



*American Model United Nations*  
**Human Rights Council**

## Report to the The General Assembly on Rights of Civilians in Armed Conflict

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23 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

24  
25 In its 2012 session, the Human Rights Council considered the topic of the protection  
26 of the human rights of civilians in armed conflict. Many issues were considered,  
27 including but not limited to: accountability of Member States; specialized rights  
28 violations of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children; refugees and displaced  
29 persons; and religious tolerance.

30  
31 The first section of this report will cover issues of accountability of Member States to  
32 international and humanitarian law on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. While  
33 fully understanding the right to sovereign equality, The Council recommended that states  
34 consider ways to hold Member States accountable under international and humanitarian  
35 law. It was recommended by some Member States that the monitoring of humanitarian  
36 rights be left to the nation in question, and that the Security Council and the General  
37 Assembly take a proactive approach to protecting the civilians in armed conflict.

38  
39 The second section of this report recognizes the necessity of respecting traditional,  
40 cultural and societal values while addressing the disparity that exists between genders  
41 within social dynamics. The Council acknowledges the disturbing utilization of rape and  
42 sexual violence during periods of armed conflict as a means of control and  
43 disenfranchisement. The Council discussed displacement, gender inequality, limitations  
44 of governmental assistance, poverty, and resource shortages as issues exacerbated by  
45 armed conflict. These conditions weaken social structure and inhibit the effectiveness of  
46 proposed strategies to protect and preserve the rights of women and children. The Council  
47 especially commends strategies which simultaneously address prevention, resolution and  
48 reintegration.

49  
50 The Human Rights Council debated extensively the rights of refugees in camps  
51 during and after conflicts. The Council believes that medical care and education ought to  
52 be provided to refugees, and that after a conflict has been resolved, refugees should be  
53 given assistance in readjusting to civilian life. The Council was of the inclination that  
54 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should have a more influential role in refugee  
55 rights than the United Nations and similar governmental bodies, as The Council believes  
56 NGOs are less likely to impede on governmental sovereignty and other interests. There  
57 was opposition to this idea. To assist refugee adjustment, The Council felt that the United  
58 Nations could take a more active role, establishing offices as they did after the Ugandan  
59 Great War in 2006. Some nations also recommend that the United Nations or NGOs  
60 provide assistance to countries recovering from conflicts in order to protect their citizens  
61 from non-state violent actors, including terrorists.

62 **CHAPTER I**

63

64 **Matters Calling for Action by the General Assembly or brought to its**  
65 **attention**

66

67 **A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly**

68

69 i. Draft Resolution II/1

71 *The Human Rights Council,*

73 *Recognizing* that special consideration should be taken in advance with regards to the  
74 needs of women in armed conflicts, specifically the needs of childcare services and  
75 medical attention as a result of sexual violence and emotional counseling,

76

77 *Understanding* states' rights and sovereignty in regards to such a program,

78

79 *Emphasizing* that such programs are on a voluntary basis, including the possibility of  
80 the state omitting parts of the program with which it may have a cultural disagreement,

81

82 1) *Recommends* the Medical Assistance Consideration Program (MACP), which will  
83 consist of the following parts that all have the possibility of omission with regards to each  
84 other during implementation:

85 (a) Childcare services which include child daycare provision, as well as nutrition  
86 counseling will be the primary objectives of such services;

87 (b) Medical attention as a result of sexual violence, including premeditated provision  
88 of antibiotics and gynecological care to affected women through resource and qualified  
89 personnel provision;

90 (c) Emotional counseling, as those affected by sexual violence benefit from the  
91 provision of support groups and psychologically qualified personnel to conduct  
92 assessments and recommendations;

93

94 2) *Establishes* the recruitment of voluntary and commissioned medical professionals,  
95 both regionally and upon need, branching out to further areas as necessary.

