

Malaysia Pledges Continuous Action Protecting Children In Armed Conflict
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has pledged continuous campaigns and efforts for children affected by armed conflicts around the globe.

The country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), Datuk Hussein Haniff delivered the promise at the 53rd meeting of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in New York, yesterday.

According to Hussein's text of speech, which was sent to Bernama here today, the protection of children in armed conflicts demanded serious and undivided attention from the Council.

"We believe that the safety and security of children is a moral obligation that should not be politicized. For this reason, it is especially imperative for the Council to speak with one voice on the issue of children," he said

The statement said that Hussein chaired the first formal meeting of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict under Malaysia's chairmanship yesterday.

Hussein said Malaysia intended to maintain good engagement with concerned Member States to ensure that comprehensive, realistic and tangible progress was made on the conclusions that the Working Group issued.

He said the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict was established pursuant to Resolution 1612, on July 26, 2005, and it comprised all members of the UNSC.

The Group was mandated to review reports on the situation of children and armed conflict; assessed the progress in the implementation of action plans by parties to conflict to end grave violations against children and provided recommendations on the measures to be taken with respect to the protection of children in armed conflicts, he said.

"The role and views of civil society were also important and we hope to create more opportunities for positive interaction," he said.

He also said Malaysia would hold the Presidency of the Council in June 2015 and it intended to convene a Ministerial-level open debate taking up the annual report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict.

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