

## **Ms. Leila Zerrougui**

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

### ***"Children in Armed Conflicts: Trends and United Nations Response"***

May 29, 2013

Ms. Leila Zerrougui was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict at the Under Secretary-General level in September 2012. In this capacity, she serves as a moral voice to build awareness and give prominence to the rights of children affected by armed conflict.

Prior to this appointment she was the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) where, since 2008, she spearheaded the Mission's efforts in strengthening the rule of law and protection of civilians.

A lawyer by training, Ms. Zerrougui was amongst other mechanisms, a member of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention under the United Nations Human Rights Council from 2001, and served as the Working Group's Chairperson-Rapporteur from 2003 until May 2008.

Children represent the majority of the population in countries affected by armed conflicts and are disproportionately affected by war. Their suffering bears many faces - they are recruited, killed and maimed, deprived of education and health care and separated from their families. Sexual violence is increasingly a characteristic of conflict with detrimental long-term psychological effects on children. During her lecture, Ms. Zerrougui will present recent trends in violations committed against children caught in conflicts with special emphasis on most pressing crisis. She will also inform the participants about the United Nations work and progress made to make the world a safer place for children.