96

97

98 *Passed, Yes: 21 / No: 2 / Abstain: 3*

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ii. Draft Resolution II/2

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*

*Having recalled* resolution 9/9 on the Protection of the Human Rights of Civilians in Armed Conflict,

*Having expressed concern* about the negative repercussions that armed conflict has on civilians around the world physically, mentally, emotionally, and economically,

*Noting* the vital role that women play in their families and communities, and how armed conflicts impact all aspects of their lives,

*Bearing in mind* that the Member States of the Geneva Conventions accepted the responsibility of protecting civilians both in domestic and international conflicts,

*Acknowledging* the detrimental impact that armed conflict has on the lives of children by hindering their chances of achieving growth and development to their fullest potential,

1. *Calls upon* states to uphold their responsibilities stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the protection of their civilians, paying particularly close attention to women and children;

2. *Recommends* that the relevant United Nations bodies strengthen their monitoring processes to more efficiently address issues of accountability;

3. *Requests* that the states as sovereign entities take full responsibility for events that take place in their territory and focus on state-led initiatives;

4. *Reiterates* that once a state accepts the premises of a convention it ought to abide by the principles set forth at said convention;

5. *Invites* states to put emphasis on the vulnerability of women and children by focusing on initiatives that will improve the security and well-being of the neglected groups, including ethno-national minorities and religious minorities.

*Passed, Yes: 25 / No: 2 / Abstain: 4*

151 iii. Resolution II/3

153 *The Human Rights Council,*

155 *Aware of* the preventative measures already suggested by the Human Rights Council  
156 to address the issue of women's rights in armed conflict,

157

158 *Recognizing* the large amount of women, children, and other vulnerable groups that  
159 have already become victims of sexual violence,

160

161 *Noting* the need for the international body to address these groups in addition to the  
162 groups at risk for human violations,

163

164 *Emphasizing* the need to respect state sovereignty and the responsibility of states to  
165 bring violators of these human rights to justice,

166

167 *Acknowledging* the difficulty of civilians and women who have been violated through  
168 armed conflict and recognizing that victims of such violence are apprehensive to reveal  
169 their circumstances due to regional bias or for the victims who are ignored,

170

171 1. *Requests* cases related to violence against women (and children and vulnerable  
172 groups) by means of sexual abuse or rape should be deliberated by appropriate United  
173 Nations bodies, as some states may be biased in these areas, and the appropriate  
174 assemblies will then be able to set certain standards concerning these violations;

175

176 2. *Recommends* the formation of Truth Committees to enable civilians to share their  
177 experiences and allow these violated individuals to bring justice to their situations;

178

179 3. *Further recommends* that the Truth Commissions would record all human rights  
180 violations and use these reports to assist the appropriate United Nations bodies in the  
181 judicial process of condemning human rights violators.

182

183

184 *Failed, Yes: 8 / No: 14 / Abstain: 9*

185 **CHAPTER II**

186

187 **Consideration of Human Rights of Civilians During Armed Conflict**

188

189 In its 2012 session, the Human Rights Council considered the topic of human rights in  
190 armed conflict. Many issues were considered, including but not limited to: accountability  
191 of Member States, specialized rights violations of women and children, refugees and  
192 displaced persons, and religious tolerance.

193

194 **A. Deliberations**

195

196 **i. Past Documents**

197

198 In addressing the protection of civilians in armed conflict, the Council had before it the  
199 following documents:

200

201 (a) Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner For Human Rights and  
202 Reports of The Office Of The High Commissioner and The Secretary-General  
203 (A/RES/11/31).

204

205 (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict  
206 (S/2010/579)

207

208 **ii. Accountability of Member States**

209

210 Within the committee, there was a general concern, particularly the Socialist  
211 Republic of Viet Nam, for accountability of Member States under international  
212 humanitarian law and international law, as they are both mutually reinforcing. Viet Nam  
213 called the attention of the body to the already existing conventions and relevant United  
214 Nations bodies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International  
215 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Geneva Conventions and the  
216 International Convention of the Rights of the Child.

217

218 The Council voiced their concerns that Member States, at times, do not have the  
219 means to control the conflicts within their own borders, and that this may be a result of a  
220 lack of structure, and strengthening of humanitarian law within their respective  
221 government. Effectively protecting civilians in armed conflict requires the full  
222 implementation of the rule of law at all levels of government as well as establishing  
223 modes of government as well as establishing modes of accountability by both state and  
224 non-state actors. Furthermore, the representative from the Democratic Republic of the  
225 Congo would like to brought attention to prior resolutions written by the Human Rights  
226 Council in order to expand on them further.

