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> Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the offices of the Special Representatives recommendations of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children

**Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services** 

## Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-ninth session to review the implementation of its recommendations three years after taking decisions on evaluations submitted to the Committee (see A/37/38, para. 362). The present triennial review determined the extent to which the five recommendations emanating from the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) programme evaluation of the offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children were implemented.

The triennial review was conducted through: (a) a review and analysis of biennial progress reports on the status of OIOS recommendations; (b) an analysis of relevant information, documents and reports; and (c) interviews with office staff.

OIOS determined that all five recommendations had been implemented.

In recommendation 1, the offices were to enhance their communication strategies. In response, all three offices updated their communications strategies, which incorporate performance benchmarks and prioritize partnerships and joint advocacy efforts across the three offices. The offices also strengthened their internal communications and external coordination with partners and expanded their social media presence across various platforms.

<sup>\*\*</sup> E/AC.51/2022/1.





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<sup>\*</sup> The dates for the substantive session are tentative.

In recommendation 2, the offices were to strengthen their respective headquarters coordination task forces. The Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict strengthened its cooperation with partners within the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Technical Reference Group. The Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict reviewed and reconfigured the secretariat of United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. In addition, the Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children revitalized the Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children.

In recommendation 3, the offices were to continue to develop options for incorporating lessons learning mechanisms into their work programmes. In response, all three offices invested in and expanded their lesson learning and evaluation capacity, albeit to different degrees. These efforts included the establishment of a new evaluation focal point and policy for children and armed conflict, reviews of the 2015–2019 joint programme of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict and of the United Nations Action multi-partner trust fund, and the development of plans for a centralized dashboard serving as a hub for both staff and external partners to access thematic and regional information on violence against children.

In recommendation 4, the offices were to introduce regular risk assessment and strategic planning into their work programmes. All three offices strengthened their capacities in this regard, including through regular staff meetings and retreats. In addition and more specifically, the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict integrated evaluative practices more centrally into its main strategic planning documents; the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict published a new strategic framework for United Nations Action and incorporated strengthened planning and risk assessment into its programme and communication workplan; and the Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children improved its overall approach to planning and strengthened its strategic engagement with United Nations country teams and inter-agency planning.

In recommendation 5, the offices were to enhance coordination and cooperation among themselves. In response, they improved and increased their collaboration, including through joint work planning, information-sharing, coordinated reporting and joint communications. This occurred through a variety of means, including joint statements, meetings, communication, events, reports and common campaigns.

# I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-ninth session, in 2019, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of the offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children (E/AC.51/2019/6).

2. The Committee expressed appreciation for the report and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the five recommendations contained in paragraphs 56 to 60.

3. In the present triennial review, OIOS examined the status of implementation of the five recommendations contained in its evaluation report. All five were assessed to have been implemented.

4. The methodology for the triennial review included:

(a) A review and analysis of biennial progress reports on the status of recommendations, which are monitored through the Teammate+ recommendation tracking database of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services;

(b) An analysis of relevant information, documents and reports obtained from the offices on various issues related to the recommendations;

(c) Interviews conducted by telephone with staff of the offices.

5. The report incorporates comments of the three offices received during the drafting process. A final draft was shared with the offices for their final comments, which are provided in the annex to the present report. OIOS expresses its appreciation for the cooperation and assistance provided by the offices in the preparation of the report.

## **II. Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation 1**

6. Recommendation 1 reads as follows:

Enhance their communication strategies to more effectively share their advocacy messages, taking into consideration the following components:

- (a) Establishment of performance benchmarks for engagement through social media and other communication activities against which to measure results;
- (b) Strengthening of synergies with United Nations media channels, including the Department of Public Information and partners in the field with inhouse communications capacity;
- (c) For the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children, formulation of more targeted campaign initiatives.

