

NAMIBIA

CRC OPTIONAL PROTOCOL (ARMED CONFLICT)

RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

(Unless otherwise indicated, the reservations and declarations were made upon ratification, accession or succession)

Declaration:

"Pursuant to article 3, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts, Namibia hereby declares:

1. The Namibian Defence Force permit voluntary recruitment at the minimum age of 18 years.
2. The Namibian Defence Force have adopted the following safeguards to ensure that recruitment of personnel at the age between 18 and 25 years is not forced or coerced.
 - (a) Advertisements on the availability of military career opportunities in the Namibian Defence Force are placed yearly in the local print and broadcast for the purposes of inviting interested young men and women to apply.
 - (b) As a standpoint the candidate is not obliged to accept the position if the Namibian Defence Force offer a particular position.
 - (c) Military career opportunities may emanate from Infantry, Engineering, Air wing, Maritime Wing, Communication and Medical Services. The potential recruits undergo instruction courses to give them an overview of what is expected of them as future soldiers in respect of military career opportunities stated under paragraph 2 c). The recruits may select their career paths after training.
 - (d) To ensure the absence of any possible form of remote or direct coercion the Namibian Defence Force requires that
 - i) the potential recruit should not have previous criminal records or convictions
 - ii) the potential recruits be Namibian Citizens
3. As a standpoint and policy Namibia Defence Force does not allow voluntary recruitment under the age of 18 years thus:
 - i) as proof of age requires that the candidates show certified copies of legally recognised Namibian identity documents as well as birth certificates.
4. All recruitments of personnel in the Namibian Defence Force are voluntary. Namibia does not

practice conscription or any form of forced obligatory service."