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Statement
by Ambassador Oswaldo de Rivero
Permanent Representative of Peru
at the open debate of the Security Council on
"Protection of civilians in armed conflicts"

New York, 28 June 2006

Madame President,

First of all, I would like to thank the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Jan Egeland, for his presentation and to underline his office work in order to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

One of the most effective actions that Security Council should do for the protection of civilians is to include clear dispositions in the mandates of peacekeeping operations to protect them. In the cases in which such mandates do not include these dispositions, the Security Council should adapt to provide the mandates with specific norms.

On the other hand, the Security Council should request to all Peacekeeping operations Missions to report every six months on the progresses made on the implementation of resolutions on protection of civilians, particularly resolution 1674 (2006)

Madame President,

My delegation considers that the thematic debate we are discussing today on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, without doubt provide the opportunity to evaluate the general progress made regarding to resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000) and 1674 (2006). Nevertheless, I want to recall that the Security Council was not created to deal on themes in the abstract, in an academic style, but to resolve concrete problems that threat international peace and security.

For that reason, any discussion on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts requires us to be precise and refer to concrete cases. In this opportunity, Darfur, not only by the persistent and flagrant violations to human rights and by the lack of protection of civilians, but because Darfur is a great challenge that the Security Council up to now has not been able to resolve

In effect, in the light of the recent visit that the members of Security Council done to that region, We could confirm that in spite of previous debates on the protection of civilians those continue without international protection

Madame President,

The sign of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), last May, has not yet favored the civil population. This it is seen and felt when we visited the camps of refugees or displaced persons. Similarly, the presence of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) has its limits and has not been enough to prevent the attacks and violations to civilians by the small force had until now.

The attacks against civil population continue and there are problems for the humanitarian access. On the other hand, cases of intimidation, harassment and human rights violations are still carried out by persons that should protect law and provide security.

The **camp**s of the internal displaced persons in Darfur and Chad, are in total lack of security and people are living under constant threat, that is one of the reasons that impeded the return of the **IDP** to their places of origin. Similarly, the refugees in the zone of Chad live in precarious conditions with serious problems of **health**, malnutrition and security. **In** the recent visit to Chad, we could verify those problems and even President Deby indicated that his **Government** is not in conditions to protect the camps of refugees and urge the international community to guarantee that protection.

Madame President,

In the case of Darfur, my delegation considers that it is urgent to give to **AMIS** a strong **mandate to protect civilians and to transfer its functions** by the end of this year to a **United Nations** force with the adequate capacity to implement **the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA)**.

In this context, the Security Council should maintain its firm decision to deploy **the UN** force in Darfur. This decision must be shown by the Security Council supporting the high-level contacts of the Secretary General and the Heads of States and Governments from the African Union **in order to** deploy the UN force and **preparing** the transfer of the **AMIS** functions to the new force, which should have a clear mandate to apply the **DPA** and the protection of civilians, under Chapter **VI** of the United Nations Charter and based on **international** dispositions that punish crimes against humanity.

Madame President:

My delegation considers that an efficient protection to the civilians in the armed conflicts, particularly in Darfur, will show if the Security Council is able to overpass the gap between the speeches and the resolutions in favor of the protection of civilians and its action against violations and crimes against humanity.

Finally, I would like to underline that the Security Council should continue supporting the work that carried out by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (**ICC**), since his investigation will contribute to put an end to the sense of impunity that exists in Darfur

Thank you.