Committee: Security Council

Topic A: Protection of Non-Fighters in armed conflicts

Dear delegates,

It’s an honor for us to have you here on CIDEBMUN 2017 in the committee Security Council. During this two days, we hope of you to reach a point of lucidity of what is happening in the world and make you think about workable solutions for those problems. At this UN simulation, we expect from you, delegate, to investigate and understand deeply this topic. The goal for this committee is to reach a solution that can be applied in real life.

On this year simulation, we will discuss the “Protection of Non-Fighters in armed conflicts”. The UN has declared that civilians have increasingly become the victims of armed conflict. In response, the Security Council has mandated a number of peacekeeping operations with the protection of civilians (POC) from physical violence. According to this information we hope that you as delegate can give a solution that can help improve this situation. We expect the best effort during these two days.

It’s so important for us that you as delegate develop some skills of debating and defend your point of view with valid arguments. Also, can help by expanding your research area by finding new sources more reliable.

“If you want to end war, the instead of sending guns, send books. Instead of sending tanks, send pens. Instead of sending soldiers, send teachers.”

-Malala Yousafzai

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Moderator: Juan Ángel Villarreal Reyes
Introduction

The Security Council is the most powerful body of the United Nations. It has the important responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. The UNSC possesses power to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international conflict and may recommend methods or terms of settlement to alleviate such matters. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

The Charter of the United Nations (1945) provides the Security Council with many powers in order to guarantee international peace and security. Functions of the Security Council as enshrined in the UN Charter are largely divided in two major sections: first in Chapter VI regarding the Pacific Settlement of Disputes and secondly in Chapter VII regarding Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression.

The Security Council has many subsidiary bodies that are established in the interest of permitting the Security Council to act in the defense of international peace and security, according to Article 29 of the UN Charter. Notably, these subsidiary organs include numerous ad-hoc Sanctions Committees, each dealing specifically with an individual case,
Quorum

1. Belgium
2. Bolivia
3. China
4. Egypt
5. Ethiopia
6. France
7. Germany
8. India
9. Iraq
10. Italy
11. Japan
12. Kazakhstan
13. Nigeria
14. Pakistan
15. Qatar
16. Russia
17. Saudi Arabia
18. Senegal
19. Sweden
20. Sweden
21. Turkey
22. United Kingdom
23. United States
24. Uruguay
25. Yemen
Topic Introduction

Topic A: Protection of non-fighters in armed conflicts

The committee of Security Council gives enforcement in the strategies to protect the non-fighters in armed conflicts. The Protection of Civilians (POC) is in charge of lending efforts to decrease the number of civilians affected by the problem. In addition to the previous program the United Nations Peacekeeping (UNP) has developed a list of programs to protect civilians. This alliance involves international organizations, specially NGO’s, agencies and institutions from multiple nations working together to achieve the final goal of the reducing the impact of armed conflicts to civilians, and living in a world, where each human can be safe against armed conflicts.

“This challenging mandate is often the yardstick by which the international community, and those whom we Endeavour to protect, judge our worth as peacekeepers. The first peacekeeping operation to have received this mandate was UNAMSIL - UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone in 1999”. Governments normally guarantee the basic human rights and physical security of their citizens. But when people become refugees this safety net disappears. Refugees fleeing war or persecution can be very vulnerable. They have no protection from their own state and it is often their own government that is persecuting them. If other countries do not let them in or protect them, they may be condemned to an intolerable situation where their basic rights, security and even their lives are in danger. That’s why the UN has created the UN Refugee Agency (RA).

Armed conflict in Afghanistan has not only caused hundreds of civilian deaths but has also had a negative impact on many aspects of people’s lives, according to a senior UN official. “Beyond civilian casualties, people have lost their houses, children have been deprived of education, livelihoods have been damaged, and displaced families face many problems,” Walter Kalin, representative of the UN Secretary-General for the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), told IRIN on 15 August. Since April, over 1,060 civilians have died in armed conflicts between Taliban insurgents and Afghan security forces backed by international troops, according to a confidential report prepared by Afghanistan’s Ministry of Interior (UN 2015).
Refugees in host countries have fled from their natal country due to multiple causes. The main causes are: that there is no sign that an armed conflict may end, there are less work opportunities causing a situation of extreme poverty within the region, children are having no education and starting at younger age to work and sometimes they are being forced to become part of the militia.

Due to all the refugees fleeing from their country the UN head squares in Geneva, Switzerland established on December 1950 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This commission protects and supports refugees at the request of a government or the UN; they assist in providing durable solutions, including returning or resettlement.

“The number of people dying in conflict-related violence has doubled in the last two years”, the UN said. Taliban fighters have been condemned for consistently and systematically violating international humanitarian laws in their hit-and-run insurgency, since 2002. However, civilian deaths in military operations conducted by international forces particularly US troops operating outside NATO writ and their Afghan allies have roughly balanced that of the Taliban. While many volatile areas in Afghanistan remain inaccessible to international aid organizations, the UN estimates that some 80,000 people have been displaced by insecurity, predominantly in the south, southwest and east of the country. Kalin, the UN representative for the human rights of IDPs, who was unable to visit IDP camps in the south of Afghanistan due to insecurity, has asked the world body and the government of Afghanistan to do more to assist people displaced in the conflict. “There is lack of a comprehensive strategy with different instruments in place that can meet the needs of IDPs,” Kalin said.

The host countries are experiencing rough times while looking for space for the refugees. Thus, countries are now closing borders and deciding not to accept any more refugees. Host countries such as Brazil, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Canada, France, Italy, and Romania are having trouble with money, space, and medicine for their refugees, leading to citizens complain about the preference of the usage of the resources on foreign issues. (UNHCR 2016)
UN Action

All four of the Secretary-General’s reports to the Security Council on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict produced since 2002 have referenced the ICC. Secretary-General Ban KiMoon has recognized the critical developments in extending the reach of international justice, particularly through the work of the International Criminal Court. He has called on Member States to cooperate fully with the ICC and for the “Council to take appropriate steps to encourage and facilitate such cooperation when it is not otherwise forthcoming.” The Secretary-General also stated that if abuses are not prevented it must at the very least be ensured that “their perpetrators, and those who bear political responsibility for violence against civilians, are held accountable for their actions.”

The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1738: Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America all cast votes in favor of adopting the draft resolution. The Council also recalled its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply with their obligations under international law to protect civilians in armed conflict and with regard to this obligation, emphasized the responsibility of States to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law.
Questions

- What is your government doing in response of this issue?
- How does your government invest in protecting civilians?
- Of this investment how much goes to the creation of new international refugees' centers?
- Is there any current organization that supports and help war victims in your country? If so
- Is your delegation associated with other ones to the creation of new resolutions?
- Does your country count with NGO’s that may help to this issue?
Recommended Sites


Bibliography (Topic A and B)