227

228 The committee expressed a strong commitment to hold accountable perpetrators of  
229 human rights abuses in a more proactive manner. It was highlighted in a previous report  
230 (HRC/11/31) that investigative commissions (truth-finding missions) have been effective

231 in producing accountability following past armed conflicts. Following this precedent,  
232 several delegations recommended that a permanent body be established and charged with  
233 the investigation of current or possible violations of rights.

234  
235 Some Member States, expressing a concern about national sovereignty, suggested an  
236 alternative solution in which investigation and monitoring would be the responsibility of  
237 the nation in question, with oversight from the United Nations. It was discussed that this  
238 would allow for important concerns of cultural sensitivity to be addressed. The inclusion  
239 of different cultural norms was stressed as a necessary component of any investigative  
240 body.

241  
242 The Russian Federation expressed that sovereignty and states rights is of utmost  
243 concern. While it is important for the international community to respect the sovereignty  
244 of individual governments, the Russian Federation feels that it may be necessary to  
245 intervene during an armed conflict in which the safety of civilians is at risk. Having that  
246 said, intervention should be considered heavily with particular attention paid to duration  
247 and exit strategies. The Russian Federation cited the lack of action on behalf of the  
248 United Nations of the recent Syrian conflict is a prime example of the importance of such  
249 consideration.

250  
251 The understanding of any armed conflict in terms of an aggressor and victim is very  
252 contextually delicate. The Russian Federation expressed concern that premature United  
253 Nations involvement and intervention in regards to states citizens can upset the balance of  
254 a state's control and legitimacy in a given situation. The determination of involvement in  
255 a situation which later is rendered unnecessary, at the time of implementation, can damage  
256 state legitimacy. Even upon later recanting of accusations of a state's role, the damage  
257 done to their legitimacy can be permanent.

258  
259 The Council discussed the opinion that civil wars and other internal conflicts are  
260 relevant to the rights of civilians in neighboring countries. Therefore, members of the  
261 council expressed the wish that other United Nations bodies, such as the Security Council  
262 and the General Assembly, take a more proactive role in resolving and containing such  
263 conflicts, to the benefit of civilians in the region.

264  
265 The representative from Bulgaria expressed full support of the ideas and initiatives  
266 presented by this Council, but stresses the concern of the need to remain cognizant of  
267 State sovereignty while encouraging action towards those initiatives.

268  
269 The representative from Armenia notes with appreciation the report presented by the  
270 body, and would like to stress how the tensions between their state and Azerbaijan have  
271 resulted in the loss of thousands of civilian lives. The attacks on civilians in the Nagorno-  
272 Karabakh region are in violation of the premises of the ICCPR and of the Geneva  
273 Conventions of 1949. Armenia urges the Human Rights Council and all the other United  
274 Nations related bodies to strengthen the human rights monitoring process, and bring to  
275 justice those responsible for war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity.



276

277 **iii. Women and Children's Rights**

278

279 Women are vulnerable because of their gender but also because of different ethnic,  
280 religious, or other discrimination within society. Women are essential for the societal and  
281 familial structure and essential to maintain the structure/balance of a household, and as  
282 such the body feels it is necessary to discuss the global violation of women's rights.

283

284 The European Union (EU) recognizes the necessity of respecting traditional, cultural,  
285 and societal values while addressing the disparity which exists between genders within  
286 social dynamics. The EU stresses the need to bridge the gap in education, by placing  
287 special consideration upon the conditions which perpetuate gender inequality. The EU  
288 recognizes that the most effective mechanisms simultaneously address prevention,  
289 resolution and reintegration. Periods of armed conflict weaken social structure and limit  
290 accessibility to government assistance, rendering women especially susceptible to  
291 violence and displacement. Special consideration must be placed upon reintegration of  
292 these displaced women/children back into society. The EU suggests that this process be  
293 facilitated by empowering women socially, economically and politically.

