



## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/25493  
31 March 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

### NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following consultations with the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, at its 3190th meeting, on 31 March 1993, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping":

"The Security Council has continued its examination of the Secretary-General's report entitled 'An Agenda for Peace' (S/24111), including the problem identified in paragraphs 66-68 - the safety of United Nations forces and personnel deployed in conditions of strife. The Council has considered this question with regard to persons deployed in connection with a Security Council mandate.

"The Security Council commends the Secretary-General for drawing attention to this problem, including the unconscionable increase in the number of fatalities and incidents of violence involving United Nations forces and personnel. The Council shares fully the Secretary-General's concerns.

"The Security Council recognizes that increasingly it has found it necessary, in discharging its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to deploy United Nations forces and personnel in situations of real danger. The Council greatly appreciates the courage and commitment of these dedicated people who accept considerable personal risk in order to implement the mandates of this Organization.

"The Security Council recalls that it has been necessary on a number of occasions to condemn incidents directed against United Nations forces and personnel. It deplores the fact that, despite its repeated calls, incidents of violence continue.

"The Council considers that attacks and other acts of violence, whether actual or threatened, including obstruction or detention of persons, against United Nations forces and personnel are wholly unacceptable and may require the Council to take further measures to ensure the safety and security of such forces and personnel.

"The Security Council reiterates its demand that States and other parties to various conflicts take all possible steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations forces and personnel. It further demands that States act promptly and effectively to deter, prosecute and punish all those responsible for attacks and other acts of violence against such forces and personnel.

"The Security Council notes the particular difficulties and dangers that can arise where United Nations forces and personnel are deployed in situations where the State or States concerned are unable to exercise jurisdiction in order to ensure the safety and security of such forces and personnel, or where a State is unwilling to discharge its responsibilities in this regard. In such an eventuality, the Council may consider measures appropriate to the particular circumstances to ensure that persons responsible for attacks and other acts of violence against United Nations forces and personnel are held to account for their actions.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to report as soon as possible on the existing arrangements for the protection of United Nations forces and personnel, and the adequacy thereof, taking into account, inter alia, relevant multilateral instruments and status of forces agreements concluded between the United Nations and host countries, as well as comments he may receive from member States, and to make such recommendations as he considers appropriate for enhancing the safety and security of United Nations forces and personnel.

"The Security Council will consider the matter further in the light of the Secretary-General's report and of work done in the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, including, in particular, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2006 (XIX). In that regard, the Council recognizes the need for all relevant bodies of the Organization to take concerted action to enhance the safety and security of United Nations forces and personnel.

"The Security Council intends to continue its consideration of the Secretary-General's report entitled 'An Agenda for Peace', as indicated in the President's statement of 29 October 1992 (S/24728)."

-----

tion is incompatible with this commitment as well as with the purposes and principles of the Charter, and without effect.

“The Council welcomes the efforts of the Presidents and the Governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine to settle any differences between them by peaceful means and urges that they take all steps to ensure the avoidance of tension.

“The Council will remain seized of the matter.”

---

## SECURITY OF UNITED NATIONS OPERATIONS

### Decision

At its 3283rd meeting, on 29 September 1993, the Council decided to discuss the item entitled “Security of United Nations operations: report of the Secretary-General (S/26358)”<sup>1</sup>.

#### Resolution 868 (1993) of 29 September 1993

*The Security Council,*

*Recalling* the statement of 31 March 1993<sup>2</sup> made on its behalf by the President of the Security Council in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled “An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping”,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General of 27 August 1993 on the security of United Nations operations,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning privileges and immunities and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,<sup>4</sup> as applicable to United Nations operations and persons engaged in such operations,

*Expressing grave concern* at the increasing number of attacks and use of force against persons engaged in United Nations operations, and resolutely condemning all such actions,

*Welcoming* the initiatives being taken in the General Assembly to consider the elaboration of new instruments relating to the security and safety of United Nations forces and personnel, and noting the proposals of the Secretary-General in this regard,

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1993*.

<sup>2</sup> S/25493.

<sup>3</sup> *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1993*, document S/26358.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 22 A (I).

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of 27 August 1993 on the security of United Nations operations;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take forward those measures proposed in his report falling within his responsibilities, with a view, in particular, to ensuring that security matters are an integral part of the planning for an operation and that any such precautions extend to all persons engaged in the operation;

3. *Urges* States and parties to a conflict to cooperate closely with the United Nations to ensure the security and safety of United Nations forces and personnel;

4. *Confirms* that attacks and the use of force against persons engaged in a United Nations operation authorized by the Security Council will be considered interference with the exercise of the responsibilities of the Council and may require the Council to consider measures it deems appropriate;

5. *Confirms also* that if, in the view of the Council, the host country is unable or unwilling to meet its obligations with regard to the safety and security of a United Nations operation and personnel engaged in the operation, the Council will consider what steps should be taken appropriate to the situation;

6. *Determines* that, when considering the establishment of future United Nations operations authorized by the Council, the Council will require, *inter alia*:

(a) That the host country take all appropriate steps to ensure the security and safety of the operation and personnel engaged in the operation;

(b) That the security and safety arrangements undertaken by the host country extend to all persons engaged in the operation;

(c) That an agreement on the status of the operation and all personnel engaged in the operation in the host country be negotiated expeditiously and come into force as near as possible to the outset of the operation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when recommending the establishment or renewal of a United Nations operation by the Security Council, to take into account the provisions of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*Adopted unanimously at the 3283rd meeting.*

---

## THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

### Decisions

At its 3297th meeting, on 25 October 1993, the Council decided to invite the representatives of Burundi, Egypt, Mali and Zimbabwe to participate, without vote, in the discussion of the item entitled:

“The situation in Burundi:



## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/PRST/1997/13  
12 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

### STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3750th meeting of the Security Council, held on 12 March 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Security of United Nations operations", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its resolution 868 (1993) and expresses its grave concern at the recent increase in attacks and the use of force against United Nations and other personnel associated with United Nations operations, as well as personnel of international humanitarian organizations, including murder, physical and psychological threats, hostage taking, shooting at vehicles and aircraft, mine-laying, looting of assets and other hostile acts. The Council is also gravely concerned at attacks on and violations of United Nations premises. The Council is concerned that these attacks and the use of force have in some instances been carried out by certain groups with the deliberate goal of disrupting negotiating processes, international peacekeeping activities and hampering humanitarian access.

