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29. Protection of civilians in armed conflict

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held four meetings and adopted one presidential statement under the item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.

In its deliberations, the Council discussed a wide range of issues, focusing, inter alia, on the need for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to armed conflict, on the need to ensure accountability for crimes perpetrated against civilians in the context of armed conflict, and on the criteria for the implementation of authorised use of force by peacekeeping missions. The Council also gave consideration to the protection of journalists in conflict zones.

The Council continued to include provisions relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict in its country-specific decisions as well as in decisions relating to other thematic issues.¹

Table 1 below lists the meetings at which this item was considered, and gives information on, inter alia, invitees, speakers and decisions adopted. Tables 2 and 3 feature a selection of instances of relevant provisions in decisions adopted under country-specific and thematic items, respectively.

First open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 25 June 2012, the Security Council held an open debate to consider the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.² In his

¹ For more information on other cross-cutting issues before the Council, see the present part, sects. 28 and 31, with regard to children and armed conflict and women and peace and security, respectively.

statement, the Secretary-General called attention to the fact that civilians were sometimes caught in the crossfire and frequently targeted in places that should be sanctuaries, such as hospitals, schools and places of worship. He shared that meeting the five core challenges highlighted in his report for civilian protection, namely, compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, engagement with non-State armed groups, resources for peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, humanitarian access, and accountability, required political will.³ It also required the will on the part of the Council to deliver on its long-standing commitment to the protection of civilians by consistently using the tools at its disposal, including the imposition of arms embargoes, targeted sanctions and referral of situations to the International Criminal Court (ICC).⁴

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs stressed the need for a comprehensive arms trade treaty. She also emphasised the need for action to address the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and urged the Council to be more proactive and systematic in calling on all parties to conflicts to refrain from using explosive weapons in populated areas and to consider more robust actions against the leadership of those using such weapons. She stressed the need for more systematic recording of civilian casualties and more broadly for accountability.⁵

Stressing that the United Nations human rights monitoring was essential to safeguard civilians, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights urged the Council to continue to include protection and accountability provisions in its resolutions. He also emphasized that missions with human rights-related mandates required necessary materiel and personnel to carry out their duties effectively.⁶

The Director for International Law and Cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) highlighted three main areas of concern for the ICRC: threats affecting the security and delivery of health care, the availability and use of arms, and the failure to comply with international humanitarian law. In his address, he urged members of the Council

² [S/2012/376](#).

³ The report of the Secretary-General was structured around the five core challenges elaborated in previous reports ([S/2007/643](#) and [S/2009/277](#)).

⁴ [S/PV.6790](#), pp. 2-3.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-5.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 7.

to take resolute action to counter a wide range of threats to health care, to adopt a strong arms trade treaty and to commit to strengthening legal protection for the victims of armed conflict.⁷

During the debate speakers addressed a wide range of issues, including the strengthening of efforts to meet the five core challenges outlined by the Secretary-General in his report. Most speakers emphasized the need to enhance compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to armed conflict, notably by ensuring unhindered access to humanitarian aid to civilians. The representative of Pakistan, by contrast, stated that there could be legitimate reasons for restricting access and that not all humanitarian actors performed in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.⁸ The representative of Morocco welcomed in particular the need for non-State actors to better respect international humanitarian and human rights law and to allow access with full security to those who needed assistance.⁹ The representatives of Colombia and Turkey cautioned against the proposition of a greater and more systematic engagement with non-State armed groups advocated by the report, arguing that such approach needed to be carefully examined and adopted on a case-by-case basis. They noted that any dialogue between the United Nations and internationally recognized illegal armed groups could be held only with the prior and explicit consent of the State in question.¹⁰

Several speakers highlighted the decisive action and principled stand taken by the Council to protect civilians in the previous year in relation to Libya with resolution [1973 \(2011\)](#).¹¹ On the other hand, a number of speakers expressed concern about the interpretation of relevant decisions of the Security Council as well as norms of international humanitarian law in relation to the protection of civilians in armed conflict and cautioned that measures to protect civilians during armed conflict, particularly when involving the use of force, must be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations with respect of the provisions of the Charter, including sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States.¹²

⁷ Ibid., pp. 7-8.

⁸ Ibid., p. 17.

⁹ Ibid., p. 21.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 12 (Colombia); and [S/PV.6790 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 25 (Turkey).

¹¹ [S/PV.6790](#), p. 17 (France); p. 26 (United States); [S/PV.6790 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 6 (European Union); p. 8 (Greece); p. 14 (Canada); p. 26 (Chile); and p. 30 (Libya).

¹² [S/PV.6790](#), pp. 21-22 (Russian Federation); pp. 24-25 (India); and p. 28 (China); [S/PV.6790 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 5 (Argentina); pp. 19-20 (Venezuela); pp. 23-24 (Bangladesh); p. 28 (Iran); and pp. 32-33 (Syria).

Second open debate and presidential statement on measures for the enhancement of the protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 12 February 2013, the Security Council held its second open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict further to the concept note circulated by the Republic of Korea.¹³

The Secretary-General stated that civilians remained subject to unacceptable threats to life and dignity and that warring parties had continued to violate human rights and international humanitarian law with impunity as the efforts of the United Nations and other humanitarian actors to provide assistance and protection had been hampered by violence. Highlighting the situation in Syria, where four million people were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and more than two million were displaced, he underscored the need for the international community to be given access to all areas so that more people in need could be reached. He noted that in other conflict zones worldwide civilians continued to suffer and die as parties to conflict ignored their obligations to protect. Drawing on his previous reports, the Secretary-General further elaborated on his recommended steps for enhancing the protection of civilians, and welcomed the debate triggered by the call of some Member States for the Council to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC. He closed by urging the members of the Council to bring all their considerable powers to bear on reducing the unacceptable toll that conflict was taking on civilians every day.¹⁴

Echoing the Secretary-General with regard to the situation in Syria, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that civilians on all sides were paying the price of the lack of consensus and the resulting inaction of the Security Council. She suggested that the Council could refer Syria to the ICC. In contrast, she welcomed the consensus achieved by the Council with regard to the situation in Mali and in particular the provision for United Nations human rights monitoring in the country. She also welcomed the decision of the Council to provide a strong human rights mandate to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). She thanked the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for launching a follow-up process to the Petrie report, which had culminated in the establishment of an internal review panel on United Nations action in Sri

¹³ [S/2013/75](#).