294

295 The Council expressed that education should be our foremost concern in addressing  
296 the deficiencies that inhibit preventative mechanisms. The EU recognized the need for  
297 education to focus upon the potential health implications stemming from sexual violence  
298 including Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), pregnancies, psychological trauma and  
299 physical abuse. It was also discussed that easy access to counseling and educational  
300 services should be maintained in order for these women/children to most effectively  
301 utilize these resources. In conjunction with this process, the Council recommends an  
302 effort to educate individual governments with consideration of context. The EU  
303 recognizes the effectiveness of mentoring and vocational training programs which teach  
304 useful skills in empowering women. Contextual awareness should consider, consolidate,  
305 and conduct cross-source analysis to promote an accurate understanding. Special care  
306 should be afforded in identifying aggressors and victims as well as the dynamic which  
307 exists between the two. The EU commends the efforts and progress of Equality Now,  
308 Human Rights Watch, Non-Governmental Organization Group on Women (NGOWG) on  
309 Women Peace and Security, War Child International, Care, Council Work Group on  
310 Human Rights in addressing/implementing specific mechanisms to address the  
311 effectiveness of current United Nations involvement. In addition The Council discussed  
312 the compromise of traditional family dynamic during times of war. Specifically the  
313 increased burden placed female family members to support themselves and their children.  
314 Women should be encouraged to act as a community to encourage empowerment, safety  
315 and awareness.

316

317 In addition, the EU discussed the increased vulnerability of children, especially  
318 during times of armed conflict. The Council recognized the need for the rehabilitation of  
319 children who are involved or affected by armed conflict through monitoring and social  
320 programs designed to address psychological effects. Exposure to violence has the effect  
321 of conditioning children to violence, and conditioning children to perpetuate violence.

322

323 The committee expressed deep concern that civilians continue to suffer from targeted  
324 killings, rape, mutilation and displacement during armed conflict. Understanding how  
325 terrible violence is for civilian populations affected, particularly vulnerable groups  
326 including women, children, and ethnic minority populations, almost always suffer most.  
327 In modern warfare an estimated 90% of victims of violence are civilians, and of that 70%  
328 are women and children (Amnesty International). Women are often subjected to  
329 displacement and rape, which is used as a means of control, humiliation, and social  
330 disenfranchisement. This violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political  
331 Rights in article 4, paragraph 2 that explicitly states that no derogation may be made from  
332 the prohibition of torture or cruel inhuman or degrading punishment..  
333

334 Sexual violence is an instrument of war, resulting in women being specifically  
335 targeted for rape and other forms of sexual violence during armed conflict. This sexual  
336 violence serves as a means to control the vulnerable individuals by instilling fear in them  
337 to ensure continued subjectivity. Sexual violence against women in particular is  
338 especially problematic because women often have the triple burden of working as a  
339 mother, a wife, and within the work force itself. When a mother is violated sexually, this  
340 violence has serious implications. Economically it can destroy or severely limit the  
341 ability of women to provide for a family. It also can impact the family unit socially, as  
342 sexual violence can hinder a mother's ability to care for and be a role model for their  
343 children. The children can then become hindered psychologically and become more  
344 vulnerable to forced recruitment into military as a result.  
345

346 Furthermore, children cannot care for themselves effectively and are therefore  
347 exposed to danger and suffering. The children are routinely conscripted into military  
348 forces. Under international law, the recruitment of children under 15 is a war crime. They  
349 experience psychological and physical abuses; with girls in particular are at risk of rape  
350 and sexual abuse. It was pointed out that the United Nations Study on the Impact of  
351 Armed Conflict on children established that the categories of children who became child  
352 soldiers were the same as those who were child laborers in peacetime (HRC/11/31).  
353

354 It follows that in order to provide aid to civilians affected by violent conflict, relevant  
355 United Nations personnel must be able to reach those who need aid the most. The Council  
356 recommended that states ensure access to all relevant United Nations personnel in order  
357 to ensure the safety, access, security and freedom of movement of United Nations  
358 personnel, members of the International Red Cross and all others pursuing a humanitarian  
359 agenda (SC/RES/1738).  
360

361 Furthermore, many women and children may suffer secondary mortality as a result of  
362 a lack of food and clean water. Sri Lanka therefore wants to recommend the use of  
363 fortified feeding zones within areas where United Nations peacekeeping is already  
364 established. These protected areas would only grant entrance to unarmed vulnerable  
365 civilians in order to provide them with food and water.  
366