*Indicator of achievement*: revised communications strategies that factor in relevant components mentioned above

7. All three offices updated their communications strategies in 2019. The revised strategies contain reviews of the role of communication tools and campaigns in achieving the offices' respective advocacy goals and incorporate performance benchmarks, such as the frequency of social media posts, website objectives, the number of events and the frequency of emails. The strategies also contain references

to partnerships and joint advocacy efforts across the three offices. These are evidenced by the significant number of statements, campaigns and events jointly produced by two or more of the offices over the past three years (see also para. 28 on further collaboration across the three offices), including:

(a) The Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children, together with the League of Arab States, calling for the protection of children in the Arab region;<sup>1</sup>

(b) The Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict reporting on the increase in incidents of sexual violence in Somalia;<sup>2</sup>

(c) All three offices making statements on human rights and humanitarian concerns related to conflict-affected women and children in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>3</sup>

8. The offices also further enhanced their internal communications, both within and between offices. This included enhanced information-sharing practices, such as an internal intranet platform, between the offices of the Special Representatives on Violence against Children and on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as coordinated messaging around missions to countries of common interest, before issuing statements, and in the conduct of advocacy campaigns. For example, the offices of the Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflict and on Sexual Violence in Conflict aligned their messaging to Member States in preparation for the reauthorization in March 2021 of the African Union Mission in Somalia. Finally, in response to the remote working requirements brought about by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children developed an internal SharePoint site with tagged content for streamlining access to, among other things, the statements and office working practices of the Special Representative.

9. The three offices also enhanced communications with key partners, including United Nations entities. These efforts included:

(a) A coordinated campaign by the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of its mandate;<sup>4</sup>

(b) Regular coordination between the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the United Nations Communications Group, including a video produced jointly with the video unit of the Department of Global Communications on solidarity between religious leaders and survivors of conflictrelated sexual violence;<sup>5</sup>

(c) Expansion of the website of the Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children to provide content in all six official languages of the United Nations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/news/preventing-violations-and-violence-againstchildren-arab-region-joint-statement-league-arab.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UN News, "Somalia: call for urgent action following 'alarming' 80 per cent rise in sexual violence", 5 August 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/press-release/joint-statement-on-human-rights-and-humanitarian-concerns-related-to-conflict-affected-women-and-children-in-syria-and-iraq.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See, for example, www.unicef.org/press-releases/joint-statement-unicef-executive-directorhenrietta-fore-and-special-representative.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Available at www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/video/religious-leaders-stand-in-solidaritywith-survivors-of-conflict-related-sexual-violence.

10. Finally, all three offices expanded their social media presence in line with their communications strategies. Since the publication of the 2019 evaluation report, the number of Twitter and Facebook followers for each office grew, respectively, from 38,212 to 43,300 and 15,720 to 24,589 (Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict); 43,804 to 59,979 and 33,325 to 39,550 (Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict); and 5,922 to 24,700 and 4,293 to 6,441 (Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children).

11. Based on the above actions, OIOS assessed the status of this recommendation as implemented. OIOS encourages the offices to continue to update their communications strategies on a regular basis to reflect their shifting advocacy priorities and working contexts.

#### **Recommendation 2**

12. Recommendation 2 reads as follows:

Strengthen their respective headquarters task forces, in consultation with their partners, specifically:

- (a) For the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, by assessing the feasibility of enlarging the current narrow focus of the Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict on the annual report to include wider coordination considerations;
- (b) For the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, by identifying and implementing measures to improve United Nations Action so that it better supports coordination of programme activities;
- (c) For the Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children, by ensuring the Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children holds frequent and regular meetings with the participation of its members as well as further identifying ways in which the Office and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children can mutually support the shared goal of accelerating progress towards Sustainable Development Goal target 16.2.

Indicator of achievement: meeting agendas, minutes, follow-up notes and any other relevant documentation demonstrating strengthened coordination function

13. All three offices have taken steps to implement this recommendation. To strengthen its inter-agency coordination, the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict strengthened its cooperation with partners within the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Technical Reference Group, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and other United Nations actors. The Office provided minutes demonstrating coordination among the members on thematic issues such as abduction and around individual country situations.