¹⁴ [S/PV.6917](#), pp. 3-4.

Lanka, highlighting systemic failings and making important recommendations. In this connection, she stressed that the “single most important element” for United Nations protection of civilians was early political consensus among Member States acting through the United Nations.¹⁵

The Director for International Law and Cooperation of the ICRC returned to the same three issues he had highlighted in the previous debate given their continued urgency, namely, threats affecting access to health care, the availability and use of arms, and the overarching lack of compliance with international humanitarian law on the part of States and non-State armed groups. He urged members of the Council to do all they could to address those issues.¹⁶

The members of the Council generally focused their statements on the need to ensure compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to armed conflict as well as accountability in cases of its violation, particularly in view of the plight of civilians in the Syrian conflict. In that regard, the representatives of Luxembourg and France appealed to the Council for the situation in Syria to be referred to the ICC.¹⁷ On the development of strategies for the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations, most members also underscored the importance of continuing to include protection mandates as well as of ensuring that the necessary resources were provided. The representative of Pakistan cautioned, however, that while missions provided physical protection and assisted host countries in creating protective environments, there should be no misplaced expectations as to what missions could ensure. Because they could not provide protection to all civilians all the time, it was essential to bolster national capacities with regard to defence and security forces.¹⁸ The representative of China argued further that relying solely on the deployment of peacekeeping operations could not resolve the fundamental issue of the protection of civilians and that the Council and the international community should consider the long term by paying close attention to and fully taking into account the conditions prevailing in the host country to strengthen the security and judicial sectors and improve the ability to effectively protect civilians.¹⁹

¹⁵ Ibid., pp. 4-5.

¹⁶ Ibid., p. 6-7.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 23 (Luxembourg); and p. 24 (France).

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 16.

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 26,

Further to the members of the Council and briefers, the Council adopted a presidential statement, reaffirming that parties to armed conflict bore the primary responsibility to ensure the protection of civilians and reiterating its demand that all parties comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. Moreover, the Council emphasised the need for peacekeeping missions with protection of civilian mandates to ensure their implementation, and to develop mission-wide protection strategies and contingency plans in consultation with the host Government, local authorities, troop-and-police-contributing countries, as well as other relevant actors. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to include in his next report an assessment of concrete measures taken by peacekeeping missions to implement their mandates to protect civilians.²⁰

During the debate speakers regretted that civilians, particularly women and children, continued to account for the vast majority of victims in armed conflict. They also reaffirmed the primary responsibility that national governments bore to protect their civilian populations from mass atrocities and the subsidiary role of the international community to uphold international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. Several speakers stressed the key role of the Security Council in ensuring accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, especially by making use of mechanisms such as referrals to the ICC or commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions.²¹ Expressing concern particularly over the escalating violence and lack of humanitarian access in Syria, speakers found regrettable that the international community had been unable to address the situation and urged the Council to take decisive action. Echoing the position of Luxembourg and France, most speakers called for a referral of the situation in Syria to the ICC endorsing the letter of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland in that regard.²²

Debate on the protection of journalists

At its 7003rd meeting, on 17 July 2013, the Council focused its debate on the protection of journalists in armed conflict. Opening the discussion, the Deputy Secretary-

²⁰ [S/PRST/2013/2](#).

²¹ [S/PV.6917 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 5 (Liechtenstein); p.13 (Portugal); p. 14 (Spain); p. 17 (Estonia); p. 20 (European Union); pp. 33-34 (Sweden); pp. 34-35 (Costa Rica); p. 40 (Tanzania); p. 40 (Lithuania); p. 50 (Montenegro); and p. 55 (New Zealand).

²² See letter dated 14 January 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland requesting the referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court ([S/2013/19](#)).

General noted that more than 600 journalists had been killed in the past decade, 41 in Syria in the course of 2012, and 108 in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2006. He reminded the Council that every time a journalist was killed by extremists, drug cartels or even Government forces, there was one voice less to speak on behalf of the victims of conflict, crime and human rights abuses. He added that it was unacceptable that more than 90 per cent of the assassinations of journalists went unpunished. In that context, he highlighted the relevance of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity launched to create a safe environment for the media in conflict and non-conflict situations. He also affirmed that the Security Council could play an important role by reacting to and standing against suppression of media freedom wherever and whenever it occurred. In closing, he suggested that the Council could consider the targeting of journalists and other threats to freedom of expression when addressing situations on its agenda.²³

The Council was then briefed by four prominent journalists who had also been invited to speak on their personal experiences as journalists in conflict situations.²⁴ Taking into consideration the present difficulties to distinguish professional journalists from activists or rebels with cameras, the briefers emphasized the urgent need to protect journalists covering conflicts and the freedom of the press as they represented the right to information of the ordinary citizens. Closing the briefings, the foreign correspondent of *The Guardian* stated that, in the context of a sense of immunity for the killing of journalists, the debate constituted a great opportunity for the Security Council to recognize them as part of the humanitarian effort to tell the story.²⁵

In the debate that followed, speakers expressed support for the role played by journalists reporting under the difficult circumstances of armed conflict, strongly condemning targeted attacks against them. While acknowledging the increasing lack of clarity in distinguishing career journalists from bloggers and social media users, most speakers recognised that the protection of journalists in armed conflict was an important part of the protection of civilians' agenda and underscored the need to end the culture of impunity for violence against the press. Whilst agreeing that the host Government and State institutions

²³ [S/PV.7003](#), pp. 2-3.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4 (Kathleen Carroll, Senior Vice-President and Executive Editor, Associated Press, and Vice-Chair, Committee to Protect Journalists); pp. 4-5 (Mustafa Haji Abdinur, reporter, Agence France-Presse); pp. 5-7 (Richard Engel, correspondent, NBC); and pp. 7-8 (Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, Foreign Correspondent, *The Guardian*).