367 The Council would also like to bring attention to the effects of warfare on civilian

368 populations, specifically women and children, concerning crippling wounds and post-  
369 traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). In regions or Member States that are developing and  
370 which generally are dependent on rural lifestyles, the physical and mental effects on  
371 noncombatants can not only hinder national productivity and drain resources that serve to  
372 assist the mentally and physically disabled, but it also endangers the populations affected  
373 and greatly reduces their chances of survival. Women and children who are mentally or  
374 physically crippled are limited in their abilities to perform basic tasks such as gathering  
375 water, raising livestock, growing produce, driving vehicles, and taking goods to market or  
376 providing essential services. These dangers are multiplied by the use of landmines, booby  
377 traps, unguided missiles and projectiles, and the perpetual focus of conflicts around  
378 villages and other civilian communities.

379  
380 Ethiopia also addressed its concerns on the women's rights. Women in Ethiopia  
381 generally have faced a lot of sexual violence. This was a feature of the conflict between  
382 Ethiopia and Eritrea in the 1990's and this continues to be reported in the Ogadan region.  
383 According to the Human Rights Watch, systematic rape has been a feature of the  
384 government's counter-insurgency strategy in this region since 2007, directed against  
385 women suspected of having ties to the Ogadan National Liberation Front. Ethiopia  
386 believes that educating these soldiers on the effects of rape sensitizing them to it would  
387 play a key role in reducing this kind of violence.

388  
389 Pakistan would like to confirm their position that the respect of national sovereignty is  
390 key to the protection of civilians and any and all measure taken should be scrutinized  
391 carefully by the body. Pakistan agrees with Tanzania, Mexico, Argentina, and Cameroon  
392 that NGOs are not a large burden on sovereignty, however any other actions taken by the  
393 United Nations inhibits countries abilities to work effectively. Pakistan suggests that the  
394 United Nations hold themselves to strict standards to protect sovereignty. At the same  
395 time, Kenya recognizes that the United Nations can also be a very effective way to deal  
396 with certain issues, such as the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

397  
398 Argentina noted the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from  
399 Enforced Disappearance. Government-sponsored kidnappings and arbitrary detentions are  
400 frowned upon by the Human Rights Council and are a violation of the Universal  
401 Declaration of Human Rights, specifically Articles 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21,  
402 22, and 29. These violations of basic human rights more than constitute grounds for  
403 action by the General Assembly on behalf of those who are kidnapped by their own  
404 government as well as by the government of another country as well as their families.  
405 Those responsible for governmental-sponsored kidnappings must be held accountable for  
406 these actions. Regardless of nationality or any other factor, governments and their  
407 employees and representatives are not allowed to kidnap anyone under international law  
408 or to detain people without due cause and notification, and other involved parties are  
409 urged not to be in tacit agreement with these actors. Argentina recommends that the  
410 General Assembly investigate these kidnappings and detentions, and that they consider  
411 appropriate actions regarding the human rights violations involved in these actions.

412  
413 Pakistan requests an end on drone attacks on our people as innocent civilians are

414 injured in these attacks and many civilians are living in terror within and outside of  
415 Pakistan's borders. Pakistan wishes the pain of these civilians to be known and great  
416 benefit could come from the United Nations aiding Pakistan towards ending drone attacks  
417 in the Middle East. These attacks are not accepted by Pakistan's government and wishes  
418 for sovereignty to be upheld leading these attacks to end.

419

#### 420 **iv. Refugees and Displaced Persons**

421

422 There are over 15 million refugees worldwide. Armed conflict often targeted at  
423 specific groups can leave many families and vulnerable peoples uprooted from their  
424 homes. It is often problematic for those vulnerable peoples to remain in their home  
425 nations, so there is a need for nations with the capacity to accept refugees. However, a  
426 great deal of bureaucracy often stands in the way of allowing these vulnerable groups to  
427 seek asylum in more developed nations. The delegation of Sri Lanka pointed out that the  
428 United Nations Commission on Refugees, and the International Ministerial Forum of the  
429 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) suggested streamlining political asylum  
430 policies in particular that there should be an emphasis on protecting the women, children,  
431 and families of vulnerable groups. This would ensure that civilians would be allowed to  
432 leave the country, and seek protection from the duress of armed conflict.

