

I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

**Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia): Let me begin by joining previous speakers in extending our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on such an important subject. We thank the Secretary-General for his statement, and we are also grateful to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights for their respective briefings.

My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Every year, thousands of civilians fall victim to armed conflict. Their plight should always be our concern. It is our shared responsibility to alleviate their suffering wherever it occurs. The United Nations Charter unmistakably highlights this obligation.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Security Council's initial consideration of this issue and the sixtieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The nature of armed conflict has evolved since then, as have its causes and consequences. The wisdom that inspired the old Geneva Conventions should be renewed as the path to be taken to address the current circumstances. Likewise, it is a time to reflect on the achievements and on improvements that can bring about tangible results.

The past 10 years of the Council's consideration of this issue has set out a robust international normative framework and provided a wealth of experience and best practices. In spite of that, tremendous challenges still lie before us.

One of the most difficult tasks in the protection of civilians is the increasingly blurred line between armed groups, combatants and civilians. The lack of clarity has cost civilian lives. There is also the proliferation and fragmentation of non-State armed groups. Another key issue is the increasingly asymmetric nature of armed conflict, where the principles of distinction and proportionality are being violated. These challenges serve to highlight the need for reinvigorated commitment and determined comprehensive action.

In this connection, we wish to highlight two of the three thematic areas in the President's concept paper (S/2009/567, annex), related to the five core challenges described in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/277).

On strengthening the rule of law, enhancing compliance and ensuring accountability, Indonesia is cognizant of the fact that the key cause of failure in the protection of civilians in armed conflict stems from the lack of compliance and accountability by parties to conflict with respect to their moral and legal obligation to protect civilians. Indonesia stresses that when it comes to the protection of civilians, all parties to the conflict have equal responsibility. There are no distinctions in responsibility. There is one single responsibility. Everyone must adhere to that fundamental principle.

Indonesia values the constructive developments we have seen towards strengthening compliance and ensuring accountability through building national capacity. Only through this avenue can we, the international community, prevent the emergence of atrocities committed against civilians. Should local institutions fail to discharge their duty in the first instance, no amount of international assistance and effort can bring long-term results. Our focus and our dedication should be on strengthening local institutions.

The role of Member States in promoting compliance and accountability through domestic legislation and legal means is a vital building block in the prevention of violations against civilians; it merits increased support. We look forward to further developing other means and tools to strengthen national capacity. Due regard should continue to be paid to the special needs of women and children.

On improving the implementation of protection mandates by peacekeeping missions, Indonesia recognizes the role of peacekeeping missions in improving protection of civilians on the ground. We note that much more needs to be done in responding to situations where conflict may potentially re-emerge or has already re-emerged. Thus, we note with interest the detailed analysis conducted by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the

Department of Peacekeeping Operations. That study's key findings and recommendations should be thoroughly discussed by the troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Council working together.

We also value the effort to ensure that the protection of civilians is given high priority in decisions concerning the use of available capacity and resources in the implementation of mission mandates. We believe that these are vital steps for bridging the disconnect between mandates, intentions, expectations and capacity challenges to real implementation, as highlighted by the Secretary-General's report.

My delegation is fully convinced that a more effective measure for the protection of civilians is the prevention of conflict itself. This approach entails addressing the root causes of conflict. Resolution 1265 (1999) explicitly expressed the need to address the causes of armed conflict in order to enhance the protection of civilians on a long-term basis.

Finally, let me reiterate that the protection of civilians is a universal and timeless issue. Generation after generation has sought to find effective measures for protecting civilians from the looming danger of armed conflict. Our current discussion is part of that long and unbroken chain of efforts. Today's discussion is a way to reinvigorate us and encourage the quest for new solutions to address the issue and to strengthen existing mechanisms.