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

bore the primary responsibility for protecting journalists, Member States urged all parties to armed conflicts to take all possible measures in order to ensure the protection of media professionals in accordance with international humanitarian law and through the full implementation of the relevant decisions of the Security Council. The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States highlighted, in that regard, that journalists provided an invaluable service to the United Nations, particularly to the work of the Security Council, by reporting on situations that threatened peace and security.²⁶ Lastly, some speakers noted that the press also had its own responsibilities, such as the adoption of precautionary measures in order to avoid unjustifiable risks.²⁷

Third open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 19 August 2013, the Council held its third open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict during that year, marking the tenth anniversary of the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, commemorated thereafter as the World Humanitarian Day.

In that context, the Secretary-General opened his remarks by calling for greater respect and protection for humanitarian workers. He expressed particular concern at the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons with wide-area effect in populated areas and called on the Security Council and Member States to work through the General-Assembly to recognize and act on that critical issue. He noted that protecting civilians demanded timely political action and prevention and helping Governments to build the necessary capacity, possibly including a presence or pre-emptive action by the United Nations peacekeepers. He noted that while the establishment of the new mandate for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)²⁸ and the strengthening of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)²⁹ had offered opportunities to enhance the ability to protect civilians, the evolving nature of the United Nations protection role also posed significant challenges for the Council to consider; in particular, the risk of being seen

²⁶ Ibid., p. 9 (United Kingdom); and p. 23 (United States).

²⁷ Ibid., p. 9 (United Kingdom); p.11 (China), p. 14 (Russian Federation); and pp. 29-30 (Canada).

²⁸ See [Resolution 2100 \(2013\)](#)

²⁹ See Resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#)

as a party to conflict and diminishing the ability of the United Nations to provide impartial and timely humanitarian assistance. He also mentioned the Council's important role in the efforts to ensure compliance with international law by promoting the cooperation of Member States with the ICC, and encouraging and assisting States to ensure accountability at the national level.³⁰

In the three briefings that followed, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Director for International Law and Cooperation of the ICRC acknowledged that the situation of civilians in the many conflict zones around the world remained tragic with continuous violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomed the increasing use by United Nations bodies of international commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions as well as the developing practice of the Council of referring to their findings.³¹ The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs highlighted the need for a more consistent use of all the tools at the disposal of the Council in order to close the gap between commitments made and the devastating impact on civilians. She also stated that ensuring unrestricted access for humanitarian assistance and accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law were among the main challenges.³² The Director for International Law and Cooperation of the ICRC reiterated his concern about the issue of violence against health care, affirming that a prevailing disrespect still existed among belligerents for the inviolability of health facilities, transport and personnel.³³

During the debate, the majority of speakers focused on the three challenges highlighted in the concept note circulated by Argentina,³⁴ namely, enhancing compliance with international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law by all parties to the conflict; ensuring humanitarian access to affected populations; and strengthening accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. Many speakers acknowledged that despite the normative progress achieved in relation to the protection of civilians, it was necessary to translate the established norms and laws into concrete action on the ground. In that context, speakers emphasized the urgent need for

³⁰ [S/PV.7019](#), pp. 3-4.

³¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 5.

³² *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

³³ *Ibid.*, pp. 9.

³⁴ [S/2013/447](#), annex.

unhindered humanitarian access and for bolstering accountability for crimes perpetrated against civilians, especially in the context of the ongoing conflict in Syria, as well as the situations in Sudan and South Sudan, the Sahel and the Great Lakes region. A number of speakers expressed support for stronger protection mandates for peacekeeping operations, as well as for their effective implementation as a central part of the Security Council protection agenda.³⁵ Some Council members, however, raised concerns regarding the use of more robust peacekeeping mandates:³⁶ The representative of the Russian Federation stated that it was not always right to rely on strengthened mandates to provide peacekeepers the right to use force or intimidate, and that protecting civilians was one aspect of the activities of peacekeeping missions and was to be carried out in connection with specific mandates defined by the Council for each operation. He added that the fundamental task of peacekeepers was to provide assistance to the peace process.³⁷ In the same vein, the representative of Guatemala cautioned that United Nations contingents could not replace the State in the fulfilment of its primary responsibility to ensure security and the right to life for their own civilian populations, although they could sometimes contribute to mitigating the situation. In view of the fact that peacekeeping operations had been increasingly charged with protection of civilian tasks in situations of armed conflict, he questioned whether the most recent innovations aimed at focusing missions on the imposition of peace would improve their performance in the field.³⁸ Finally, the representative of China stated that deploying peacekeeping operations could not be a fundamental solution to the problem of protecting civilians and that the focus of the Council should be on helping host countries to strengthen their security and justice sectors and improve their ability to protect civilians.³⁹

³⁵ [S/PV.7019](#), p. 12 (Republic of Korea); p. 13 (Togo); p. 20 (Rwanda); p. 23 (France); p. 35 (Thailand); p. 42 (Uganda); p. 49 (New Zealand); p.56 (Chile); pp. 58-59 (Netherlands); p. 62 (Nigeria); p. 63 (Namibia); p. 65 (Democratic Republic of the Congo); and pp. 65-66 (Bolivia).

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 10 (Russian Federation); pp. 24- 25 (Guatemala); and p. 27 (China).

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 24-25.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 27.

Table 1
Meetings: protection of civilians in armed conflict

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV.6790 25 June 2012 and S/PV.6790 (Resumption 1) 25 June 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2012/376)		29 Member States ^a	Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, Director for International Law and Cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Head of the Delegation of the European Union	Secretary-General, all Council members, ^b and all invitees	
S/PV.6917 and S/PV.6917 (Resumption 1) 12 February 2013	Letter dated 4 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/75)		56 Member States ^c	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Director for International Law and Cooperation of the ICRC, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	Secretary-General, all Council members ^d , 54 rule 37 invitees ^e and all rule 39 invitees	S/PRST/2013/2
S/PV.7003 and S/PV. 7003 (Resumption 1) 17 July 2013	Protection of journalists Letter dated 3 July 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/393)		30 Member States ^f	Briefers: Ms. Kathleen Carroll, Mr. Mustafa Haji Abdinur, Mr. Richard Engel, Mr. Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, Head of the Delegation of the European Union	Deputy Secretary-General, all Council members, 29 rule 37 invitees ^g and all rule 39 invitees	
S/PV.7019 19 August 2013	Letter dated 1 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina		37 Member States ^h	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs	Secretary-General, all Council members, and all	

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
	to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2013/447)			and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Director for International Law and Cooperation of the ICRC, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union	invitees	

^a Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Estonia, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Jordan (on behalf of the Human Security Network), Republic of Korea, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Switzerland (in its national capacity and on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians), Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^b Guatemala was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^c Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)), Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Switzerland (on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Protection of Civilians), Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^d The Republic of Korea, Rwanda and Azerbaijan were represented by their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

^e Brazil was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs. Although invited under rule 37, the representatives of Cuba and Jordan (on behalf of the Human Security Network) did not make statements.

