



# General Assembly

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Fourth session  
Agenda item 1

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[with reference to the First Committee (A/4)]

### 4/1. Protection of Civilians in Modern Warfare

*The General Assembly,  
The First Committee,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 1265 (1999) and 1296 (2000) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, its various resolutions on children and armed conflict and on women, peace and security, as well as its resolution 1631 (2005) on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, and further reaffirming its determination to ensure respect for, and follow-up to, these resolutions,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to the Purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as set out in Article 1 (1-4) of the Charter, and to the Principles of the Charter as set out in Article 2 (1-7) of the Charter, including its commitment to the principles of the political independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States, and respect for the sovereignty of all States,

*Acknowledging* that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being, and *recognizing* in this regard that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

*Expressing* its deep regret that civilians account for the vast majority of casualties in situations of armed conflict,

*Recognizing* the important contribution to the protection of civilians in armed conflict by regional organizations, and *acknowledging in this regard*, the steps taken by the African Union,

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourth Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/4/1).*  
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*Recognizing* the important role that education can play in supporting efforts to halt and prevent abuses committed against civilians affected by armed conflict, in particular efforts to prevent sexual exploitation, trafficking in humans, and violations of applicable international law regarding the recruitment and recruitment of child soldiers,

*Recalling* the particular impact which armed conflict has on women and children, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as on other civilians who may have specific vulnerabilities, and stressing the protection and assistance needs of all affected civilian populations,

*Reaffirming* that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians,

*Bearing in mind* its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, and *underlining* the importance of taking measures aimed at conflict prevention and resolution,

*Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Report of the Secretary-General of 28 November 2005 to its understanding of the issues surrounding the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and *takes note of* its conclusions;

*Emphasizes* the importance of preventing armed conflict and its recurrence, and *stresses in this context* the need for a comprehensive approach through promoting economic growth, poverty eradication, sustainable development, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for, and protection of, human rights, and in this regard, *urges* the cooperation of Member States and *underlines* the importance of a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach by the principal organs of the United Nations, cooperating with one another and within their respective mandates;

*Recalls* that deliberately targeting civilians and other protected persons as such in situations of armed conflict is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, *reiterates* its condemnation in the strongest terms of such practices, and *demand*s that all parties immediately put an end to such practices;

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*Reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document regarding the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity;

*Reaffirms also* its condemnation in the strongest terms of all acts of violence or abuses committed against civilians in situations of armed conflict in violation of applicable international obligations with respect in particular to (i) torture and other prohibited treatment, (ii) gender-based and sexual violence, (iii) violence against children, (iv) the recruitment and use of child soldiers, (v) trafficking in humans, (vi) forced displacement, and (vii) the intentional denial of humanitarian assistance, and *demands* that all parties put an end to such practices;

*Demands* that all parties concerned comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international law, in particular those contained in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 and in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977, as well as with the decisions of the Security Council;

*Reaffirms* that ending impunity is essential if a society in conflict or recovering from conflict is to come to terms with past abuses committed against civilians affected by armed conflict and to prevent future such abuses, *draws attention* to the full range of justice and reconciliation mechanisms to be considered, including national, international and “mixed” criminal courts and tribunals and truth and reconciliation commissions, and *notes* that such mechanisms can promote not only individual responsibility for serious crimes, but also peace, truth, reconciliation and the rights of the victims;

*Emphasizes* in this context the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law, while recognizing, for States in or recovering from armed conflict, the need to restore or build independent national judicial systems and institutions;

*Calls on* States that have not already done so to consider ratifying the instruments of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and to take appropriate legislative, judicial and administrative measures to implement their obligations under these instruments;

*Demands* that all States fully implement all relevant decisions of the Security Council, and in this regard cooperate fully with United Nations peacekeeping missions and country teams in the follow-up and implementation of these resolutions;

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*Calls upon* all parties concerned to ensure that all peace processes, peace agreements and post-conflict recovery and reconstruction planning have regard for the special needs of women and children and include specific measures for the protection of civilians including (i) the cessation of attacks on civilians, (ii) the facilitation of the provision of humanitarian assistance, (iii) the creation of conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons, (iv) the facilitation of early access to education and training, (v) the re-establishment of the rule of law, and (vi) the ending of impunity;