14. To promote broader coordination, the Office also engaged in a series of regional workshops in partnership with UNICEF, consulting with country task forces on monitoring and reporting, their equivalents in non-monitoring and reporting mechanism countries, including United Nations country teams, and the regional offices of United Nations entities. The consultations were focused on strategic and political engagement around the mandate of the Office as well as best practices and lessons learned in its implementation. For the first time, the Office published a joint report on the results of the four workshops, stressing the necessity of a coordinated United Nations approach to end and prevent grave violations of children's rights in

situations of armed conflict and recommending that the joint consultation approach be repeated every five years.<sup>6</sup>

15. In strengthening its inter-agency coordination, the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict published a strategic framework for United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict for 2020–2025, which resulted from the review and reconfiguration of the United Nations Action secretariat. The new configuration is supported by a set of terms of reference for several entities, including the conflict-related sexual violence multi-partner trust fund, the United Nations Action steering committee, the United Nations Action secretariat and the United Nations Action focal points. The secretariat communicates regularly with the steering committee principals and convenes regular focal point meetings. Membership currently stands at 21 entities, compared with 13 at the time of the 2019 OIOS report, and includes the offices of the Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflict and on Violence against Children, neither of which were members at the time of publication of the 2019 report.

16. Furthermore, with regard to stronger inter-agency coordination, the Special Representative on Violence against Children sought to revitalize the Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children. At her first meeting with the Group in Geneva in November 2019, members discussed revamping the Group and its working methods. At the second meeting in January 2020, they discussed promoting joint action and messaging around the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including target 16.2, in the light of the decade of action for the Goals. She continues to play a leadership role in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children by, for example, serving on its governance board.

17. Based on the above actions, OIOS assessed the status of this recommendation as implemented.

#### **Recommendation 3**

18. Recommendation 3 reads as follows:

Continue to develop options for incorporating lesson learning mechanisms into their work programmes to collect best practices, including on the work of other United Nations entities and results achieved by national Governments. This should take into consideration other related knowledge management platforms such as those housed within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other United Nations partners.

Indicator of achievement: plan with options for lesson learning mechanisms

19. All three offices invested in and expanded their lessons learning and evaluation capacity, albeit to different degrees. At the beginning of 2020, the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict established a new evaluation focal point dedicated to collecting, analysing, logging and tracking the implementation of recommendations resulting from evaluation and self-evaluation exercises. This is supported by a new evaluation policy and feeds into the Office's programme plan and budget and the yearly senior manager's compact of the Special Representative. In addition, the Office has undertaken a process of collecting and disseminating lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of the children and armed conflict mandate to enhance its action to better protect conflict-affected children. Examples of such efforts include the Global Coalition for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Consolidated recommendations from the regional consultations on children and armed conflict, October 2021. Consultations were held for the Middle East and North Africa (Amman, November 2018), East Africa and the Great Lakes region (Nairobi, January 2019), South and South-east Asia (Bangkok, August 2019) and West and Central Africa and Colombia (Dakar, January 2020).

Reintegration of Child Soldiers, co-chaired by the Office and UNICEF;<sup>7</sup> practical guidance for mediators to protect children in situations of armed conflict;<sup>8</sup> guidelines on best working practices in realizing its mandate under the conditions wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic; the Office's twenty-fifth anniversary report on the evolution and implementation of its mandate; a forthcoming study of the gender dimensions of grave violations against children; and a forthcoming study of the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. The Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict enhanced the integration of lessons learning into its strategic documents and planning processes through a variety of means. Examples cited by the Office include reviews, such as those of the 2015–2019 joint programme of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict and of the United Nations Action multipartner trust fund (see A/75/6 (Sect. 1), para. 1.127); reports, including annual reports and the final report of the multi-partner trust fund; the joint programme proposal of the Team of Experts; and retreats, such as regular women's protection advisers' retreats held jointly with the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which the Office of the Special Representative attended, and office-wide planning retreats, held most recently in February 2022.

21. The Office of the Special Representative on Violence against Children integrated lessons learning at a strategic level within the Office and further developed its knowledge management capacity. In addition to a SharePoint site (see para. 8), this included plans for a centralized dashboard serving as a hub for both staff and external partners to access thematic and regional information. The dashboard will be further linked to the Office's strategic priorities and performance indicators, which will in turn facilitate reporting. In addition, the Office publishes lessons learned in its regular thematic and annual reporting, such as the report of July 2019 entitled *Keeping the Promise: Ending Violence against Children by 2030*.