^f Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Greece, India, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

^g Although invited under rule 37, the representative of South Africa did not make a statement.

^h Armenia, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile (on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network), Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Qatar, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland (in its national capacity and on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict), Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Mainstreaming of issues relating to the protection of civilians in armed conflict in the decisions of the Security Council

During the period under review, the Council continued to include provisions relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflict in country-specific decisions as well as in decisions relating to other thematic issues.⁴⁰ Table 2 below features a selection of instances of such inclusion in resolutions and statements by the President adopted in connection with country or regional-specific items, which are organized by categories. Table 3 below features a selection of provisions relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflict in decisions adopted under other thematic items.

At the country and regional levels (see table 2 below), the Council underlined the primary responsibility of national authorities to protect the population, calling upon all parties to comply with their obligations under international law and for all perpetrators of such crimes to be held accountable. In several instances, the Council decided to adopt targeted measures against perpetrators or expressed its strong intention to do so. In addition, the Council extensively demanded that all parties ensured full, safe and unhindered access for delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, condemning attacks, threats, and acts of obstruction and violence perpetrated against humanitarian workers, including United Nations personnel.

The practice of authorising more robust peacekeeping mandates under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations with a view to protecting civilians continued to evolve. In particular, the Council adopted resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#), establishing an intervention brigade under the command and control of MONUSCO, mandated to carry out offensive operations to neutralise armed groups threatening civilians in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council also adopted resolution [2100 \(2013\)](#) establishing MINUSMA and authorizing the use of all necessary means, within the limits of its capacity, to stabilise key population centres and to deter threats by armed elements in the north of Mali. Finally, the Council continued to include requests for additional monitoring mechanisms as well as reporting arrangements in order to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

⁴⁰ For more information on other cross-cutting issues before the Council, see the present part, sects. 28 and 31, with regard to children and armed conflict and women and peace and security, respectively.

In decisions related to thematic items (see table 3 below), the Council reaffirmed its strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and further emphasised the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to protect civilians and to end impunity. In its first ever adopted resolution on small arms, the Council acknowledged that the illicit transfer as well as the destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fueled conflict and impacted on the protection of civilians. The Council also reiterated its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them, taking all required measures to avoid civilian casualties, respecting and protecting the civilian population as well as humanitarian actors, and taking all required steps to facilitate the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment and personnel.⁴¹

Table 2
Provisions relevant to protection of civilians in armed conflict, by country

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
Condemnation of all forms of violence against civilians	
The situation in the Middle East (Syria)	
S/PRST/2012/10	The Security Council calls upon the Syrian government to implement urgently and visibly its commitments, as it agreed to do in its communication to the Envoy of 1 April, to (a) cease troop movements towards population centres, (b) cease all use of heavy weapons in such centres, and (c) begin pullback of military concentrations in and around population centres, and to fulfil these in their entirety by no later than 10 April 2012 (fourth paragraph)
The situation in Mali^a	
Resolution 2056 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Calls upon all parties in the North of Mali to cease all abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, condemns in particular the targeted attacks against the civilian population, sexual violence, recruitment and use of child soldiers and forced displacement, recalls in this regard all its relevant resolutions on women and peace and security, on children and armed conflict, and on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, and stresses that the perpetrators shall be brought to justice (para. 13)
	Reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it, for criminal acts of kidnapping, ongoing and multiple criminal terrorist acts aimed at causing the deaths of innocent civilians and other victims, destruction of property and greatly undermining stability, including in the North of Mali and the Sahel region (para. 19) <i>See also resolution 2071 (2012), para. 5</i>
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Resolution 2076	Strongly condemns the M23 and all its attacks on the civilian population, MONUSCO peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, as well as its abuses of human rights, including summary executions, sexual and

⁴¹ See resolution [2117\(2013\)](#) in connection with the item entitled “Small Arms”.

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
(2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	gender based violence and large scale recruitment and use of child soldiers, further condemns the attempts by the M23 to establish an illegitimate parallel administration and to undermine State authority of the Government of the DRC, and reiterates that those responsible for crimes and human rights abuses will be held accountable (para. 3) <i>See also S/PRST/22, second paragraph and resolution 2078 (2012), para.6</i>
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan	
Resolution 2063 (2012)	Demands that all parties to the conflict in Darfur immediately end violence, attacks on civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel, and comply with their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law; affirms, in this context, the Council's condemnation of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law; calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and for all parties to commit themselves to a sustained and permanent ceasefire and underlines the need for UNAMID to report on major instances of violence which undermine the parties' full and constructive efforts towards peace (para. 13) <i>See also resolution 2113 (2013), paras. 15 and 17</i>
The situation in Somalia	
Resolution 2093 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Condemns all attacks against civilians in Somalia, calls for the immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including sexual and gender based violence, or abuses committed against civilians, including women and children, and humanitarian personnel in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, stresses the responsibility of all parties in Somalia to comply with their obligations to protect the civilian population from the effects of hostilities, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate attacks or excessive use of force, and underscores the need to end impunity, uphold human rights and hold those who commit crimes accountable (para. 26) <i>See also resolution 2067 (2012), para. 18</i>
The situation in Afghanistan	
Resolution 2096 (2013)	Condemns in the strongest terms all attacks, including Improvised Explosive Device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations and abductions, targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and condemns further the use by the Taliban and other extremist groups of civilians as human shields (para. 28) <i>See also resolution 2041 (2012), para. 28</i>
Compliance and accountability with international humanitarian law and human rights law	
The situation in Libya	
Resolution 2040 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Calls upon the Libyan authorities to promote and protect human rights, including those of women and people belonging to vulnerable groups, to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and calls for those responsible for serious violations of such law, including sexual violence, to be held accountable in accordance with international standards, and urges all Member States to cooperate closely with the Libyan authorities in their efforts to end impunity for such violations (para. 3)
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan	
Resolution 2046 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Calls upon all parties to promote and protect human rights, including those of women and people belonging to vulnerable groups, to comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian and international human rights law, and calls for those responsible for serious violations of such law, including sexual violence, to be held accountable (para. 7)
Resolution 2109	Calls upon the authorities of the Republic of South Sudan to combat impunity and hold accountable all perpetrators of human rights and international humanitarian law violations, including those committed by

