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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Forty-Fourth Session  
Pre-sessional open-ended Working Group  
on the Question of a Convention on the  
Rights of the Child

25-29 January 1988

Article 20

Proposal submitted by SWEDEN

1. States Parties to the present Convention undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child.
2. States Parties to the present Convention shall take all necessary measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of eighteen years do not take part in hostilities and they shall refrain from recruiting into their armed forces persons below the age of fifteen years. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, the States Parties to the present Convention shall endeavour to give priority to those who are oldest.
3. In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties to the present Convention shall take all necessary measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.