*Recalls* the prohibition of the forcible displacement of civilians in situations of armed conflict under circumstances that are in violation of parties' obligations under international humanitarian law;

*Urges* the international community to provide support and assistance to enable States to fulfil their responsibilities regarding the protection of refugees and other persons protected under international humanitarian law;

*Reaffirms* the need to maintain the security and civilian character of refugee and internally displaced person camps, *stresses* the primary responsibility of States in this regard, and *encourages* the Secretary-General where necessary and in the context of existing peacekeeping operations and their respective mandates, to take all feasible measures to ensure security in and around such camps and of their inhabitants;

*Expresses its intention* of continuing its collaboration with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, and *invites* the Secretary-General to fully associate him from the earliest stages of the planning of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions;

*Reaffirms* its practice of ensuring that the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping, political and peacebuilding missions include, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, provisions regarding (i) the protection of civilians, particularly those under imminent threat of physical danger within their zones of operation, (ii) the facilitation of the provision of humanitarian assistance, and (iii) the creation of conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and *expresses its intention* of ensuring that (i) such mandates include clear guidelines as to what missions can and should do to achieve those goals, (ii) the protection of civilians is given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources,

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including information and intelligence resources, in the implementation of the mandates, and (iii) that protection mandates are implemented;

*Reaffirms* that, where appropriate, United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions should provide for the dissemination of information about international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law and the application of relevant Security Council resolutions;

*Underscores* the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants (DDR) in the protection of civilians affected by armed conflict, and, in this regard, *emphasizes* (i) its support for the inclusion in mandates of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, of specific and effective measures for DDR, (ii) the importance of incorporating such activities into specific peace agreements, where appropriate and in consultation with the parties, and (iii) the importance of adequate resources being made available for the full completion of DDR programmes and activities;

*Condemns in the strongest terms* all sexual and other forms of violence committed against civilians in armed conflict, in particular women and children, and *undertakes* to ensure that all peace support operations employ all feasible measures to prevent such violence and to address its impact where it takes place;

*Condemns in equally strong terms* all acts of sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking of women and children by military, police and civilian personnel involved in United Nations operations, *welcomes* the efforts undertaken by United Nations agencies and peacekeeping operations to implement a zero-tolerance policy in this regard, and *requests* the Secretary-General and personnel-contributing countries to continue to take all appropriate action necessary to combat these abuses by such personnel, including through the full implementation without delay of those measures adopted in the relevant General Assembly resolutions based upon the recommendations of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping,

*Stresses* the importance for all, within the framework of humanitarian assistance, of upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

*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

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personnel to civilians in need of assistance in situations of armed conflict, 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;

*Condemns* all attacks deliberately targeting United Nations and associated personnel involved in humanitarian missions, as well as other humanitarian personnel, *urges* States on whose territory such attacks occur to prosecute or extradite those responsible, and *welcomes* in this regard the adoption on 8 December 2005 by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;

*Recognizes* the increasingly valuable role that regional organizations and other intergovernmental institutions play in the protection of civilians, and *encourages* the Secretary-General and the heads of regional and other intergovernmental organizations to continue their efforts to strengthen their partnership in this regard;

*Reiterates* its invitation to the Secretary-General to continue to refer to the Council relevant information and analysis regarding the protection of civilians where he believes that such information or analysis could contribute to the resolution of issues before it, requests him to continue to include in his written reports to the Council on matters of which it is seized, as appropriate, observations relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and encourages him to continue consultations and take concrete steps to enhance the capacity of the United Nations in this regard;

1. Approves the definition of terrorism as suggested by the international community:  
The use of illegitimate forces to achieve political, religious and ideological objective to terrorize and target innocent civilian in order to achieve their personal goal against a recognized authority;
2. Accepts the definition of civilian which gives the real differences between civilian and terrorist as  
Civilians who are not taking any direct and indirect part in armed conflict, further more they aren't involved in funding , aiding , supporting or hiding an opposing armed forces if they so then they would not fall under the category of civilian rather terrorist;