433

434 To move towards the elimination of human rights violations concerning refugees,  
435 The Council firmly stressed that education and the utilization of NGO resources is vital in  
436 refugee camps. Specifically, NGOs could provide education and basic medicine. Both are  
437 essential for refugee survival and prosperity upon leaving the camp. Disease is often  
438 rampant in these camps, and could become dangerous if gone unchecked and untreated.  
439 Denying refugees basic medical care to prevent diseases and death could be seen as  
440 negligence and a human rights violation. Additionally, it is vital that basic education be  
441 provided to refugees. This ensures that they are more likely to be able to make a living for  
442 themselves when they leave the camp. If all refugees, especially children and teenagers,  
443 were educated in their camps, they would be less likely to turn to crime to survive when  
444 they are released, thereby slowing the cycle of conflict.

445

446 However, the amount of NGO and United Nations support must be delicately  
447 balanced: it could violate sovereignty if used too much. While their help is certainly  
448 welcome where needed, it must be ensured that they do not overstep their bounds. Some  
449 Member States believe that help ought to be limited to resources and that the state should  
450 have absolute authority over the acceptance or denial and implementation of these  
451 resources. Other Member States, however, expressed that in times of civil war or in cases  
452 where the government is the responsible party, some other party must have the ability to  
453 enter the conflict to ensure the protection of civilian rights. The Human Rights Council  
454 highly recommends that the General Assembly look into these conflicting views.

455

456 Kenya and Argentina see a great deal of value in both NGOs and in the United  
457 Nations. They hold that the most effective way to deal with various human rights issues,  
458 especially regarding refugees, would be a combined effort of the United Nations and  
459 NGOs. Many countries other countries, however, prefer NGO help to United Nations

460 help, due to their perception that NGOs are less biased, more inclined toward non-  
461 threatening action, and pose less threats to violation of national sovereignty. Cote d'Ivoire  
462 also acknowledges that requests for help from the United Nations could make a  
463 recovering country seem weak and vulnerable to potential enemies of the state.  
464

465 Uganda suggests that the General Assembly consider the implementation of The  
466 United Nations High Commission for Refugees offices in countries where an armed  
467 conflict that has resulted in a substantial amount of displaced persons recently been  
468 resolved, or where refugees who have escaped these conflicts. In Northern Uganda, one  
469 such office was opened after the Great War between the Ugandan army and the Lord's  
470 Resistance Army. ended in 2006. This office focused on camp management and the  
471 protection of international displaced persons. This agency helped most of the 11,000 plus  
472 refugees displaced by this armed conflict to either return home or integrated into their  
473 host country.  
474

475 The actions that the agency has the jurisdiction to take involve: resolving land issues,  
476 building huts and latrines for needy individuals, providing a start-up kit and support  
477 safety net in the form of blankets, kitchen sets, livestock, seeds, and tools. When this  
478 agency closed the week of January 6th, 2012, after being open for five years, the United  
479 nations High Commission for Refugees handed over its protection role as well as further  
480 actions and interventions on behalf of the returned international displaced persons to the  
481 Uganda Human Rights council. Uganda believes that the return of the role of protecting  
482 and intervening on behalf of displaced persons should be returned to the state's  
483 government as quickly as possible after the office has completed their goals. Uganda also  
484 believes that all nation-states belonging to the United Nations should monitor the severity  
485 of any and all local armed fighting conflicts; in order to determine when, were, and if  
486 such agencies are needed. These agencies have been invaluable in both the protection and  
487 assistance of displaced persons in Uganda; and have proven to be an effective way of  
488 phasing refugees back into society. Uganda disagrees that NGOs would be effective in  
489 phasing refugees into society because they are disconnected from both the societies that  
490 the refugees are from and the societies that the refugees are trying to be integrated into.  
491 NGOs have their own agendas and goals, which may conflict with those of the  
492 governments of the nations that they are working within; and if unchecked can interfere  
493 with the sovereignty of that nation.  
494

495 Sierra Leone, South Sudan, The Congo and Rwanda like to urge other members to  
496 offer sufficient resources such as emergency housing, medication and food supply to  
497 refugees who home state is in a situation of armed conflict. We recommend that members  
498 take refugees as their own citizens, and allow them the same rights as a citizen whom was  
499 born in that country. Additionally, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda would like to  
500 recommend that the United Nations take a proactive role in helping the displaced find a  
501 better home rather than a refugee camp. As a recommendation, the United Nations should  
502 form a committee and offer specific funding to countries that have a massive amount of  
503 refugees and do not have the resources to support them all. As another suggestion, the  
504 United Nations should also take part in creating an organized area to protect refugees  
505 from discrimination. The Congo would add that assistance would be helpful in terms of

506 refugees; however, The Congo could not support the addition of new populations that  
507 accepting refugees would create.

