

**Mr. Natalegawa** (Indonesia): I should like to begin by thanking you, Sir, for organizing this meeting, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. John Holmes, for his statement.

Notwithstanding the pronounced focus on the issue of the protection of civilians in armed conflict over the past decade, the deplorable fact remains that civilians continue to fall victim to violence. Persistent violations include the deliberate targeting of civilians, the indiscriminate and excessive use of force, and sexual and gender-based violence in violation of international law, human rights law and refugee law. Indeed, in many instances we have witnessed attacks on relief workers, humanitarian aid convoys and others engaging in humanitarian assistance to civilians suffering the effects of war.

Indonesia has been and will continue to be firmly committed to addressing the impact of armed conflict on civilians. We are cognizant of the five core challenges to their protection identified in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/277). We concur that the failure of parties to comply fully with their obligation to protect civilians in armed conflict is key. In this respect, all parties to armed conflicts should adhere to relevant international law, including the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol.

We value the Security Council's efforts, consistent with its Charter-mandated responsibilities, in protecting civilians in armed conflict, which merit the wide support of regional and international actors alike. At the same time, it is worth underscoring that the best protection from armed conflict is its prevention and resolution. The Council should spare no effort in this area.

By the same token, the Security Council should lend its full support to the efforts of regional organizations in addressing dire humanitarian situations. A culture of protection must continually be promoted through regional and international organizations. This would sustain attention on the issue and promote concrete action by the various actors.

It is Indonesia's view that there are at least three key prerequisites with regard to this crucial issue. First, respect for humanitarian principles needs to be continuously maintained. The rapid and unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel should be ensured, consistent with international humanitarian law. Likewise, humanitarian personnel are subject to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence, and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States. Secondly, in the conduct of hostilities, parties should do everything feasible to protect civilians and civilian objects. Thirdly, examples of good practices should also be noted and, where feasible, implemented to ensure that populations in urgent need enjoy consistent assistance.

Finally, let me reiterate that all efforts to protect civilians in armed conflict must be founded on the tenets of human rights, security and development — the three pillars of the United Nations. These three principles should be reflected in the next report in commemoration of the tenth anniversary this coming November. The tenth anniversary should also serve to maintain the momentum by strengthening the United Nations system's capacity to work in a coordinated, coherent, comprehensive and cooperative manner with Member States and other stakeholders. An approach that includes development and humanitarian dimensions is required, and must be supported by the political will of States to ensure that civilians are protected in times of armed conflict and in times of peace.