"The Security Council reiterates its condemnation of such acts. It emphasizes the unacceptability of any acts endangering the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, as well as personnel of international humanitarian organizations. The Council urges all Member States and others concerned to prevent and bring to an end all such acts. It stresses that the perpetrators of such acts bear responsibility for their actions and should be prosecuted.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of ensuring the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel as well as the inviolability of United Nations premises which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations. In this context it emphasizes that the host country and others concerned must take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and premises. It reiterates that the cooperation of all Member States and others concerned is indispensable for the mandates of United Nations operations to be carried out and demands that they respect fully the status of United Nations and associated personnel.

"The Security Council supports all efforts effectively to promote and protect the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. In this context the Council recalls the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1994.

"The Security Council pays tribute to all military, police and civilian staff of the United Nations and other personnel associated with United Nations operations, as well as personnel of international humanitarian organizations, for their courageous efforts to achieve peace and to alleviate the suffering of the people living in conflict areas."

-----



## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/PRST/1997/34  
19 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

### STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3790th meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 June 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the matter of protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations and has given careful consideration to the views expressed in the debate on the matter at its 3778th meeting on 21 May 1997.

"The Security Council notes that massive displacement of civilian populations in conflict situations may pose a serious challenge to international peace and security. The Council, in seeking protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations, underlines the importance of pursuing a coordinated and comprehensive approach in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the recent increase in attacks or use of force in conflict situations against refugees and other civilians, in violation of the relevant rules of international law, including those of international humanitarian law. The Council reiterates its condemnation of such acts and once again calls upon all those concerned to comply strictly with the relevant rules of international law. In particular, it calls upon all parties concerned to ensure the safety of refugees, displaced persons and other civilians, and guarantee the unimpeded and safe access of United Nations and other humanitarian personnel to those in need.

"The Security Council also expresses its grave concern at all attacks or use of force against United Nations and other personnel associated with United Nations operations as well as personnel of humanitarian organizations, in violation of the relevant rules of international law, including those of international humanitarian law. In this context, the Council recalls its resolution 868 (1993) and the statement by its President of 12 March 1997 (S/PRST/1997/13). It also recalls the

Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1994. In this context, it calls upon all parties concerned to ensure the safety and security of these personnel as well as personnel of humanitarian organizations, and encourages all States to consider ways and means to strengthen the protection of such personnel.

"The Security Council reminds all States and others concerned of the need to bring to justice those who violate international humanitarian law. In this context, it recalls the resolution on the establishment of an international criminal court adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 1996 (A/RES/51/207).

"The Security Council supports further exploration of ways and means by which the international community may enhance the compliance by parties concerned with the relevant rules of international law, including those of international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council encourages States to consider acceding to the relevant international conventions designed to address the problems of refugees.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of ensuring clear, appropriate and realistic mandates to be implemented in an impartial manner as well as adequate resources for United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this context, the Council, in establishing or authorizing an operation to protect humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations, reaffirms the principles of full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the States concerned. The Council also underlines the importance of ensuring the proper discharge of the mandates conferred upon peacekeeping operations.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of ensuring closer coordination between the relevant United Nations bodies and other international agencies, acting in accordance with their own mandates and status, with a view to effectively providing or protecting humanitarian assistance to those in need. In this context, the Council encourages an enhanced role for the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in coordination to this end.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of the activities of the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies and other international humanitarian organizations and the need for these activities to continue to be carried out in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian assistance.

"The Security Council also stresses the importance of crisis prevention, including by addressing the root causes of such crises. It therefore encourages the Secretary-General and all States to look further into practical ways to enhance the United Nations capacity and capability in this regard.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General to study further how to improve the protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations."



## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/PRST/2000/4\*  
11 February 2000  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND  
SPANISH

---

### STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 4100th meeting of the Security Council, held on 9 February 2000, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is gravely concerned at continued attacks against United Nations and associated personnel,<sup>1</sup> and humanitarian personnel, which are in violation of international law including international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council recalls its resolution 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999, and reaffirms the statements of its President of 31 March 1993, on the safety of United Nations forces and personnel deployed in conditions of strife (S/25493), of 12 March 1997, on condemnation of attacks on United Nations personnel (S/PRST/1997/13), of 19 June 1997, on the use of force against refugees and civilians in conflict situations (S/PRST/1997/34), and of 29 September 1998, on protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations (S/PRST/1998/30). The Council also recalls General Assembly resolution 54/192, on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel.

"The Security Council also recalls the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and its Addendum on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel (A/54/154 and Add.1), and looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 54/192 of 17 December 1999, to be submitted to the General Assembly in May 2000, which should contain a

---

\* Reissued for technical reasons.

<sup>1</sup> As defined in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 9 December 1994.



detailed analysis and recommendations addressing the scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 1994.

"The Security Council notes with satisfaction the entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 1994, recognizes its importance for addressing the security of such personnel and recalls the relevant principles contained therein. The Council encourages all States to become party to and respect fully their obligations under the relevant instruments, including the 1994 Convention above referred.

"The Security Council recalls that, on a number of occasions, it has condemned attacks and the use of force against United Nations and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel. It strongly deplores the fact that incidents of violence have continued, leading to a rising toll of casualties among United Nations, associated and humanitarian personnel. The Council strongly condemns the acts of murder and various forms of physical and psychological violence, including abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which such personnel have been subjected, as well as acts of destruction and looting of their property, all of which are unacceptable.

"The Security Council also recalls that the primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel, lies with the host State. The Council urges States and non-State parties to respect fully the status of United Nations and associated personnel, and to take all appropriate steps, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel, and underlines the importance of unhindered access to populations in need.

"The Security Council urges States to fulfil their responsibility to act promptly and effectively in their domestic legal systems to bring to justice all those responsible for attacks and other acts of violence against such personnel, and to enact effective national legislation as required for that purpose.

"The Security Council will continue to stress in its resolutions the imperative for humanitarian assistance missions and personnel to have safe and unimpeded access to civilian populations and, in this context, is prepared to consider taking all appropriate measures at its disposal to ensure the safety and security of such personnel.