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
(2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	illegal armed groups or elements of the Republic of South Sudan Security Forces, and to ensure that all victims of sexual violence, particularly women and girls, have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice (para. 22)
The situation in Somalia	
Resolution 2067 (2012)	Emphasizes that protecting and promoting human rights, investigating breaches of international humanitarian law and bringing those responsible for such breaches to account will be essential for the legitimacy of the new Somali authorities, and calls on Somalia to fulfil its obligations under international human rights and international humanitarian law (para. 15)
S/PRST/2013/7	... The Council calls on the Government of Somalia to ensure that all perpetrators of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law are held fully accountable, in line with the relevant provision of international humanitarian law and human rights law (thirteenth paragraph)
Resolution 2102 (2013)	Stresses the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to ensure that all perpetrators of serious violations and abuses of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable, and emphasizes the importance of UNSOM supporting the Government of Somalia in developing and implementing a national strategy for preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence (para. 8)
The situation in the Central African Republic	
Resolution 2127 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Urges the Transitional Authorities to ensure, without delay, that all perpetrators of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law are held accountable (para. 18)
	Underlines the importance of strengthening the capacity of police, justice and correction institutions to uphold the rule of law and bring to justice perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law and of human rights abuses (para. 14)
	Requests that the Secretary-General rapidly establish an international commission of inquiry for an initial period of one year, including experts in both international humanitarian law and human rights law, in order immediately to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law and abuses of human rights in CAR by all parties since 1 January 2013, to compile information, to help identify the perpetrators of such violations and abuses, point to their possible criminal responsibility and to help ensure that those responsible are held accountable, and calls on all parties to cooperate fully with such a commission (para. 24)
Unhindered humanitarian access	
The situation in Somalia	
Resolution 2036 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Demands that all parties and armed groups take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and supplies, and further demands that all parties ensure full and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian aid to persons in need of assistance across Somalia, consistent with humanitarian, human rights and refugee law (para. 16)
Resolution 2060 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Demands that all parties ensure full, safe and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian aid to persons in need of assistance across Somalia, in accordance with humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality, humanity and independence, underlines its concern at the humanitarian situation in Somalia, urges all parties and armed groups to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and supplies, and expresses its readiness to apply targeted sanctions against individuals and entities if they meet the listing criteria set out in resolutions 1844 (2008) and 2002 (2011) (para. 6) <i>See also resolution 2067 (2012), para. 19</i>
The situation in Afghanistan	

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
Resolution 2096 (2013)	Notes with concern the continued high incidence of attacks against humanitarian workers, condemns these attacks in the strongest terms, emphasizing that the attacks impede efforts to aid the people of Afghanistan, and underlines the need for all parties to ensure full, safe and unhindered access of all humanitarian actors, including United Nations staff and associated personnel, and comply fully with applicable international humanitarian law (para. 29) <i>See also resolution 2041 (2012) para. 29</i>
The situation in the Middle East (Syria)	
Resolution 2042 (2012)	Reiterates its call for the Syrian authorities to allow immediate, full and unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel to all populations in need of assistance, in accordance with international law and guiding principles of humanitarian assistance and calls upon all parties in Syria, in particular the Syrian authorities, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and relevant humanitarian organizations to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance (para. 10) <i>See also resolution 2043 (2012), para. 11 and S/PRST/2012/10, eighth paragraph</i>
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan	
Resolution 2046 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Strongly urges Sudan and the SPLM-N to accept the tripartite proposal submitted by the African Union, the United Nations and the League of Arab States, to permit humanitarian access to the affected population in the two areas, ensuring in accordance with applicable international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and guiding principles of emergency humanitarian assistance, the safe, unhindered and immediate access of United Nations and other humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting the conflict-affected civilian population (para. 4) <i>See also S/PRST/2012/5</i>
Resolution 2075 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Demands that all parties involved provide humanitarian personnel with full, safe and unhindered access to civilians in need of assistance and all necessary facilities for their operations, in accordance with international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and guiding principles of humanitarian assistance (para. 13) <i>See also resolution 2047 (2012), para. 11, resolution 2104 (2013) para. 17 and resolution 2126, para. 20</i>
Resolution 2113 (2013)	Expresses its serious concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur, and at the threats to humanitarian organizations that persist, welcomes that humanitarian organizations are able to deliver aid to most people in need of assistance in Darfur but expresses serious concern that access to populations in conflict-affected areas remains constrained, deplores the increased restrictions on humanitarian access in Darfur resulting from increased insecurity, attacks against humanitarian workers, denial of access by the parties to the conflict and bureaucratic impediments imposed by the Government of Sudan, notes the publication of the Government of Sudan's Directives for Humanitarian Work 2013, regarding cooperation with the humanitarian community on facilitation of humanitarian access in Darfur, and calls for their full implementation, stressing the need for the timely issuance of visas and travel permits for humanitarian organizations; and demands that the Government of Sudan, all militias, armed groups and all other stakeholders ensure the full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian organizations and relief personnel, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, while respecting United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance including humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence (para. 16) <i>See also resolution 2063 (2012), para. 14</i>
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Resolution 2053	Demands that all parties cooperate fully with the operations of MONUSCO and allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law, the full, safe, immediate and unhindered access for United