508  
509 One significant issue in Cote d'Ivoire is the prevalence of isolated incidents of  
510 violence from non-state actors. Villages are attacked by non-governmental, hostile groups  
511 whose actions include rape and murder, and Cote d'Ivoire is unable to catch and punish  
512 these criminals because of the weak state of their current government, as they are still in  
513 the process of recovering from a civil war. As a potential solution, Cote d'Ivoire advocates  
514 the aforementioned solutions of utilizing NGO resources and implementing offices within  
515 the state to protect human rights. Specifically, these measures would act as a deterrent to  
516 these attacks, and would encourage the state to be more accountable for punishment of  
517 these actions. Implementing these measures will make individual villages more stable and  
518 safe, encouraging refugees to return and alleviating the problem of countries over-  
519 burdened with refugees.

520  
521 Concerning refugees, Tanzania and The Congo face issues with ineffective border  
522 control that leads to large numbers of refugees, who cannot always be provided for  
523 effectively. Though the issue of border control may not be effectively solved by this  
524 committee, providing for refugees could lessen these disputes, which would inevitably  
525 allow their return home. Cote d'Ivoire advocates NGO aid should be general, as if we  
526 become specific in our concerns it may violate diplomatic courtesy. The Congo  
527 recommends the General Assembly consider the burden placed on nation-states caused by  
528 ineffective border control and consequent refugees displaced from other nations.

529  
530 Pakistan welcomes humanitarian missions to help the refugees displaced by the War  
531 on Terror. Pakistan has been urged by the international community to to fight against  
532 terrorism, a formidable task that requires much of the Pakistan government's attention.  
533 The assistance of humanitarians and NGOs in Pakistan will be protected to Pakistan's  
534 greatest extent available. Pakistan suggests that other countries facing similar situations  
535 also welcome these groups for the good of civilians and refugees.

536  
537 Uganda strongly believes in assisting refugees and persons displaced by armed  
538 conflicts in ways that will not interfere with the sovereignty of the governments of the  
539 states where the refugees currently reside. Many Member States recommended that  
540 assistance from NGOs is in order to assist refugees and displaced persons in phasing back  
541 into society. However, Uganda believes that if the whole of the Human Rights Council  
542 were to endorse such a recommendation that would leave a room for NGOs to decide on  
543 their own where their assistance is most needed; thus taking away from state sovereignty.  
544 Uganda believes that the removing displaced persons from overcrowded refugee camps  
545 would not necessarily be the most effective avenue for phasing displaced persons back  
546 into society, and would recommend other avenues be considered, including aiding them  
547 in returning to their home community, integrating them into the society they currently  
548 reside in, or other reasonable options.

549  
550 Cote d'Ivoire is primarily concerned with the minimization of non-state violence  
551 within the state that is preventing refugees from returning home. Cameroon agrees with

552 Cote d'Ivoire, in the case that many abuses happened due to actions of the civilian  
553 authority themselves. Although civilian authorities generally maintained effective control  
554 of the security forces, security forces sometimes acted independently of government  
555 authority, and this might be due to the lack of education of the authorities themselves. The  
556 government of Cameroon's human rights record remains poor, and security forces in  
557 refugee camps continued to commit numerous human rights abuses. Poor understanding  
558 of human rights has contributed to abuses within the nation, which is why education of  
559 human rights to the security forces and civilian authorities is also an integral part of the  
560 issue. One potential solution, that has been proven to be pretty effective in Cameroon, is  
561 for the government to take some action. Cameroon took significant steps during the year  
562 to improve citizen's understanding of their specific human rights and protection through  
563 publication of its own human rights report. The government also conducted training  
564 sessions throughout the country on the provisions of the penal code implemented in 2007.  
565 Cameroon believes that monitoring of human obligations in the country would be one of  
566 the ways to protect human rights of civilians in armed conflicts and in refugee camps.