"The Security Council welcomes the inclusion as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians under the international law of armed conflict, and notes the role that the Court could play in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law.

/...

"The Security Council expresses the view that improving the security of United Nations and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel, may require, inter alia, the development and strengthening of all aspects of the current safety and security regime in place, as well as the adoption of effective action to address the impunity of those who commit crimes against such personnel.

"The Security Council recognizes the importance of issuing clear, appropriate and feasible mandates for peacekeeping operations, to ensure that they are applied in a timely, efficient and objective manner, and of ensuring that all new and ongoing United Nations field operations, include appropriate modalities for the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel. The Council underscores that United Nations personnel have the right to act in self-defence.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General to complete the process of conducting a general and comprehensive review of security in peacekeeping operations, with a view to elaborating and undertaking further specific and practical measures to increase the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel.

"The Security Council considers it important that a comprehensive security plan be developed for every peacekeeping and humanitarian operation and that, during early elaboration and implementation of that plan, Member States and the Secretariat cooperate fully in order to ensure, inter alia, an open and immediate exchange of information on security issues.

"The Security Council, bearing in mind the need to reinforce the responsibility of the host State for the physical security of United Nations and associated personnel, also underlines the importance of including in each status-of-forces agreement and status-of-missions agreement specific and practical measures based on the provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 1994.

"The Security Council recalls the obligations of all United Nations personnel and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel, to observe and respect the national laws of the host State in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council believes it is essential to continue to strengthen security arrangements, to improve their management, and to allocate adequate resources to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, and humanitarian personnel."

-----



## Security Council

Distr.: General  
26 August 2003

---

### Resolution 1502 (2003)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 4814th meeting, on  
26 August 2003**

*The Security Council,*

*Reiterating* its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this context, the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 1296 (2000), of 19 April 2000, and 1265 (1999), of 17 September 1999, on protection of civilians in armed conflict, and resolution 1460 (2003), of 30 January 2003, on children and armed conflict, as well as other relevant resolutions, and *recalling* the statements of its President on protection of civilians in armed conflict<sup>1</sup> and on protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones,<sup>2</sup>

*Welcoming* the adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions 57/28 entitled *Scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel* and 57/155 entitled *Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel*,

*Reaffirming* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel to observe and respect the laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and *underlining* the importance for humanitarian organizations to uphold the principles of neutrality, impartiality and humanity in their humanitarian activities,

*Emphasizing* that there are existing prohibitions under international law against attacks knowingly and intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations which in situations of armed conflicts constitute war crimes, and recalling the need for States to end impunity for such criminal acts,

*Aware* that the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel is a concern in situations of armed conflict and otherwise,

---

<sup>1</sup> Presidential Statements S/PRST/2002/6 and S/PRST/2002/41.

<sup>2</sup> Presidential Statement S/PRST/2000/4.

*Gravely concerned* at the acts of violence in many parts of the world against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, in particular deliberate attacks, which are in violation of international humanitarian law, as well as other international law that may be applicable, such as the attack against the Headquarters of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) in Baghdad on 19 August 2003,

1. *Expresses its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence, including, inter alia, murder, rape and sexual assault, intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their property;

2. *Urges* States to ensure that crimes against such personnel do not remain unpunished;

3. *Reaffirms also* the obligation of all parties involved in an armed conflict to comply fully with the rules and principles of international law applicable to them related to the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, in particular international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

4. *Urges* all those concerned as set forth in international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Regulations, to allow full unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to all people in need of assistance, and to make available, as far as possible, all necessary facilities for their operations, and to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel and their assets;

5. *Expresses its determination* to take appropriate steps in order to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, including, inter alia, by:

(a) *Requesting* the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of United Nations operations, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-missions and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements;

(b) *Encouraging* the Secretary-General, in accordance with his prerogatives under the Charter of the United Nations, to bring to the attention of the Security Council situations in which humanitarian assistance is denied as a consequence of violence directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel;

(c) *Issuing* the declaration of exceptional risk for the purposes of article 1 (c) (ii) of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, in situations where in its assessment circumstances would support such a declaration, and *inviting* the Secretary-General to advise the Council, where in his assessment circumstances would support such a declaration;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to address in all his country-specific situation reports, the issue of the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, including specific acts of violence against such personnel, remedial actions taken to prevent similar incidents and actions taken to identify and hold accountable those who commit such acts, and to explore and propose additional ways and means to enhance the safety and security of such personnel.

---



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
29 August 2014

---

## Resolution 2175 (2014)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 7256th meeting, on  
29 August 2014**

*The Security Council,*

*Reiterating* its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this context, the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel, its resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, as well as other relevant resolutions and statements of its President on protection of civilians in armed conflict and on protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones,

*Recalling* the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977, and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances,

*Recalling* the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and its Optional Protocol,

*Recalling* all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 68/101 entitled *Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel*, and 68/102 entitled *Strengthening the Coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations*,

*Reaffirming* the need for all parties to armed conflict to respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in order to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance, the safety of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel,

*Recalling* the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict, as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Emphasizing* the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons



responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, in order to prevent these crimes, avoid their recurrence and seek sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation, and, in this regard, reaffirming the need to end impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving attacks against humanitarian personnel,

*Stressing* that the fight against impunity and to ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the international criminal justice system, ad hoc and mixed tribunals as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals; and recognising in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute, towards holding accountable those responsible for such crimes, and reiterating its call on the importance of State cooperation with these courts and tribunals in accordance with the States' respective obligations,

*Recalling* that the primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter of the United Nations or its agreements with relevant organizations,

*Gravely concerned* at the growing number of acts of violence in many parts of the world against national and international personnel of humanitarian organisations, United Nations personnel and its associated personnel, and humanitarian assets, including humanitarian supplies, facilities and transports, in particular deliberate attacks which are in violation of international humanitarian law, as well as other applicable international law and the adverse impact of such violence, including on humanitarian access, exacerbated by the presence of armed actors, including non-state armed groups, terrorist and criminal networks, and their activities,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all parties involved in an armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, to ensure the respect and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, as well as with the rules and principles of international human rights law and refugee law;

2. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence and intimidation, including, inter alia, murder, rape and sexual assault, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their assets;

3. *Urges* all parties involved in an armed conflict to allow full unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to all people in need of assistance, and to make available, as far as possible, all necessary facilities for their operations, and to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel and their assets;

4. *Urges* States to ensure that crimes against humanitarian personnel do not remain unpunished, affirming the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of

attacks committed on their territory against such personnel do not operate with impunity, and that perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

5. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel to observe and respect the laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and underlines the importance for humanitarian organizations to uphold the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in their humanitarian activities;

6. *Expresses its determination* to take appropriate steps in order to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, including, inter alia, by:

(a) *Ensuring* that the mandates of relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations can, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, help to contribute to a secure environment to enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance by humanitarian organisations, in accordance with humanitarian principles;

(b) *Requesting* the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, including, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of United Nations operations, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-missions and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements;

(c) *Encouraging* the Secretary-General, in accordance with his prerogatives under the Charter of the United Nations, to bring to the attention of the Security Council situations in which humanitarian assistance is unable to reach people in need as a consequence of violence directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel;

(d) *Issuing* the declaration of exceptional risk for the purposes of article 1 (c) (ii) of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, in situations where in its assessment circumstances would support such a declaration, and *inviting* the Secretary-General to advise the Security Council, where in his assessment circumstances would support such a declaration;

(e) *Calling* upon all States to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol, and urging States parties to take steps to enable its effective implementation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in all his country-specific situation reports, and other relevant reports which address the protection of civilians, the issue of the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, including recording specific acts of violence against such personnel, remedial actions taken to prevent similar incidents and actions taken to identify and hold accountable those who commit such acts, and to provide the Security Council with recommendations on measures to prevent similar incidents, ensure accountability and enhance the safety and security of such personnel.





# Security Council

Distr.: General  
3 May 2016

---

## Resolution 2286 (2016)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 7685th meeting, on  
3 May 2016**

*The Security Council,*

*Reiterating* its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this context, the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

*Recalling* all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2175 (2014) and 1502 (2003) on the protection of humanitarian personnel, resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1738 (2006), 1894 (2009) and 2222 (2015) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005) relating to the establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict, and resolution 1998 (2011) on attacks against schools and/or hospitals, as well as relevant statements of its President related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict and to the protection of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones,

*Recalling* all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 70/104 entitled Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, 70/106 entitled Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and 69/132 entitled Global health and foreign policy,

*Recalling* the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005, as applicable, as well as relevant customary international law concerned with the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances,

*Recalling* the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and its Optional Protocol,

*Recognizing* the particular challenges faced by humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties and medical personnel and *reaffirming* that all humanitarian personnel are entitled to respect and protection under international humanitarian law,



*Stressing* that identification of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities may enhance their protection, and in this regard, *recalling* also the obligations, in situations of armed conflict, pertaining to the use and the protection of the distinctive emblems under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and where applicable, their Additional Protocols,

*Recalling* further the specific obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required,

*Recalling also* the obligation under international humanitarian law to distinguish between civilian populations and combatants, and the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks, and the obligations to do everything feasible to verify that the objectives to be attacked are neither civilians nor civilian objects and are not subject to special protection, including medical personnel their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, and *recalling further* the obligation to take all feasible precautions with a view to avoiding and in any event minimizing harm to civilians and civilian objects,

*Deeply concerned* that despite these obligations, acts of violence, attacks and threats against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, are being perpetrated in situations of armed conflicts and that the number of such acts is increasing,

*Recalling* that locally recruited medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties account for the majority of casualties among such personnel in situations of armed conflict,

*Further concerned* that the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, to populations in need is being obstructed by parties to armed conflicts in many conflict situations,

*Recalling* that under international humanitarian law, persons engaged in medical activities shall not be compelled to perform acts or to carry out work contrary to the rules of medical ethics or to other medical rules designed for the benefit of the wounded and the sick,

*Convinced* that acts of violence, attacks and threats against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, may exacerbate ongoing armed conflicts and undermine the efforts of the Security Council to maintain international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the need for all parties to armed conflict to respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, and

*reaffirming* also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of such assistance in situations of armed conflict to promote and fully respect these principles,

*Urging* States to ensure that violations of international humanitarian law related to the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflicts do not remain unpunished, *affirming* the need for States to ensure that those responsible do not operate with impunity, and that they are brought to justice, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law,

*Recalling* that, under international law, attacks intentionally directed against hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided that they are not military objectives, as well as attacks intentionally directed against buildings, material, medical units and transport and personnel using the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions in conformity with international law are war crimes,

*Stressing* that the fight against impunity and to ensure accountability for war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the international criminal justice system, and in this regard *reiterating* the importance of State cooperation with international courts and tribunals in accordance with States' respective obligations,

*Noting* that medical personnel, and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, in an armed conflict situation, continue to be under a duty to provide competent medical service in full professional and moral independence, with compassion and respect for human dignity, and always to bear in mind human life and to act in the patient's best interest and *stressing* the need to uphold their respective professional codes of ethics, and *further noting* the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

*Reaffirming* the primary responsibility of States to protect the population throughout their whole territory and *recalling* in this regard that all parties to armed conflict must comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict and medical personnel,

1. *Strongly condemns* acts of violence, attacks and threats against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and *deplores* the long-term consequences of such attacks for the civilian population and the health-care systems of the countries concerned;

2. *Demands* that all parties to armed conflicts fully comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, as applicable, and international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005, to ensure the respect and protection of all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical

duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities;

3. *Demands* that all parties to armed conflicts facilitate safe and unimpeded passage for medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their equipment, transport and supplies, including surgical items, to all people in need, consistent with international humanitarian law;

4. *Strongly urges* States and all parties to armed conflict to develop effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict, including, as appropriate, through the development of domestic legal frameworks to ensure respect for their relevant international legal obligations, the collection of data on obstruction, threats and physical attacks on medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and medical facilities, and to share challenges and good practice in this regard;

5. *Underlines* the important role that education and training in international humanitarian law can play in supporting efforts to halt and prevent acts of violence, attacks and threats against the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities;

