



Argentina

CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD

DEBATE ABIERTO

“Protección de los civiles en conflictos armados”

Intervención de la Delegación Argentina

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SECURITY COUNCIL

OPEN DEBATE

“Protection of civilians in armed conflict”

Statement by the Argentine Delegation

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Mr. President

My delegation would like to thank you for convening this open debate on the protection of the civilians in armed conflicts.

At the same time we thank the Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Jan Egeland, for his briefing to the Council. We would also like to specially appreciate Mr. Egeland's excellent work leading OCHA in challenging times for the humanitarian community. His commitment and devotion made a difference in the life of populations affected by humanitarian emergencies, vulnerable groups, and displaced populations.

Mr. President

The situation described by the Emergency Relief Coordinator clearly shows the persistence of atrocities committed against civilians in a scale that goes beyond the statistical point of the increase or decrease of certain categories of violence or attacks.

My delegation strongly condemns those attacks and would like to reiterate that no national security consideration can prevail over the primary obligation of all States and parties to a conflict to fulfill the rules of international humanitarian law, contained in the Hague Conventions and the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols.

The Security Council has substantially contributed to the international regime of protection of civilians through its resolutions 1265, 1296 and 1674. At the same time, the Council has been given a clear mandate by the General Assembly to take collective action in a timely and decisive fashion to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The above mentioned legal framework places at the disposal of the Security Council a set of tools for the protection of civilians. It is the task of the Council to make full use of them.

In this respect, we would like to underline the importance of ensuring that the mandates of peacekeeping, political and peacebuilding missions include provisions regarding the protection of civilians, in particular groups requiring special attention, women and children. Those provisions should also address matters related to ensuring full and unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to civilians affected by armed conflict.

At the same time the Council has expressed its disposition to examine situations of systematic, flagrant and widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, to adopt adequate measures to contribute to the establishment of a secure environment, and to consider establishing zones and corridors to protect civilians and provide humanitarian assistance.

Mr. President

In addition to these important mandates there is areas in the work of the Council in this matter where further improvement can be achieved.

One example would be the improvement of the reporting mechanism on protection of civilians, in order to allow an appropriate follow-up in each of the situations included in the agenda of the Council.

The improvement of reporting mechanisms is also important in the initial moments of a crisis when civilians are affected and where early warning may allow the Council the deployment of preventive actions to protect civilians.

Finally, we consider that there is room to advance in the normative work of the Security Council on the protection of civilians, in particular in areas where current crises show that there is a clear need for further development.

The situations of internal displacement are one of those areas. We commend the work and the leadership of OCHA to provide assistance and protection to internally displaced persons. At the same time, broader mandates are needed if there is political will in the international community to address the issue in its complexity.

Other fields where further normative work can be explored include the linkages between small arms and protection of civilians, the disproportionate use of force and the uses of war.

Thank you, Mr. President.