

FORUM: United Nations Security Council

QUESTION OF: Examining Strategies of Civilian Protection in Areas of Armed Conflict

SPONSORS: United Kingdom, Japan

SIGNATORIES: USA, Slovenia, France, Egypt, ROK, Mexico, Malta, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, Algeria, South Africa

The United Nations Security Council,

Alarmed by statistics suggesting the deaths of over 30,000 civilians in war zones in 2023,

Noting with deep concern recent escalations in global conflicts since February 2022,

Acknowledging the increasing polarisation of global affairs when addressing such conflicts,

Deploring nations across the world who show a flagrant apathy towards harming civilians in pursuing their respective conflicts,

Stressing a need for UN organisations to be empowered in order to effectively aid and protect such civilians,

Recalling the significant numbers of civilian casualties in areas including but not limited to Ukraine, Gaza, Maghreb, Sudan, and the Sahel,

Regrets the intervention from external parties in armed conflict in order to establish more accountability and prevent the generation of more conflict,

Emphasising the highly bureaucratic nature of UN aid organisations, with agencies such as the FAO, IFAD, ILO, and UNIDO all playing separate and uncoordinated roles in attempting to aid civilians, without sharing of information through a centralised body, culminating in the current presence of 23 separate UN organisations operating in Gaza alone,

- 1) Recommends the implementation of more punitive sanctions enforced by the ICC to ensure IHL is observed by member states to facilitate a reduction in conflict and crimes from perpetrating nations, in the form of:
 - a) Economic sanctions,
 - b) Imposed UN surveillance, with certain restrictions as decided by the UN to protect the privacy of citizens,
 - c) Encouraging economic isolation;

- 2) Suggests the exploration of new and innovative technologies to ensure the accurate and secure protection and identification of civilians in conflict-affected areas to reduce exploitation and fraudulent attempts to collect humanitarian aid, including:
 - a) Forms of registration to prevent the exploitation of humanitarian aid,
 - b) Development of digital platforms and communication technologies,

- c) Early warning systems for armed forces attacks, the technology of which, can be transferred from relevant member states,
 - d) Surveillance of civilian areas through the use of satellite technology to supplement the early warning systems and contribute to the digital platform, moderated by UNCAIPs,
 - e) Responsibility by the UN to ensure that the AI information collected is managed by an independently reviewed committee called UNCAIP (UN Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Privacy) with proportionate international membership, to protect the privacy of civilians,
 - f) Responsibility by the UN to impose heavy privatisation regulations, developed by UNCAIP, on these technologies to ensure that there is less external interference in armed conflict zones,
 - g) Provisions for limits on privatisation, which would be applied to technology companies, private military contractors (PMCs), security and consulting firms, financial institutes and logistic and transportation companies;
- 3) Directs the formation of the UNDCA (United Nations Department for Conflicted Areas) to create a central organisation with UNDCA branches for regional governance, such that:
- a) UNDCA branches will comprise of permanent members, 5 rota-appointed non-permanent Security Council members, representatives of local conflict-ridden regions, and local powers,
 - b) UNDCA is empowered to appropriate funding and resources from all UN projects within the zones it is authorised to operate in, when deemed to be for the common good of their relevant civilian populations,
 - c) Any additional funding required may be taken from UN funds following approval by the UN Security Council,
 - d) The UN Security Council may block such appropriations at its discretion;
 - e) UNDCA can give administrative advice to help form governments in areas without civilian governance;
- 4) Supports intervention by UN member states to defend safe zones declared by the UNDCA, such that:
- a) This includes no-fly zones due to armed conflict,
 - b) Such votes would be subject to a P5 veto,
 - c) These interventions must be within the confines of international law and at the direction of the UNDCA,
 - d) UNDCA will be essential to mediate the hostility in armed conflict zones, through the contribution of UN resources,
 - e) UNDCA will only engage in mediation with consent from the countries engaged in the conflict;
- 5) Demands economic isolation through supporting efforts to punish countries that persist in failing to observe international humanitarian law by encouraging nations to limit

economic engagement, inhibiting arms trade, and sharing technological competencies until they comply with international norms and treaties;

- 6) Proposes the strengthening of repercussions for the breaking of IHL wherever clear evidence of war crimes is present, as decided by experts from the ICJ of the variety in question, through means such as but not limited to:
 - a) Affirming the ICC's authority to judge whether the IHL is being broken, and to suggest repercussions accordingly;
- 7) Further calls for the establishment of an oversight committee, (UNRAC - UN Refugee Aid Committee) to create an international fund to facilitate the housing and care of refugees for those who accept more than 5000 refugees and gives said committee the power to approve all aid requested from the fund, such that:
 - a) UNRAC will have proportional international representation, including P5 nations, without veto power, with local state actors included, for day to day activities;
- 8) Supports the provision of funding to developing nations taking in refugees or facilitating humanitarian corridors. Nations receiving aid to finance infrastructure can only receive aid that finances 50% of the total infrastructure cost for facilitating humanitarian corridors and an unlimited proportion of the cost of construction of facilities for the housing of refugees in other nations, including:
 - a) Aid travelling through humanitarian corridors should/ be proportionately funded by nations the aid is not travelling through,
 - b) A committee should be established to monitor the use of aid by countries to ensure proper use of aid by member states,
 - c) Aid to support relief & rehabilitation will primarily be channelled through international humanitarian organisations, and UN-led initiatives,
 - d) Refuge to civilians provided by particular countries, given that safety and security is properly regulated,
 - e) Provisions for to must be delivered prior, with regards to the arrival nation's input, to the arrival of refugees;
- 9) Demands the proportionate treatment of all civilians when receiving humanitarian aid, regardless of social factors under threat of military sanctions;
- 10) Urges member states to sanction a UN-relief team in civilian relief camps as a supervisory body to prevent unlawful attacks on civilian infrastructure to ensure the rightful scrutiny of attacks;
- 11) Suggests member states set up bootcamps, wherein citizens are taught protocols to adhere to in armed commotions, in order to minimise the potential threat to civilian life, in tandem with existing plans to protect civilians:
 - a) Member states will get assistance on a curriculum which would follow guidelines set by Norway's Conflict Preparedness and Protection program,

- b) Such protection bootcamps should include learning basic safety and survival skills so civilians are better prepared and protected from conflict in related threats to be implemented in partnership with local organisations enterprises;
- 12) Encourages the use of UN funds to ensure ample maintenance of supplies and necessities in humanitarian zones, and to increase existing aid when deemed appropriate by the UN Security Council;
- 13) Urges the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to take strict action against member states involved in forcefully displacing civilians;
- 14) Advocates for the regulation of the use of new military technologies in warfare through the following:
- a) Definitions on what is fair and lawful use of new military technologies,
 - b) Transparency on where new military technologies are being used,
 - c) Tests conducted by experts appointed by the UNCAIP to confirm the accuracy of AI systems, especially in terms of civilian identification, in order to protect the privacy of such civilians,
 - d) Software designed to seek to better management of emergency evacuations,
 - e) Sanctions for technology and information transfer proposed for those found to be in violation of the regulations proposed by a supermajority of UNCAIP,
 - f) Recommending the imposition of economic sanctions on private companies who fail to comply with the terms of UNCAIP;
- 15) Encourages collaboration with other nations, NGOs, and civil society groups with shared concerns about Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in conflict zones, involving;
- a) Empowering women and youth, while also prioritising the protection of children and other vulnerable groups and minorities,
 - b) Consultation with with other member states, particularly those directly affected by conflict, as well as the civilians placed in war zones;
- 16) Decides to remain actively seized on the matter.