6. *Calls* upon States to ensure that their armed forces and security forces, within their respective competencies under domestic law, make or, where relevant, continue their efforts to integrate practical measures for the protection of the wounded and sick and medical services into the planning and conduct of their operations;

7. *Emphasizes* the responsibility of States to comply with the relevant obligations under international law to end impunity and to ensure those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law are held to account;

8. *Strongly condemns* the prevailing impunity for violations and abuses committed against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict, which in turn may contribute to the recurrence of these acts;

9. *Strongly urges* States to conduct, in an independent manner, full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law related to the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict, and, where appropriate, take action against those responsible in accordance with domestic and international law, with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims;

10. *Expresses its intention* to ensure that the mandates of relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations can, where appropriate and on a case-by-case

basis, help to contribute to a secure environment to enable the delivery of medical assistance, in accordance with humanitarian principles;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in accordance with his prerogatives under the Charter of the United Nations, to bring to the attention of the Security Council situations in which the delivery of medical assistance to populations in need is being obstructed by parties to the armed conflict;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his country-specific situation reports, and other relevant reports which address the protection of civilians, the issue of the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, including recording specific acts of violence against them, remedial actions taken by parties to the armed conflict and other relevant actors, including humanitarian agencies, to prevent similar incidents, and actions taken to identify and hold accountable those who commit such acts;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to promptly provide the Security Council with recommendations on measures to prevent incidents of the kind described in the above paragraph and to better ensure accountability and enhance the protection of the wounded and sick and medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Security Council every twelve months on the implementation of this resolution.

---



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
24 May 2024

---

## Resolution 2730 (2024)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 9634th meeting, on  
24 May 2024**

*The Security Council,*

*Reiterating* its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this context, the need to promote and ensure respect for the rules and principles of international humanitarian law,

*Recalling* Security Council resolutions [1502 \(2003\)](#) and [2175 \(2014\)](#) on the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, as well as other relevant resolutions and statements of its President,

*Recalling also* all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions entitled *Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel*, and entitled *Strengthening the Coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations*, including resolution [46/182](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations as well as resolution [59/276](#) XI entitled *Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations*,

*Recalling* the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, and the obligations of parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and also *recalling* the obligation of all State Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions to respect and ensure respect for the Conventions in all circumstances,

*Recalling* that the primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, lies with the Government hosting humanitarian operations or a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter of the United Nations or its agreements with relevant organizations,

*Noting* that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the progressive consideration by the Security Council of the protection of civilians in armed conflict as a thematic issue, and *acknowledging* the enduring need for the Security Council and Member States to redouble efforts to strengthen the protection of civilians in armed conflict and *noting* the important role played by humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, in conducting humanitarian activities,



*Taking note* of the contribution of the updated Aide Memoire for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict,<sup>1</sup>

*Deeply concerned* by continuous disregard for and violations of international humanitarian law,

*Gravely concerned* about the growing number of attacks, acts of violence, and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, including those involving landmines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices, and the impact of hostilities and violations related to the conduct of hostilities on such personnel, its premises and assets, as well as the adverse impact of such violence on humanitarian activities,

*Deeply concerned* about the particular vulnerability of national and locally recruited humanitarian personnel to threats and acts of violence, who accounted in recent years for the majority of safety and security incidents, and *underscoring* the need for concerted efforts and concrete risk mitigation strategies to enhance their safety and security,

*Recalling* the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, and that attacks intentionally directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under international humanitarian law, are considered a war crime under international law,

*Underlining* the obligations of all parties to armed conflict under international humanitarian law related to protecting civilians and civilian objects, which include humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, entitled to such protection, to meeting the basic needs of the civilian population within their territory or under their control, and allowing and facilitating the rapid, safe and unhindered passage of humanitarian relief to all those in need,

*Recognizing* the role of the United Nations Security Management System and humanitarian organizations' access, safety and security management systems to enable a stay-and-deliver approach to deliver the most critical programmes, while focusing on effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, even in high-threat environments,

*Reaffirming* the need for all parties to armed conflict to preserve the ability of humanitarian organizations to act in a manner consistent with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in order to provide their activities to all persons in need and to provide for the protection and safety of those persons and of the humanitarian personnel delivering such humanitarian activities,

*Recalling* that in line with international humanitarian law impartial humanitarian organizations may offer their services to any party to armed conflict; *recognizing* the importance of consistent engagement by humanitarian organizations with all parties to armed conflict for humanitarian purposes, including activities aimed at ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and *condemning* the targeting, killing, harassment, intimidation, reprisal, criminalization, prosecutions,

---

<sup>1</sup> The initial Aide Memoire was adopted on 15 March 2002 in [S/PRST/2002/6](#).

arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detentions of humanitarian personnel for humanitarian activities, *gravely concerned* with the increase in incidents of violence against humanitarian personnel, United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, in urban conflict settings, and *stressing* the importance of continuous training, monitoring and adaptation of security risk management measures to protect those delivering humanitarian activities in high-risk environments,

*Recognizing* with deep appreciation the essential role of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel in conducting humanitarian activities, commending them for operating even in dangerous environments, emphasizing the need to support their health and well-being, and paying tribute to all of them, in particular those who have sacrificed their lives in the service of humanity,

*Reaffirming* the importance of full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women in humanitarian and United Nations activities, and the importance of conducting and integrating gender-sensitive assessments when considering the safety and security of personnel, premises and assets,

*Expressing deep concern* at the exposure of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, to certain forms of crime and acts of intimidation and harassment, including sexual violence and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and *equally concerned* at the significant number of reported sexual assaults against both male and female United Nations personnel,

*Expressing serious concern* regarding challenges in bringing to justice those allegedly responsible for the deliberate targeting and other unlawful acts against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, and *emphasizing* the responsibility of States to comply with their obligations to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of international law and other international crimes, in order to prevent these crimes, avoid their recurrence and seek sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation, and, in this regard, *reaffirming* the need to end impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and other international crimes, including those involving attacks against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

*Expressing* concern about the increase in malicious information and communication technologies activities, including data breaches, information operations, that target humanitarian organizations, disrupt their relief operations, undermine trust in humanitarian organizations and United Nations activities, and threaten the safety and security of their personnel, premises and assets, and ultimately their access and ability to carry out humanitarian activities,