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
(2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Nations and associated personnel in carrying out their mandate to all those in need and delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular to internally displaced persons, throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including in the LRA-affected areas, and requests the Secretary-General to report without delay any failure to comply with these demands (para . 26) <i>See also resolution 2098 (2013), para. 27</i>
Resolution 2076 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Calls on all parties, in particular the M23, to allow safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access to those in need in accordance with international law, including applicable international humanitarian law and the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, and to refrain from any violence against civilians (para. 11) <i>See also S/PRST/2012/22</i>
The situation in Mali^a	
Resolution 2056 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Demands that all parties in Mali ensure full, safe and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian aid to persons in need of assistance and further demands that all parties and armed groups take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, equipment and supplies, in accordance with international law, including applicable international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law (para. 14)
Central African Region	
S/PRST/2013/6	The Security Council commends efforts by international donors to provide humanitarian assistance to LRA-affected populations in CAR, DRC and the Republic of South Sudan. The Council reaffirms the requirement for all parties to allow safe and unhindered access for humanitarian organizations to the civilian population, in accordance with international law, including applicable international humanitarian law, and the UN guiding principles of humanitarian assistance. The Council expresses concern about the lack of regular humanitarian access to many LRA-affected communities in CAR and the DRC, including because of poor infrastructure, and encourages increased UN efforts and international donor support for humanitarian access (twelfth paragraph)
The situation in the Central African Republic	
Resolution 2127 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Demands that all parties to the conflict, in particular the former Seleka, ensure the rapid, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian organizations and relief personnel and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, while respecting the UN guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including neutrality, impartiality, humanity and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance (para. 52) <i>See also resolution 2088 (2013), para. 9 and resolution 2121 (2013), para. 14</i>
The situation in the Great Lakes region	
S/PRST/2013/11	The Security Council expresses grave concern about the ongoing humanitarian crisis, including the 2.6 million internally displaced people and the 6.4 million people in need of food assistance and emergency agricultural aid, and calls upon all parties to allow safe and unhindered access for the timely and full delivery of humanitarian aid to all civilians in urgent need of assistance, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law, including international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance. The Security Council further expresses concern with the over 500,000 refugees from the DRC in neighbouring countries and calls upon the DRC and all States in the region to work towards the peaceful environment that will allow for the eventual and voluntary return of refugees to the DRC, with the support, as appropriate, of UNHCR. The Security Council commends in this regard the support provided by neighbouring countries to refugees from the DRC (fourteenth paragraph)
Protection of journalists in armed conflict	

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
The situation in Somalia	
Resolution 2067 (2012)	Strongly condemns the grave and systematic violations and human rights abuses perpetrated by many parties and in particular by Al-Shabaab and its affiliates against the civilian population, including violence against, children, journalists and human rights defenders and sexual violence against women and children, and calls for the immediate cessation of such acts, and emphasizes the need for accountability for all such violations and abuses (para. 18)
Resolution 2093 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Recalls the obligation of the Federal Government of Somalia with respect to the protection of journalists, the prevention of violence against them, and the fight against impunity for perpetrators of such acts (para. 30)
The situation in Afghanistan	
Resolution 2096 (2013)	Calls for full respect for and protection for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those of human rights defenders, and of international humanitarian law throughout Afghanistan, welcomes the growth in Afghan free media, but notes with concern the continued restrictions on freedom of media, and attacks against journalists, commends the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) for its courageous efforts to monitor respect for human rights in Afghanistan as well as to foster and protect these rights and to promote the emergence of a pluralistic civil society, stresses the importance of full cooperation with the AIHRC by all relevant actors and promoting their independence as well as of ensuring their safety, and supports broad engagement across government agencies and civil society for the realization of the mutual commitments made, including the commitment to provide sufficient government financing for the AIHRC (para. 42) <i>See also resolution 2041 (2012), para. 41</i>
Targeted measures against perpetrators of crimes against civilians in armed conflict	
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan	
Resolution 2035 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Regrets that some individuals affiliated with the Government of Sudan and armed groups in Darfur have continued to commit violence against civilians, impede the peace process, and disregard the demands of the Council, expresses its intention to impose targeted sanctions against individuals and entities that meet the listing criteria in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591 (2005), and encourages the Panel of Experts, in coordination with the Joint African Union/United Nations Mediation, to provide to the Committee when appropriate the names of any individuals, groups, or entities that meet the listing criteria (para. 9) <i>See also resolution 2091 (2013), para. 7</i>
The situation in Somalia	
Resolution 2093 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Decides that the measures in paragraphs 1, 3, and 7 of resolution 1844 (2008) shall apply to individuals, and that the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 7 of that resolution shall apply to entities, designated by the Committee: ... (e) As being responsible for violations of applicable international law in Somalia involving the targeting of civilians including children and women in situations of armed conflict, including killing and maiming, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and abduction and forced displacement (para. 43)
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Resolution 2078 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Decides that the measures referred to in paragraph 3 above shall apply to the following individuals, and, as appropriate, entities, as designated by the Committee: ... (e) Individuals or entities operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and committing serious violations involving the targeting of children or women in situations of armed conflict, including killing

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
	and maiming, sexual violence, abduction, and forced displacement (f) Individuals or entities obstructing the access to or the distribution of humanitarian assistance in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (para. 4)
The situation in the Central African Republic	
Resolution 2127 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Expresses its strong intent to swiftly consider imposing targeted measures, including travel bans and assets freezes, against individuals who act to undermine the peace, stability and security, including by engaging in acts that threaten or violate transitional agreements, or by engaging or providing, support for actions that threaten or impede the political process or fuel violence, including through violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, sexual violence, or supporting the illegal armed groups or criminal networks through the illicit exploitation of natural resources, including diamonds, in the CAR, or by violating the arms embargo established in paragraph 54 (para. 56)
Mission-specific protection of civilians mandates^b	
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Resolution 2053 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Decides to extend until 30 June 2013 the mandate of MONUSCO as set out in resolution 1925 (2010), paragraphs 2, 11 and 12 (a) to (p) and (r) to (t), reaffirms that the protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources and encourages further the use of innovative measures implemented by MONUSCO in the protection of civilians (para. 1)
	Encourages MONUSCO to enhance its interaction with the civilian population to raise awareness and understanding about its mandate and activities and to collect reliable information on violations and abuses of international humanitarian and human rights law perpetrated against civilians (para. 24) <i>See also resolution 2098 (2013), para. 25</i>
Resolution 2098 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Authorizes MONUSCO, through its military component, in pursuit of the objectives described in paragraph 11 above, to take all necessary measures to perform the following tasks, through its regular forces and its Intervention Brigade as appropriate; (a) Protection of civilians (i) Ensure, within its area of operations, effective protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, including civilians gathered in displaced and refugee camps, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders, in the context of violence emerging from any of the parties engaged in the conflict, and mitigate the risk to civilians before, during and after any military operation; ... (iii) Work with the Government of the DRC to identify threats to civilians and implement existing response plans to ensure the protection of civilians from abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law... (b) Neutralizing armed groups through the Intervention Brigade In support of the authorities of the DRC, on the basis of information collation and analysis, and taking full account of the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk before, during and after any military operation, carry out targeted offensive operations through the Intervention Brigade referred to in paragraph 9 and paragraph 10 above, either unilaterally or jointly with the FARDC, in a robust, highly mobile and versatile manner and in strict compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and with the human rights due diligence policy on UN-support to non-UN forces (HRDDP), to prevent the expansion of all armed groups, neutralize these groups, and to disarm them in order to contribute to the objective of reducing the threat posed by armed groups on state authority and civilian security in eastern DRC and to make space for stabilization activities (para. 12)
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan	
Resolution 2057 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Authorizes UNMISS to use all necessary means, within the limits of its capacity and in the areas where its units are deployed, to carry out its protection mandate as set out in resolution 1996 (2011), paragraphs 3 (b) (iv), 3 (b) (v), and 3 (b) (vi) (para. 5)