22. Based on the above actions, OIOS assessed this recommendation as implemented. OIOS encourages all three offices to continue to strengthen their lesson learning at a strategic level and further integrate these processes into their working practices.

#### **Recommendation 4**

23. Recommendation 4 reads as follows:

Introduce regular risk assessment and strategic planning into their work programmes, to better target where and how they will engage at the country, regional and global levels. This should also include consideration of the roles of the offices of the Special Representatives in relation to their regional and country-level United Nations partners, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

*Indicator of achievement*: development of strategic risk assessment and planning mechanisms by the offices of the Special Representatives

24. The three offices took varying and somewhat different steps to introduce regular risk assessment and strategic planning into their work. As noted in paragraph 19, the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict established an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/global-coalition-for-reintegration-of-child-soldiers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, "Practical guidance for mediators to protect children in situations of armed conflict" (2020). Available at https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Practicalguidance-for-mediators-to-protect-children-in-situations-of-armed-conflict.pdf.

evaluation focal point and policy to integrate evaluative practices more centrally into its main strategic planning documents: the programme plan and budget and the annual senior manager's compact. To take stock of progress made and carry out remedial action if needed, the Special Representative holds a weekly meeting with the Office's three heads of unit and two or three meetings with all staff each year. In addition, the Office contributed to the statement of internal control initiative led by the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to identify risks and adopt remedial action.<sup>9</sup> The Office also completed a survey and related matrices for the 2020 and 2021 cycles and at the time of writing was in the process of finalizing its contribution to the 2021 matrices. It participated in an enterprise risk management workshop organized by the Department in December 2021 and has plans to complete a risk assessment and register.

25. Risk assessment and planning within the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict is centralized through its programme and communication workplan and consists of regular meetings, workshops and strategic documents.<sup>10</sup> The Special Representative holds weekly meetings with the Office's heads of unit, in addition to regular thematic meetings on diverse topics, such as COVID-19,<sup>11</sup> communications, and monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements. As noted in paragraph 20, the Office also convenes regular joint meetings of women's protection advisers. Risk assessment and mitigation are included in the Office's strategic documents; for example, the most recent United Nations Action strategic framework outlines prevention and risk mitigation measures as a key aspect of the second of five outcomes of its theory of change.<sup>12</sup>

26. Since taking office in 2019, the Special Representative on Violence against Children has incorporated planning and risk assessment centrally into the Office's management. This includes annual planning and quarterly reviews, regular planning retreats, meetings with all staff and with heads of unit, strategic engagement with United Nations country teams and strengthened inter-agency planning. To help to promote the integration of its priorities into national development planning, the Office established a child-sensitive and child-inclusive voluntary national review process that encourages Governments to report on Sustainable Development Goal targets related to children.<sup>13</sup> This has included strengthened outreach to partners, including regional intergovernmental entities such as the Council of Europe, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the African Union. The Office incorporates risk assessment into its annual workplan retreat and as a standing component of the Special Representative's weekly meetings with all staff.

27. Based on the above actions, OIOS assessed this recommendation as implemented. OIOS encourages continued progress to further integrate risk assessment and strategic planning into programmes of work.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See https://reform.un.org/sites/reform.un.org/files/2107156e\_sic\_en.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See, for example, the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict strategic framework 2020–2025 (18 March 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, "Policy brief: implications of COVID-19 for the prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence" (May 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict strategic framework 2020–2025, pp. 2 and 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/sites/violenceagainstchildren.un.org/files/2020/ vnr\_lab/vnr\_lab\_at\_hlpf\_2020\_on\_children.pdf.

#### **Recommendation 5**

28. Recommendation 5 read as follows:

Enhance the coordination and cooperation between the three offices, taking into consideration the following components:

- (a) Joint work planning, including assessment of possible efficiency gains achieved through joint mission travel;
- (b) Additional information-sharing in areas of common focus;
- (c) Collaboration around joint media campaigns and other communication activities;
- (d) For the offices of the Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflict and on Sexual Violence in Conflict, joint review of opportunities for increased coherence of data collection and reporting using the monitoring and reporting mechanism and the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements.