*Noting with concern* the increasing threat of disinformation campaigns and misinformation that undermine trust in United Nations and humanitarian organizations and put humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, at risk,

*Recognizing* that better integration of existing and new technologies, especially digital technologies, can also support the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets,



1. *Calls upon* all States to respect and protect humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, in accordance with their obligations under international law;
2. *Calls upon* all States and parties to armed conflict to respect and to ensure respect for applicable international humanitarian law in all circumstances; and *recalls* the obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols;
3. *Demands* that all parties to armed conflict fully comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, as applicable, and international humanitarian law; including their obligations related to the respect and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under international humanitarian law;
4. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949; and *notes* that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949;
5. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol, and *urges* States parties to take steps to enable its effective implementation;
6. *Strongly condemns* attacks and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, threats, and intimidation, against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, including humanitarian supplies, facilities and transports, in violation of international humanitarian law; in particular *urges* parties to armed conflict to respect the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in the conduct of hostilities and refrain from attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population;
7. *Calls on* all parties to armed conflict to end immediately and definitively any indiscriminate use of explosive devices in violation of international humanitarian law, and *stresses* the need to take appropriate measures to mitigate this danger effectively, including through their clearance and other measures set out in [Resolution 2365 \(2017\)](#);
8. *Strongly condemns* the unlawful denial of humanitarian access and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, which impede relief supplies and access for responses to conflict-induced food insecurity in situations of armed conflict, which may constitute violations of international humanitarian law;
9. *Urges* all parties to armed conflict to allow and facilitate, in a manner consistent with relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, full, safe, rapid and unhindered humanitarian access to all civilians in need, and to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and the safety and security of their premises and assets;
10. *Calls upon* all States to ensure the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of female humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, in humanitarian activities, including in decisions related to their safety and security, without any discrimination and to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian crises and post-conflict reconstruction activities;

11. *Condemns* disinformation, information manipulation, and incitement to violence against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, and *expresses concern* over the impact of misinformation on such personnel;

12. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to take appropriate action to address the increasing threat of disinformation campaigns and misinformation that undermine trust in United Nations and humanitarian organizations and put humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, at risk and hinder humanitarian activities;

13. *Urges* States to conduct, in an independent manner, full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets and where appropriate, take action against those responsible in accordance with domestic and international law, with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims; further *urges* States to prosecute persons allegedly responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law; *urges* States to cooperate with domestic, regional and international courts and tribunals in accordance with States' respective obligations;

14. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, to observe and respect the laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and underlines the importance for humanitarian organizations to uphold the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in their humanitarian activities;

15. *Expresses its determination* to take appropriate steps in order to provide for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, in order for them to be able to fulfill their activities and mandate, including, inter alia, steps taken by the Secretary-General thus far to strengthen partnerships, and *encourages* further efforts to enhance coordination, cooperation and information-sharing, at both the headquarters and field levels, between States, the United Nations, regional organizations and humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, on matters relating to the safety and security of such personnel and their premises and assets, with a view to addressing mutual security concerns in the field, and in this regard *requests* States to share information, monitor and investigate attacks against such personnel and their premises and assets and to share challenges and good practices in this regard;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to:

(a) Provide the Security Council, based on reported attacks, including intimidation, detention, harassment and bodily harm against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, within six months, with recommendations on measures to prevent and respond to incidents of the kind described in the above paragraphs, to ensure accountability and enhance the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets;

(b) Provide a briefing to the Security Council on this matter, including on the challenges, opportunities, and progress made toward further enhancing protection, the

safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, as a core part of the stay-and-deliver strategy, no later than 12 months after the adoption of this resolution and on a yearly basis thereafter;

(c) Continue to provide, as part of his regular reporting on country-specific situations and other relevant reports which address the protection of civilians, information on the issue of the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets, including recording specific acts of violence against such personnel, remedial actions taken to prevent similar incidents and actions taken to identify and hold accountable those who commit such acts, and to provide the Security Council with recommendations on measures to prevent similar incidents, ensure accountability and enhance the safety and security of such personnel;

(d) Report swiftly to the Council when widespread issues regarding the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets occur, and expresses its intention to give its full attention to such information provided by the Secretary-General when those situations are brought to its attention.

---



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
25 November 2024

Original: English

---

## Letter dated 22 November 2024 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 24 May 2024, the Security Council adopted resolution [2730 \(2024\)](#) in response to growing concerns about attacks, violence and threats targeting humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets. In paragraph 16 (a) of resolution [2730 \(2024\)](#), the Council requested that I provide recommendations within six months on measures to prevent and respond to such incidents, to help to ensure accountability and enhance the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets.

As documented in my recent reports on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations ([A/79/78-E/2024/53](#)), the protection of civilians in armed conflict ([S/2024/385](#)) and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel ([A/79/149](#)), humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets are increasingly exposed to serious risks while delivering critical assistance and fulfilling their mandated tasks to support people in need.

The commitment of Member States to ensuring the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets is firmly established in Security Council resolutions [868 \(1993\)](#), [1502 \(2003\)](#), [2175 \(2014\)](#) (on the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel) and [2589 \(2021\)](#) (on criminal accountability for crimes committed against peacekeepers), related presidential statements ([S/25493](#), [S/PRST/1997/13](#), [S/PRST/1997/34](#) and [S/PRST/2000/4](#)), the annual General Assembly resolutions on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel (most recently resolution [78/118](#)) and Economic and Social Council resolutions on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (most recently resolution [2024/8](#)).

As we mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and 25 years since the Security Council first recognized the protection of civilians as integral to international peace and security, I recall the obligation of all parties to armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, premises and assets. Under international law, attacks intentionally directed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their



premises and assets, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under international humanitarian law, are considered a war crime.

In the Pact for the Future, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to respect and protect humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets, in accordance with their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law.