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
Chapter VII)	<i>See also resolution 2109 (2013), para. 8</i>
	Notes the priority of UNMISS' mandated tasks in resolution 1996 (2011) for the protection of civilians and for the achievement of an improved security environment, urges UNMISS to deploy its assets
	accordingly, and underscores the need for UNMISS to focus adequate attention on capacity-building efforts in this area, welcomes the development of a protection of civilians strategy and early warning and early response strategy, encourages UNMISS to implement them, and requests the Secretary-General to include progress made in implementing these strategies in his reports to the Council (para. 3) <i>See also resolution 2109 (2013), para. 3</i>
Resolution 2063 (2012)	Underlines the need for UNAMID to make full use of its mandate and capabilities, giving priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources to: (a) the protection of civilians across Darfur, including through the implementation of a mission-wide early warning strategy; proactive military deployment and increased patrols in areas at high risk of conflict; securing, through increased police patrols, IDP camps, adjacent areas and areas of return; and supporting the development and training of community policing for IDP camps and areas of return; and (b) ensuring safe, timely and unhindered humanitarian access, and the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and humanitarian activities, so as to facilitate the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout Darfur; and requests UNAMID to maximize the use of its capabilities, in cooperation with the United Nations country team and other international and non-governmental actors, in the implementation of its mission-wide comprehensive strategy for the achievement of these objectives (para. 3) <i>See also resolution 2113 (2013), para. 4</i>
	Emphasizes UNAMID's Chapter VII mandate, as defined in resolution 1769, to deliver its core tasks to protect civilians without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Government of Sudan and to ensure the freedom of movement and security of UNAMID's own personnel and humanitarian workers; urges UNAMID to deter any threats against itself and its mandate; notes the observation in the Secretary-General's report that it is important to ensure that contingents are properly prepared and effectively equipped to be able to carry out UNAMID's mandate (para. 4) <i>See also resolution 2113 (2013), para. 5</i>
Resolution 2104 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Underscores that UNISFA's protection of civilians mandate as set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 1990 (2011) includes taking the necessary actions to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence (para. 4) <i>See also resolution 2109 (2013), para. 4 and resolution 2126 (2013), para. 5</i>
Resolution 2132 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Demands that all parties cooperate fully with UNMISS as it implements its mandate, in particular the protection of civilians, and stresses that efforts to undermine UNMISS' ability to implement its mandate and attacks on United Nations personnel will not be tolerated (para. 2)
	Endorses the recommendation made by the Secretary-General to temporarily increase the overall force levels of UNMISS to support its protection of civilians and provision of humanitarian assistance (para. 3)
The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	
Resolution 2112 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Decides that the mandate of UNOCI shall be the following: (a) Protection of civilians (i) To protect, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Ivorian authorities, the civilian population from imminent threat of physical violence, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, (ii) To implement the comprehensive strategy for the protection of civilians in coordination with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), (iii) To work closely with humanitarian agencies, particularly in relation to areas of tensions and with respect to the return of displaced persons, to collect information on and identify potential threats against

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
	the civilian population, and bring them to the attention of the Ivorian authorities as appropriate (para. 6)
The situation in Mali	
Resolution 2100 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	<p>Decides that the mandate of MINUSMA shall be the following:</p> <p>(c) Protection of civilians and United Nations personnel</p> <p>(i) To protect, without prejudice to the responsibility of the transitional authorities of Mali, civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, within its capacities and areas of deployment</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) Promotion and protection of human rights</p> <p>(i) To monitor, help investigate and report to the Council on any abuses or violations of human rights or violations of international humanitarian law committed throughout Mali and to contribute to efforts to prevent such violations and abuses</p> <p>...</p> <p>(e) Support for humanitarian assistance</p> <p>In support of the transitional authorities of Mali, to contribute to the creation of a secure environment for the safe, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance, in accordance with humanitarian principles, and the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees in close coordination with humanitarian actors (para. 16)</p>
	<p>Requests that MINUSMA take fully into account the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk to civilians, including, in particular, women, children and displaced persons and civilian objects in the performance of its mandate as defined in paragraphs 16 and 17 above, where undertaken jointly with the Malian Defence and Security Forces, in strict compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to non-United Nations Security Forces (S/2013/110) (para. 26)</p> <p><i>See also resolution 2085 (2012), para. 9</i></p>
Monitoring, analysis and reporting on protection of civilians in armed conflict	
Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan	
Resolution 2057 (2012) (adopted under Chapter VII)	<p>Calls upon UNMISS to coordinate with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and participate in regional coordination and information mechanisms to improve protection of civilians and support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts in light of the attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the Republic of South Sudan and requests the Secretary-General to include in his UNMISS trimesterly reports a summary of cooperation and information sharing between UNMISS, the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), and regional and international partners in addressing the LRA threats (para. 19)</p>
The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Resolution 2091 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	<p>Requests the Panel of Experts to continue to coordinate its activities as appropriate with the operations of the United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and with international efforts to promote the political process in Darfur, and to assess in its interim and final reports progress towards reducing violations by all parties of the measures imposed by paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556 (2005), paragraph 7 of resolution 1591 (2005), and paragraph 10 of resolution 1945 (2010), progress towards removing impediments to the political process, threats to stability in Darfur and the region, violations of international humanitarian or human rights law or other atrocities, including sexual and gender-based violence and grave violations and abuses against children, and other violations of the above-mentioned resolutions, and to provide the Committee with information on the individuals and entities that meet the listing criteria in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1591 (para. 6)</p>
Resolution 2098 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	<p>Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council every three months:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(b) in coordination with his Special Representative for the DRC on:</p>