*Indicator of achievement*: relevant documentation demonstrating enhanced coordination and cooperation, including documentation of joint planning meetings

29. The three offices shared evidence of significant collaboration on joint work planning, information-sharing, coordinated reporting and joint communications. These efforts occurred through a variety of means and forums, including joint statements, meetings, communication, events, reports and campaigns (see paras. 7 and 8). Examples include:

(a) Participation of staff of the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in the women's protection advisers' retreat organized by the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict;

(b) Early engagement between the three offices on reports, including alignment between the offices of the Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflict and on Sexual Violence in Conflict on common issues;

(c) Development of a special report of the Secretary-General on women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict and children born of sexual violence in conflict (S/2022/77), which was led by the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict in coordination with the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict and with the endorsement of the Office of the Special Representative on Violence Against Children.

30. Based on the above actions, OIOS assessed this recommendation as implemented.

## **III.** Conclusion

31. The three offices provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that they had implemented all five recommendations in the OIOS evaluation report. Through their actions, the offices indicated their progress in enhancing internal and external communications, strengthening coordination with their headquarters task forces, incorporating evaluative practices and lessons learning into their work programmes, integrating risk assessment and strategic planning more centrally and bolstering their communication and collaboration across the three offices.

32. Early indications of positive changes already identified with these actions, as reported by staff interviewed and as assessed in documents reviewed, included:

(a) Growth of United Nations Action to 21 members, including the offices of the Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflict and on Violence against Children, including core groups on terrorism and prevention;

(b) More extensive coordination between the three offices around countries of common interest, including Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia and the Sudan;

(c) Increased alignment, information-sharing and dialogue across regional offices in Asia, West Africa, East Africa and the Middle East around strategic priorities of relevance to children and armed conflict;

(d) Provision of data by the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict in countries where the latter does not have a field presence;

(e) Progress towards implementing a centralized dashboard to serve as a hub for both staff and partners for thematic and regional information of relevance to violence against children.

### Annex\*

# Comments received from the offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children

## Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

With reference to the memo sent to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on 3 March 2022 (attached for reference),<sup>1</sup> I thank you for the work undertaken by OIOS to conduct this review and for sharing the outcome of this exercise with our Office.

## Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) evaluation focused on a range of areas including communications, coordination, lessons learned, risk assessment and collaboration among the three offices. In this connection, we wish to extend our appreciation to OIOS for a constructive review of critical aspects of the work of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC).

The report of the Triennial review determined that all five recommendations have been implemented. Indeed, our efforts have surpassed the expectations outlined in the recommendations. The Triennial review recognized that OSRSG-SVC has made great strides in communications, coordination and strategic planning, including in the service of reinforcing the survivor-centred approach.

In this regard, membership within United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network, chaired by the Special Representative, has increased from 13 in 2019 to 21 entities. Moreover, sustained advocacy efforts shed light on an often overlooked category of victims. The OSRSG-SVC, in coordination with the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, compiled a Special Report of the Secretary-General on Women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict and children born of sexual violence in conflict published on 31 January 2022 (S/2022/77), which includes a platform of political, policy and operational recommendations.

OSRSG-SVC is pleased to inform OIOS and the Committee for Programme and Coordination that, while this exercise constituted a considerable outlay of time, the areas jointly identified in the Review continue to form the basis for critical planning

<sup>\*</sup> In the present annex, the Office of Internal Oversight Services sets out the full text of comments received from the offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children. The practice has been instituted in line with General Assembly resolution 64/263, following the recommendation of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On file with the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

and implementation including in emerging priority areas of focus, such as prevention. We now consider this exercise closed and wish to take this opportunity to thank the OIOS evaluation staff for this consultative exercise.

# Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

I write further to the memorandum of 3 March related to the triennial review on the implementation of OIOS recommendations in the report on the evaluation of the Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children (E/AC.51/2019/6).

My mandate's comments on earlier drafts have all been reflected in the report and I do not have any further comments to make.

I welcome the finding that my mandate has implemented all five recommendations from the OIOS evaluation report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank OIOS for their support throughout this process.