified by the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

However, we remain concerned by high levels of grave violations committed against children in 2019. We will continue to closely assess these situations and urge all parties to comply with their commitments to protect children.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I thank you for your respective organizations’ continued commitment to protect children and to deliver concrete outcomes for them. I encourage you to continue engaging with the Secretary-General’s Special Representative to further discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Volker Türk
Assistant Secretary-General
for Strategic Coordination

Amnesty International
Center for Civilians in Conflict
ChildFund Alliance
Child Rights International Network
Defence for Children International
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
Human Rights Watch
International Bureau for Children’s Rights
International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect
International Rescue Committee
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Physicians for Human Rights
Plan International
Save the Children
Terre des Hommes International Federation
Unitarian Universalist Association
Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
Women’s Refugee Commission
World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy
World Vision International