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
Chapter VII)	(iii) the implementation by MONUSCO of its mandate, including on the deployment, readiness and activities of the Intervention Brigade and all other MONUSCO forces, on any violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that may occur and on efforts undertaken to mitigate civilian harm (para. 34)
The situation in Somalia	
Resolution 2093 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Recalls AMISOM’s commitment to establish a Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell (CCTARC), underlines the importance of its establishment, requests AMISOM to report on the progress made in establishing the CCTARC and calls on international donors and partners to further support the establishment of a CCTARC (para. 11) <i>See also resolution 2124 (2013), para. 11</i>
Resolution 2111 (2013) (adopted under Chapter VII)	Requests the Emergency Relief Coordinator to report to the Security Council by 20 March 2014 and again by 20 September 2014 on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia and on any impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, and requests relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations having observer status with the United Nations General Assembly and their implementing partners that provide humanitarian assistance in Somalia to increase their cooperation and willingness to share information with the United Nations Humanitarian Aid Coordinator for Somalia in the preparation of such reports and in the interests of increasing transparency and accountability (para. 23) <i>See also resolution 2060 (2012), para. 8</i>

^a The situation in Mali became a separate agenda item as of 20 December 2012, by virtue of a note of the President of the Security Council which established that “earlier consideration by the Council of [issues pertaining to Mali] under the agenda item entitled ‘Peace and security in Africa’” would be subsumed under the agenda item entitled “The situation in Mali” ([S/2012/961](#)).

^b For additional information on mandates and decisions relevant to peacekeeping and political missions, see Part X of the present Supplement.

Table 3
Provisions relevant to protection of civilians in armed conflict, by thematic issue

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Relevant provision</i>
The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security	
S/PRST/2012/1	The Security Council reiterates its call on all parties to armed conflict to comply with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law and to take all required steps to protect civilians and recalls in this regard resolution 1894 (2009) (eleventh paragraph)
	The Security Council reaffirms its strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. The Council further emphasizes the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international humanitarian law in order to prevent violations, avoid their recurrence and seek sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation (twelfth paragraph)
Peace and Security in Africa (Prevention of conflicts in Africa: addressing the root causes)	
S/PRST/2013/4	The Security Council recalls its previous Presidential Statements concerning the various factors and causes that play a role in triggering, worsening or prolonging conflicts in Africa, and in particular the factors and causes that have been highlighted and addressed by the Council. The Council highlights the importance of implementation of effective security sector reform programs, strengthening of human rights and the rule of law, protection of civilians, addressing all forms of discrimination and political exclusion, including against women and children, protection of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and

	<p>linguistic minorities, ensuring accountability, supporting the reintegration and rehabilitation of former soldiers and child soldiers, promotion of reconciliation and locally-driven solutions, promotion of meaningful progress in sustainable socio-economic development, poverty eradication, support for representative electoral processes and the building of democratic institutions inter alia and effective control of small arms... (eighth paragraph)</p> <p>The Security Council reaffirms its strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and emphasizes in this context the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and, to that end, to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international humanitarian law, also in the context of conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The Council underlines the importance of raising awareness of and ensuring respect of all applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, stresses the importance of the responsibility to protect as outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, including the primary responsibility of Member States to protect their populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Council further underlines the role of the international community in encouraging and helping States, including through capacity-building, to meet their primary responsibility. The Council looks forward to the 2013 UN Secretary-General report on the Responsibility to Protect. The Council further recalls the important role of the Secretary-General's Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect in matters relating to the prevention and resolution of conflict (thirteenth paragraph)</p>
United Nations peacekeeping operations: United Nations peacekeeping: A multidimensional approach	
<p>Resolution 2086 (2013)</p>	<p>8. Notes, in this regard, that multidimensional peacekeeping missions may be mandated by the Security Council, inter-alia, to:</p> <p>....</p> <p>(f) Help to establish the necessary security conditions to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance, taking into account the special needs of refugees, IDPs, women, children, elderly and disabled people, and to create conditions necessary for voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and IDPs</p> <p>(h) Protect civilians, particularly those under imminent threat of physical violence, in conformity with paragraph 16 of its resolution 1674 (2006), within missions' zones of operation and taking into account their capacities and resources, and support the efforts of the host authorities in protection of civilians from violence, including all forms of sexual and gender based violence, and in this regard, help in building and reforming security sector institutions of the host country that are able to sustainably and consistently protect civilians, while recognizing that protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the host country (para. 8)</p>
Women and peace and security	
<p>Resolution 2106 (2013)</p>	<p>Affirms that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a method or tactic of war or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate and prolong situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security; emphasizes in this regard that effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security (para.1)</p>
<p>Resolution 2122 (2013)</p>	<p>Calls upon Member States to comply with their relevant obligations to end to impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international humanitarian law; and further notes that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern against women and girls has been strengthened through the work of the International Criminal Court, ad hoc and mixed tribunals, as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals (para. 12)</p>
Small Arms	
<p>Resolution 2117 (2013)</p>	<p>Bearing in mind that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons fuel conflict and impact on the protection of civilians, reiterates its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian, human rights law and refugee law, and stresses the need for parties to take all required measures to avoid</p>

	civilian casualties, respect and protect the civilian population (para. 13)
	Calls on parties to armed conflict, in this regard, to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities and relief consignments, and to take measures to eradicate the negative impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on humanitarian actors, and take all required steps to facilitate the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of relief consignments, equipment and personnel (para. 14)