567  
568 Kenya is in support of the United Nations high commissions that work to integrate  
569 refugees back into society. Kenya would be willing to accept United Nations aid in their  
570 own refugee camps. Furthermore, Kenya believes that NGOs are much more flexible and  
571 provide greater aid, and that they have a lower risk of interfering with national  
572 sovereignty. Kenya believes that in this topic area, the problems that arise with refugees  
573 and large refugee camps are the most important issues and must be addressed as soon  
574 as possible.

575  
576 Yemen firmly wishes to uphold international humanitarian and ask for greater access  
577 to humanitarian agencies, empowering individual access to human rights and to utilize  
578 the international press to shine light on targeted areas where human rights are being  
579 violated. Furthermore, Yemen would recommend aid and support be given to  
580 governments adopting measures to protect human rights, such as the Yemen 11-Point  
581 Plan. This plan includes the protection of rights in internally displaced people, women,  
582 and young girls. Yemen would also like to make aware the large influx of refugees  
583 entering the State and would utilize United Nations aid to address these concerns.

584  
585 Because of the stable and peaceful status of Tanzania in the region, it receives many  
586 refugees from neighboring countries. This volume of refugees means that regulation of  
587 refugees is difficult, and border control is ineffective at best. In January 2012 Tanzania  
588 had a total of 268,570 refugees mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo,  
589 Burundi, and Somalia. Tanzania has set up several refugee camps along their the borders  
590 with these nations. The situations in the camps are not what they should be and need to  
591 approve. The majority of the refugees are children. In most of the camps is no education  
592 and have no change of higher education. Tanzania is thankful for the help that the United  
593 Nations are already providing. For a better regulations of the borders Tanzania would  
594 recommend education for border officers, this to improve the regulation of refugees.  
595 Tanzania is willing to work together with NGO's to improve the situation in camps. With  
596 the help of the UN Refugee Agency Tanzania is sending refugees back to their own  
597 countries or in some cases they can become a citizen of Tanzania. Tanzania is willing to

598 help but is sending refugees back because The costs are becoming to high. This is why  
599 Tanzania is recommending aids for NGO and local organizations so the refugees can stay  
600 in a safe environment.

601  
602 Togo strongly believes that assistance must be provided to refugees and those missing  
603 persons as a result of armed conflict. Togo strongly believes that the use of NGO's would  
604 help in these humanitarian efforts. The current situation in Africa specifically in that of  
605 the Democratic Republic of the Congo needs to be addressed as many refugees become  
606 displaced in neighboring African countries. Furthermore, Togo believes that the use of  
607 NGO's will provide sufficient aid in these areas and camps in a manner that state  
608 sovereignty can also be respected.

609  
610 Morocco wishes to ensure terrorist organizations will not convene in Morocco and  
611 threaten the lives of Morocco's citizens. Bombings in 2003 and 2011 raise alarm for the  
612 possibility of terrorist organizations and their affiliates in being seriously involved in  
613 Morocco and threatening the lives of civilians. Many measures have been taken by the  
614 Moroccan government and the Moroccan military in preventing terrorism.

615  
616 **v. Religious Tolerance**

617  
618 Nigeria suggests that United Nations Member States to strongly encourage religious  
619 tolerance in order to ensure the safety of their citizens and to stop religious based  
620 violence. Nigeria also strongly urges the protection of religious figures, sites and practices  
621 due to the religious based terrorism currently present in some member states. Nigeria also  
622 strongly urges the Human Rights Council to take a firm opposition of religious based  
623 violence and adopted a zero tolerance policy.

624  
625 Understanding that states have the primary responsibility to uphold all relevant  
626 international humanitarian laws, The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam strongly believes  
627 that states pay greater attention to the protection of vulnerable groups, particularly  
628 women, children, and ethnic minorities.

629



630 **CHAPTER III**

631

632 **Adoption of the Report**

633

634 At its meeting on 20 November 2012, the draft report of the Human Rights Council  
635 on the rights of civilians in armed conflict was made available for consideration. The  
636 Council considered the report, and with no amendments, adopted the report by consensus  
637 with zero abstentions.