The plight of children – not least in armed conflict – continues to concern us all. The UNC has been instrumental in bringing attention to the plight of children in armed conflict and the impact on them of conflict. The Office of the High Commissioner for Child Rights (OHCHR) has been at the forefront of this work.

The OHCHR plays a crucial role in these efforts.

We welcome the continued presence of the OHCHR in Colombia, not least in light of the continued abduction of children and reports of sexual violence, especially against girls, by parties to the conflict.

In Sri Lanka, the conflict is still ongoing, and children continue to be recruited both by the LTTE and the Tamil faction. The need for a strengthened presence by the OHCHR – with access to all parts of the country – is evident. Your continued support is crucial.

Thank you, Mr. President.