

## *Recommendations issued from the meeting with the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law to Strengthen the Protection of Children and Education in Libya*

Considering the negative impact of the armed conflict in Libya on the life of children, their physical and mental health as well as their education, and considering the long-term consequences thereof on durable peace, and development;

Affirming the commitment to protect the civilian population, in particular children, and to respect their right to a dignified life, with the best interest of the child as a primary consideration;

Recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance and understanding that “children” refer to persons below the age of eighteen years. Stressing the importance, in all circumstances, of full respect for applicable international humanitarian law and the relevant conventions that Libya has ratified and is party to, in particular the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict;

Recognizing that the recruitment of children into armed forces or armed groups and their use in hostilities are prohibited by International Humanitarian Law;


Recognizing the importance of ensuring the safety of civilian objects, and in particular schools, during and in the aftermath of armed conflict, as laid out in the Safe Schools Declaration;

Recognizing that armed forces and armed groups have equal responsibilities to uphold International Humanitarian Law and to protect children before during and in the aftermath of of armed conflict;

We affirm the importance of taking action to strengthen the protection of children and to ensure the safety of education during and in the aftermath of armed conflict, and recommend taking the following measures:

- 1- To prohibit and to take all possible measures to prevent the recruitment and use of children under 18 by armed forces or armed groups, as well as to facilitate the safe demobilization and reintegration of children that have been previously engaged in hostilities.
- 2- To ensure children are not forcibly associated with armed forces or armed groups for any supporting activity whether combat-related or otherwise.
- 3- To encourage children to not accompany armed forces or armed groups during military operations and to take all feasible measures to reduce the impact of such operations on children and their families.







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- 4- To encourage governmental actors to take concrete steps to protect students, educational personnel and facilities during and in the aftermath of armed conflict.
- 5- To ensure coordination and cooperation among the relevant ministries and civil society organizations in order to strengthen the protection of education and provide assistance to those affected.
- 6- To invite Libya to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration and ensure the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict are used and reflected in domestic policy and operational frameworks.
- 7- To affirm the importance of compliance by armed forces and armed groups with domestic and international laws protecting civilians, and especially children, from the effects of armed conflict and violence.
- 8- To emphasize to international actors and organizations the importance of contributing to the strengthening of the role of State institutions and national committees for the protection of child rights in Libya as well as the institutions and committees concerned with International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, by providing technical support and specialized training to their personnel through the means and methods specified according to domestic law.

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