



**EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**

**CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA
10-13 JANUARY 2000**

**Joint Communiqué
Annex III**

Resolutions adopted at the 8th Annual Meeting

Resolution on War-Affected Children*

(APPF8/RES/5)

Submitted by the Canadian Delegation

We, the Parliamentarians of the APPF, gathered at the 8th Annual Meeting in Canberra,

Deeply concerned by the abuse and targeting of children both as fighters and as victims of armed conflict as one of the most disturbing human security issues facing the world today; Recognizing the work of the United Nations system to assist and protect war-affected children, through the Security Council, the General Assembly, the office of the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, and the UN Agencies;

Resolve to: 1. Take all feasible measures to protect and assist children affected by armed conflict, promote their needs and prevent the targeting of such children, inter alia, by respecting and promoting the rights and welfare of all children affected by armed conflict, including the right to education, health, birth registration, family reintegration, and protection from violence and exploitation,

by addressing psycho-social as well as physical needs of war-affected children, by seeking to ensure that the needs and rights of children are integrated in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

2. Advocate the successful completion of a strong Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict for the 10th Anniversary of the coming into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3. Invite all Parliamentarians, civil society, young people and other relevant actors to work in partnership, both domestically and internationally, to realize these goals.

* The United States Delegation does not necessarily accept all aspects of this resolution.