Since the inception of the Organization, the safety and security services of the United Nations have adapted to evolving operational environments. In An Agenda for Peace (A/47/277-S/24111), it was noted that innovative measures would be required to deal with the dangers facing United Nations personnel. Following the Canal Hotel bombing in Baghdad, the 2003 report of the Independent Panel on the Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel in Iraq (the Ahtisaari report) contributed to the reform of the United Nations security management system through its recommendations for greater integration and coordination, the establishment and gradual operationalization of a security risk management approach by the United Nations security management system, and the establishment of the Department of Safety and Security. The 2008 report of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide led to the development and progressive strengthening of an accountability mechanism for all security actors within the United Nations security management system. I welcome Member States' sustained support to United Nations efforts to enhance and improve the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets, required for the implementation of mandated tasks, in particular the delivery of humanitarian assistance in complex security environments.

Following the adoption of resolution 2730 (2024), the United Nations Secretariat consulted members of the United Nations security management system, members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on enhancing the prevention of and response to incidents affecting humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets. These partners have contributed to the following recommendations:

#### **1. Respect international law and implement good practices**

As at 1 November 2024, 196 States had ratified the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, including all Member States and observers. The Geneva Conventions are one of the few instruments of international law that have attained universal ratification. Many of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols have become part of customary international law and are applicable in any armed conflict, international or non-international. This reflects a broad consensus among Member States and beyond that, even in the most challenging circumstances, humanity must be upheld; the human cost of war minimized; and survivors and victims of armed conflicts protected. Moreover, the obligation to respect international humanitarian law does not depend on reciprocity. Parties must respect international humanitarian law in all circumstances, even if their adversary does not.

Upholding and ensuring respect for international law, particularly international humanitarian law – by promoting the exchange and implementation of best practices for instance – strengthens the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets.

In addition, the risks of civilian harm posed by the use of new and emerging technologies in warfare must be continuously assessed and addressed. Their impact on parties' ability to comply with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution needs careful examination to uphold international humanitarian law and protect humanitarian personnel and all civilians.

Respect for international law also helps to ensure that United Nations and humanitarian organizations can “stay and deliver” and reach and assist those in need. I urge Member States to:

1.1 Reaffirm their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets as a foundational aspect of effective humanitarian response, development, peacebuilding and peacekeeping initiatives, and highlight that their protection is critical to maintaining international peace and security.

1.2 Reaffirm the importance of international treaties and norms that enhance the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets. These include the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol, and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and the seven United Nations road safety conventions.

1.3 I urge those Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and its Optional Protocol and urge existing parties to maintain their obligations under those instruments. In 1994, Member States recognized the need to ensure that deliberate attacks against, or other mistreatment of, personnel acting on behalf of the United Nations should be investigated and prosecuted and for this purpose adopted the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. In 2005, Member States adopted an Optional Protocol to the Convention, which extended the scope of the Convention to include United Nations operations intended for delivering humanitarian, political or development assistance in peacebuilding or for delivering emergency humanitarian assistance. The Convention entered into force in 1999 and currently has 95 States parties, and the Optional Protocol entered into force in 2010 and currently has 33 States parties.

I also urge Member States to:

1.4 Encourage all parties to conflicts, including armed forces, to assess the impact of their military operations and take measures to avoid and minimize incidental harm to humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets, and further encourage the monitoring and transparent recording of any incidents involving harm to the aforementioned personnel, premises and assets with a view to promoting accountability and implementing appropriate remedial actions to prevent recurrence.

1.5 Establish or strengthen national oversight bodies to monitor compliance of armed forces with operational rules protecting civilians, including humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets. Such mechanisms should aim to assess incidents and recommend appropriate remedial actions, to prevent recurrence and enhance accountability.

## 2. Uphold principled humanitarian action and facilitate access

Preserving United Nations and humanitarian organizations' ability to conduct humanitarian operations in alignment with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence (see General Assembly resolutions [46/182](#) and [58/114](#)) must remain a priority. Humanitarian principles remain an irreplaceable framework and tool to help to negotiate and gain access and ensure the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need, wherever they are and whatever the circumstances.

Numerous Security Council resolutions affirm the importance of these principles and call upon parties to respect humanitarian operations and facilitate the safe, rapid and unhindered passage of humanitarian assistance.<sup>1</sup> In practice, however, humanitarian organizations are still confronted with numerous measures and practices that undermine their action. These include counter-terrorism legislation and measures that may criminalize legitimate humanitarian action; the harassment or arbitrary detention of humanitarian staff for carrying out their mission; and overlapping bureaucratic and administrative impediments that unduly restrict humanitarian access. Moreover, increasing misinformation and disinformation targeting the United Nations and humanitarian organizations and their personnel affect their ability to respond to crises. This disrupts relief operations, erodes the trust of parties and communities in humanitarian organizations and threatens the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets. I recommend that Member States:

2.1 Take steps to facilitate safe and secure humanitarian and other United Nations assistance efforts, including by streamlining bureaucratic and administrative processes that may unduly delay or impede the provision of humanitarian assistance. This includes expedited visa processing and customs clearance for humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and assets, including equipment intended to help the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to manage security risks, and exemptions from taxes, duties and fees on humanitarian activities.

2.2 Implement legal and practical measures, such as humanitarian exemptions in counter-terrorism legislation and the dissemination of clear directives across security and law enforcement agencies, to facilitate the work of humanitarian personnel and protect them from violence, harassment, sanctions or punishment.

2.3 Encourage support for the effective implementation of United Nations security management system activities that enable the delivery of humanitarian and other United Nations assistance efforts through coordination between the United Nations and Member States, in accordance with relevant international and national legal provisions.

2.4 Prevent and address the spread of misinformation, disinformation and hate speech targeting humanitarian and United Nations organizations, including by ensuring public access to accurate and reliable information, monitoring misinformation and disinformation related to United Nations and humanitarian activities and sanctioning those responsible for spreading harmful content, in accordance with applicable laws and in keeping with applicable human rights norms and in the spirit of the Pact for the Future and the United Nations Global Principles for Information Integrity, developed by the United Nations Secretariat.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Security Council resolutions [2730 \(2024\)](#), [2664 \(2022\)](#), [2601 \(2021\)](#), [2573 \(2021\)](#), [2417 \(2018\)](#), [2286 \(2016\)](#), [2143 \(2014\)](#), [1894 \(2009\)](#) and [1265 \(1999\)](#).

