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Statement to the Press by Jean-Marc de La Sablière Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations In his capacity of chairman of the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict (New York, 26 June 2006)

The Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict, established pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005), held its fourth meeting today, June 26.

On its last meeting on May 2, the Group was briefed by Ms Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict. She exposed her vision of her mandate, as well as the current state of the implementation of resolution 1612. The Working Group of the Security Council also adopted essential documents for its good functioning such as its program of work and its terms of reference.

After having adopted its necessary tools to fulfill its mandate, the Group is now dealing with more concrete issues. It examined today for the first time a report of the Secretary General on a specific case. This report is built on information given by the monitoring and reporting mechanism established pursuant to resolution 1612 (2005).

This first report deals with the Democratic Republic of Congo and has been published under the classification S/2006/389. It was presented by Ms Coomaraswamy and Ms Salah, the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

The Group discussed the report in the presence of the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It will decide by its next meeting in August what concrete steps it will take following the recommendations of the report.

The Group also listened to Ms Salah's information concerning developments in other situations of concern, in particular in Sri Lanka and Somalia. Ms Coomaraswamy briefed the Group on the results of her recent mission in Ouganda. The Group will continue to follow these issues very closely.

Finally, Ambassador de la Sablière, in his capacity of Chairman of the Group, announced that he would soon publish an activity report addressed to the Security Council. He also informed members of the Working Group that a ministerial debate of the Security Council on children and armed conflict will take place on July 24. The debate will be chaired by Mr. Douste Blazy, France's Minister of Foreign Affairs.