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3. Reminds that terrorists generates because of following long-term and short-term reasons:

Long term solution:

- a) Maintaining “ZERO TOLERANCE” policy against Terrorism;
- b) Controlling illiteracy, poverty and by increasing the level and quality of education as we can modify the minds of people through education, so that people may aware of what they are doing;
- c) Generalizing would be very counterproductive in the war against terrorism, if few Muslims , Christians or people from any other community found indulge in terrorism the whole group should not be generalized for the, that approach will also increase terrorism instead of decreasing;

Short term solution:

- a) In the short term also military solution would not be the permanent solution to maintain permanent peace and stability, so negotiation should be given first chance in order to know what actually their demands are, the united nation can act as a neutral party in the peace process in the form of commission as decided by the security council, but negotiation should be made only with those parties, which are ready to throw their weapon and ready to be on the chair for peace negotiation;
- b) Military option should be the last option if negotiation fails;
- c) A successful counter terrorism policy would be a combination of political and military action;
- d) Efficient use of intelligence agencies would be very productive and help in protecting civilian casualties;
- e) There should be proper intelligence sharing between the nation who are having serious threat of terrorism;

4. Considers how civilians are effected in modern warfare :

- a) Militant hideouts and terrorist safe havens within the region of civilian population are an imminent threat to civilian life’s as well major cause of collateral damage;

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- b) Errors made by forces in the battle field in distinguishing between the Terrorists and civilian;
  - c) After effects of nuclear attack which can result in sudden death of millions, followed by life time handicapping in capabilities, furthermore radiation which lasts for hundreds of years to come;
  - d) Psychological injuries as well as physical in capabilities;
  - e) Use of biological weapons in civilian resources such as water supplies can harm thousands of people at a time, furthermore harming crops and altering their properties resulting in diseases such as cancer's...etc;
  - f) Illicit role of media in propagating rumors fabricated news which at time creates chaotic confusions leaving civilian population vulnerable to war hostilities or genocide;
  - g) Guerilla warfare causing more harm, collateral damage and civilian deaths when cities are converted in to garrisons and eventually battlefields;
  - h) 'Scorching Earth Tactics' which is a military tactic in which all the civilian resources such as crops being destroyed, well poisoned and oil wells set afire effecting the economy and basic necessities of the civilians;
  - i) Ethnic cleansing and genocide, remembering the Holocaust of WWII;
  - j) Due to lacking health facilities civilians die more because of injuries rather than direct engagement of the belligerents;
  - k) Illicit use of the health facilities and relief convoys by the miscreants which results in blockade of the health aid towards the victims;
  - l) Children are psychologically and physically scarred for life due to them being misused, and sexually harassed which eventually may result in inheriting rebellious stereotype that the children might grow up with and get attracted to the incitements propagated by the terrorists;
  - m) Land-mines and booby traps affect children the most as they are likely to pick up strange looking objects in childish curiosity;
5. Notes the Effects of Biological and Chemical weapons on civilians:
- a) Biological and chemical weapons have an adverse effect on human health;

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- b) Gases used in warfare against opponents, thus result in causing diseases such as cancers;
  - c) Bio-weapons can be launched against a nation destroying its crops, human health, and viruses;
  - d) Altering chemical properties of crops, having adverse effect on cattle and ultimately humans;
6. Adopts measures to counter Biological and Chemical Warfare:
- a) Government should ensure methods to produce and stockpile vaccines and antibiotics to aid civilians in case of Bio-Toxin outbreak;
  - b) Introducing HPV (hydrogen peroxide vapor) filtering system for the bio-decontamination of enclosed spaces or equipment in various sectors including defense and civilian infrastructure;
  - c) Air Filters should be placed in ventilation having HPV (hydrogen peroxide vapor) system, Heating and Air-Condition systems in existing buildings, and their inclusion should be implemented in any new building plans;
  - d) Quarantine Zones should be made and regularly maintained to protect civilians in case Bio-Toxins;
  - e) Confidence building methods (CBM's) should be promoted between the international committee, to ensure transparency of Bio-warfare, so that no state is doing Bio-warfare research under the banner of Biotechnologies;
  - f) Water Filtration protocols should be improved, increased testing measures to be implemented, and use of water cleaning agents in the civilian water supply;
  - g) Sharing and production of Biosensors and (BIDS) Bio Integrated Detection Systems;
  - h) Metrological Agencies should research on the Cloud detection methods to ensure any abnormal activity in clouds;
  - i) Awareness programs to educate civilians for immediate measures in a case of a bio hazard or chemical Hazard;
7. Condemns Effects of Nuclear weapons on Civilian population:
- a) Complete annihilation of civilian population, infrastructure and resources;
  - b) Causing death of millions of civilians a mass genocide;
  - c) Radiation effects lasting for centuries;

