



**Argentina**

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## **CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD**

**“PROTECCION DE CIVILES EN CONFLICTOS ARMADOS”**

Intervención de la Delegación Argentina

Nueva York, 28 de Junio de 2006  
Verificar contra lectura

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## **SECURITY COUNCIL**

**“PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED**

Statement by the Argentine Delegation

New York, June 28, 2006  
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**Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations**  
One United Nations Plaza 25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Madame President,

At the outset of this statement the Argentine Delegation would like to thank you for organizing this open debate about the protection of civilians in armed conflicts as well as for the document that you prepared for our deliberations. At the same time we would like to thank the Undersecretary of Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations, Mr. Jan Egeland for his address to the Council.

Madame President,

The end of the last century brought to light again the horrible realities of genocide, the atrocities of war and the massive attacks against civilian populations. The Security Council reacted by incorporating the issue in its agenda and generating a legal framework for it through resolutions about the protection of civilians in armed conflicts 1265 of 1999 and 1296 of the year 2000. At the same time new concepts have been discussed that questioned the idea of absolute sovereignty of the State over horrifying criminal acts. Argentina participated in the elaboration of both norms and expressed at this Council in the year 2000 that the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of states must be balanced by the principle of non-indifference against massive violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

Five years later the United Nations produced two important decisions that reflected the evolution of such a significant issue. On the one hand the Outcome Document of the 2005 Summit consolidated the rich debate of the previous years through the adoption of the concept of responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crime, ethnic cleansing and crime against humanity. In this document our leaders indicated that they are ready to take collective action in a timely and decisive fashion through this Council against these grave situations. The second significant development of the issue was given by the approval by unanimity of resolution 1674 on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts by the Council, completing and updating the legal framework that was established by resolutions 1265 and 1296.

Both elements, the responsibility to protect and the new resolution of the Council on the protection of civilians are the start of a new phase regarding the actions to be taken by the international community in this subject.

Madame President,

Up to the present the Council follows-up of the issues through debates each semester, such as the one we have today, and incorporates the issue in the mandates of the different missions.

After more than five years with this approach we believe that the Council should improve the tools for a periodic treatment of the subject and explore with this objective the creation of a specific mechanism that would allow the systematic follow-up of the protection of civilians in each of the situations included in its agenda.

This would allow an adequate and individualized evaluation of each case, facilitating the consideration of appropriate measures for each conflict, on the basis of a list of options that could include, among others, the proposals formulated by Mr. Egeland. A mechanism with such characteristics would also imply a greater interaction with OCHA regarding the information that the Council receives on this subject. This aspect has a special importance, from our point of view, especially in the initial moments where civilians are affected by the crisis and where the preventive actions that the Council may deploy play a very important role.

**Such** a mechanism would allow, in summary, a more integrated implementation of what was established by resolutions 1265, 1298 and 1674. In this sense, it is convenient to remind that these resolutions also include provisions regarding the conditions in which the United Nations lends humanitarian assistance, such as the ones regarding access of humanitarian personnel to the affected populations or the security of the humanitarian personnel.

The idea of developing a mechanism of case by case analysis departing from an initially thematic focus is not new and is already being implemented in a successful manner in the case of situations of children in armed conflicts.

In the case of the protection for civilians, the consideration of a mechanism of this nature could also mean an initial step regarding the implementation of the final part of paragraph 138 of the Outcome Document of the 2005 Summit that indicates that the international community must support the United Nations to establish an early warning capability regarding the responsibility to protect.

Thank you very much, Madame President