### **3. Maintain consistent standards**

The Security Council and Member States have access to a range of tools to influence the conduct of both State and non-State parties. It is imperative that they consistently use these tools to preserve principled humanitarian action and ensure that humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, are able to carry out the mandates they are entrusted with in a safe and effective manner, in accordance with international law, and without undue impediments. Harm inflicted on national and locally recruited personnel often receives significantly less attention than incidents involving international staff. In addition, the level of condemnation can vary depending on the source of the attack, with some cases prompting stronger reactions than others. In this regard, I urge:

3.1. Member States to systematically condemn attacks on humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets, regardless of the source of attack, and leverage diplomatic, political and other tools to protect these personnel, premises and assets, including by opening channels for dialogue.

3.2. Without prejudice to their existing obligations under relevant treaties, arms-exporting States to assess the potential that exported weapons could be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law involving harm to humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, or their premises or assets, or to impede humanitarian aid and deprive civilians of the essentials to survive. Where there is an overriding risk of such consequences, States should be encouraged to refrain from authorizing such exports.

3.3. The Security Council to consider measures, including those under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, against individuals or entities responsible for harm to humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets in violation of international law.

### **4. Support personnel, survivors and victims and amplify their voices**

The perspectives of humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel who are survivors or victims should inform both the development and implementation of measures to prevent and respond to incidents. In addition, their voices should be promoted in intergovernmental processes, as appropriate.

In line with General Assembly resolution [60/147](#), and to support humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel who have experienced harm, including, in some cases, sexual violence, the Security Council and Member States should work towards ensuring that all victims of violence and conflict receive adequate redress and support. By adopting this survivor-centred approach, the Security Council could foster a consistent standard of care and accountability across different forms of conflict-related harm. I recommend that Member States:

4.1 Adopt a survivor-centred approach that seeks to empower survivors and victims of crimes and ensure that they participate meaningfully in local, national, regional and global discussions on the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets. The annual briefing requested in resolution [2730 \(2024\)](#) could promote dialogue between the United Nations membership and relevant stakeholders on the risks to humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets and on progress, best



practices and challenges in preventing and addressing these risks, while providing a platform for survivors and victims to share their perspectives with the Council.

4.2 Recognize the mental health impacts of security threats and incidents on humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, who may lack access to adequate services, and support the strengthening of psychosocial resilience and trauma support among humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, including counselling, mental health services and post-incident care.

4.3 I encourage Member States, and all parties to the conflict in high-risk environments, to support and cooperate with United Nations contingency planning efforts that prevent and mitigate potential risks, ensure safe evacuation and relocation procedures, including by facilitating movement of personnel and eligible family members from their place of residence, assignment or work to another location within or beyond their country of assignment, when needed, and promote effective communication channels during emergencies, safeguarding staff and ensuring continuity of critical operations.

4.4 I recommend that Member States ensure that humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel survivors and victims have access to timely assistance, bearing in mind that national and locally recruited humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel are particularly exposed to safety and security incidents. Support includes medical care, rehabilitation, psychosocial assistance to protect and promote mental health and well-being, legal services and measures for social and economic inclusion, such as restoration of livelihoods, and adequate, effective and prompt compensation.

## **5. Embed safety and security considerations in mandates**

The evolving threat landscape underscores the importance of explicitly incorporating safety and security considerations into all mandates issued by the Security Council. Adequate security capacities and capabilities, commensurate with current risks, must be ensured to protect and prevent harm to humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets. I recommend that the Security Council:

5.1 Emphasize the importance of ensuring that adequate security capacities and capabilities, commensurate with current risks, are allocated to rapidly evolving mandated activities to protect United Nations and associated personnel in line with the evolving threat landscape.

5.2 In transition settings, and in alignment with Security Council resolution [2594 \(2021\)](#), consider and integrate Secretariat efforts to assess and recalibrate safety and security requirements commensurate with the threat environment.

5.3 Ensure that follow-on United Nations operations, including those conducted by United Nations country teams and supported by the Department of Safety and Security, can maintain adequate security support to facilitate humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities. This approach will ensure predictable and resilient capacities for the safety and security of United Nations personnel amid mission transitions, thereby safeguarding the effectiveness and continuity of the United Nations operations.

## **6. Ensure effective investigations and accountability**

Reports continue to emerge of harm to humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets. Conducting investigations into these incidents and, where

applicable, ensuring that perpetrators are duly held accountable are essential to better protect United Nations and humanitarian personnel, their premises and assets. Impunity fuels further incidents and violations. I recommend that the Security Council:

6.1 In cases where humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets have been harmed, systematically request the concerned State authorities to conduct full, prompt, impartial, independent, transparent and effective investigations and to regularly report to the Security Council about the progress and outcomes of these investigations, including on measures to prevent the reoccurrence of such harm.

6.2 In cases where State authorities prove unable or unwilling to investigate allegations of serious violations of international law, consider establishing or seizing relevant existing international mechanisms to investigate these alleged violations. Where appropriate, these cases should be referred to relevant international jurisdictions, including the International Criminal Court or other tribunals, to ensure accountability.

In addition, I recommend that Member States:

6.3 Ensure that, under their domestic jurisdictions, all serious violations of international law relating to humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, premises and assets constitute crimes and that alleged perpetrators are prosecuted.

6.4 Strengthen the capacity of their national institutions to develop and carry out protocols and processes to ensure full, prompt, impartial, independent, transparent and effective investigations into allegations of serious violations of international law relating to humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, and their premises and assets. Member States should, in coordination with the United Nations, promote and strengthen international cooperation in that domain, including through the exchange of expertise and good practices, through capacity-building and technical assistance, or through the deployment of independent investigators in support of authorities that may lack sufficient capacity.

6.5 Support access of humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, to independent legal aid, and more generally encourage organizations that pursue cases and implement initiatives aimed at improving access to justice for their staff members. Member States' support may include funding for independent legal assistance, logistical support to States initiating legal proceedings, and support for victims and witnesses protection programmes.

In keeping with my commitment to the safety and security of humanitarian, United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel, which I have raised before the Security Council in recent months, I will continue to advocate for ensuring accountability and enhancing their protection and that of United Nations premises and assets.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* António **Guterres**