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- d) Effecting trade of the region effected;
  - e) Making land barren for centuries;
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9. Measures to counter nuclear warfare:
- a) Awareness programs , to educate civilians of the possible threat by a nuclear crisis;
  - b) Countries using their nuclear programs for nuclear energy, though using it for illicit purpose should allow IAEA inspections;
  - c) Uranium enrichment should be capped to 20% as above than that is used for nuclear stockpiles;
10. Emphasizes the importance of network centric as :
- a) This methodology is an efficient to centralize the chain of command, helping in making spontaneous decisions;
  - b) Reduces possibility of occurrence of errors as every information is processed through ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and reconnaissance) mechanism;
  - c) Enhances efficiency of successful engagement of the miscreants and reducing collateral damage to a commendable low figure;
  - d) Improves C4 (Command, Control, Communications, Computing) over battle field, enabling the mechanism to call in help from any military branches as per requirement at any point in time;
11. Strongly states that the outer space should be used for peaceful purpose;
- a) International community should fully support the Dis- armament treaty which was made in 1967 which give the international community the proper legal frame work against

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space base weaponry and it should be enforced with proper implementation in order to maintain complete peace regarding space technology;

- b) Though there is a loop hole in the non-armament treaty as it only talks about the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction in space but not the missile technology so article 4 of this treaty must be amended and the use of missile technology in space should also be banned, and no country would have the right to misuse the law;
- c) Use of satellites for Intelligence and communications;
- d) Efficient in gathering images of suspicious regions;
- e) Metrological purposes;
- f) Capability to detect a missile launch from one territory to another;
- g) Satellite-guided weaponry, which would increase precision of attacks reducing collateral damage;

12. Adopts measures to counter asymmetric & Guerrilla warfare:

- a) Increasing the intelligence sharing between nations facing guerilla warfare;
- b) The use of special forces would be very productive and useful in guerilla warfare since the attack are surprise attack, and regular warfare tactics would never completely controlled guerilla warfare tactics used by rebellion;
- c) Covert operations after confirmation through ISR (Intelligence ,Surveillance and reconnaissance) to avoid civilian casualties;
- d) Using the UAV's surveillance and engaging the terrorists by air mitigates the capability of the miscreants to defend themselves against the ground forces;
- e) ISR (Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance) which would effective in distinguishing the miscreants from the civilian population thus helping the forces to engage and dissociated terrorists from war zone without causing casualties;
- f) Using the help of the local people present in those areas to understand the rugged and unknown terrain and the position of hidden terrorist to conduct operations more efficiently;
- g) Using many programs such as 'Hearts and Mind' Campaigns to empower the locals politically and socially;

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- h) Obligating Media to not to broadcast any news until and unless confirmed by the government as being legitimate;
- i) Stoppage of lethal aid provided by rogue states, and incitement through electronic, print media;

**13. Endorses threats posed by Cyber warfare :**

- a) Declaring cyber Warfare under WMD warfare, as there is an imminent threat that cyber-attacks could be used to infiltrate WMD's database stealing valuable information, thus resulting in the proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological weapons Database;
- b) Cyber-attack can be used against Economy, hacking global reserves and countries reserves are at stake as well as they are in the form of digital money on Database's;
- c) Cyber-attack against social sites, violating privacy of millions of users and making their personal information public;
- d) Cyber-attack against military sites or database extracting high profile information regarding different aspects concerning military;

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