

# EXCERPTED STATEMENTS ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

8 January 2007  
Security Council Chamber

## France

### Mr. LaCroix

We must not also forget that peace and security also entail combating poverty, pandemics, corruption, as well as protecting human rights and fighting impunity. For justice is a precondition for peace. In that regard, the International Criminal Court will be an essential tool in the future. The challenges we must overcome are daunting. Unfortunately, the work before us continues to be enormous. Thus we must continue our joint efforts to further improve the effectiveness of our actions. That is incumbent upon us all, as is the **responsibility to protect**.

## Slovakia

### Mr. Burian

As part of the Council's preventive diplomacy, in accordance with the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and Security Council resolution 1625 (2005), we believe that the Council needs to do more in such areas as the protection of civilians, including women and children, in military conflicts. We must do everything to prevent another Rwanda or Srebrenica from happening again. In that regard, we fully endorse the concept of **responsibility to protect** adopted by our heads of State and Government in September 2005. Furthermore, we hope to be able to rely on receiving more regular and more analytical reports from the Security-General on regions of potential armed conflict. The good offices of the Secretary-General will certainly continue to be an indispensable tool.

## Belgium

### Mr. Verbeke

"...it is essential that, above and beyond pre-established and often reductionist approaches, we recognize that, at the end of the day, it is the security of men, women, and children that is at stake. That is why Belgium welcomes the increased attention that the Security Council is giving to the protection of civilians – particularly that of women, children and other vulnerable groups – in armed conflict. The

relevant resolutions aimed at the protection of civilians must be effectively implemented.

In this regard, Belgium would also like to emphasize the importance of ensuring the close monitoring and rigorous implementation of arms embargoes in conflict areas. Indeed, we all know that it is first and foremost civilians who are the victims of lack of compliance with such embargoes and, in particular, of the abuse of small arms and light weapons.

In this context, I would like to refer to the principle of the **responsibility to protect**, which was enshrined during the 2005 Summit and which has since been taken up in numerous resolutions. Belgium is fully aware that the operationalization of that principle will require in-depth and prudent reflection. We nonetheless believe that the principle will henceforth be part of the conceptual *acquis* of the work of the Security Council.

## Peru

### Mr. Voto-Bernales

The threat of the recurrence of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity has sharpened our resolve to recognize that we have a **responsibility to protect** people from such scourges. Thus States Members of the United Nations, including Council members, must be vigilant in order to fulfill our mandate to protect peoples when the State concerned is unable to do so or unwilling to comply with its obligations.