

Delegation from the Russian Federation Position Paper for the Security Council

Being a permanent member of the Security Council brings many responsibilities that the Russian Federation is honoring. The Global Pandemic of COVID-19 has created increasingly pressing problems and requires the attention by the Security Council (SC). The danger that civilians are facing in Armed Conflicts are menacing situations that need immediate response.

I. Impact of COVID-19 on Peace and Security

The COVID-19 Pandemic is affecting the lives of all citizens on this planet. Not a single state, and no Government no matter how powerful and wealthy it is, has all tools and abilities that are needed to fight the pandemic on its own. Everyone had to introduce drastic measures such as we, that were and still are harmful for national economies. This is a Warfare against an invisible enemy. To fight it, to win against it and then to overcome its consequences we need to overcome our prejudices, phobias, hatreds, distrust, and suspicions. It is pivotal that the United Nations (UN) are stepping towards action and that the Security Council unites under the matter of fighting COVID-19. Every crisis is not only a test, but it is also an opportunity. We now must look towards working together and to coordinate global response to such a situation. It's not the time for a contest on who did what and who was the most successful. It's not the time for blaming and finger pointing. It's time to sit together, to share experiences and to listen to each other so that we can find ways to work together. We are convinced that it is our responsibility as the Security Council that a response to this global threat should also be global. It would be a misapprehension to fragment and lock measures within our national borders. The UN must play a pivotal role in dealing with COVID-19 and the problems to Peace and Security. It's also time for solidarity regardless of political agendas and preferences. Developing countries face enormous challenges and should be assisted first and foremost. UN is the best platform to coordinate such assistance. In this context we call on everybody to lift all non-UN multilateral or unilateral coercive measures and sanctions against developing countries. We can not help with one hand and harm with another. The Article 24 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), declares that the Security Council is responsible for the "maintenance of international peace and security". As such we stand responsible for the failure of the international community to implement peace and security in time of COVID-19. The Russian Federation asks every Member State of the Security Council to work together searching for solutions to the conflicts that are present in this time. Although the SC already implemented a Resolution 2532 (2020) the goal could not be reached. But the resolution 2525 (2020) on "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan"; and resolution 2520 (2020) on "The Situation in Somalia" already requested that Member States facilitate the work of UN peacekeeping missions and that they guarantee the movement and safety of their personnel, in spite of COVID-19 restrictions. This was a good step to provide the possibility to achieve success with peacekeeping missions. But this step was still not enough and should be looked into. As the Time arrived that we need to discuss how to continue in the Security Council, it is most important that we are clear in what we want to achieve. It is from utmost importance that we leave our individual interest out from the solutions we may find. As armed conflicts are still going on, ceasefires need to be implemented as the first step towards securing proper responses for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in conflict regions. As a second step we need to realize that the Pandemic is not just a challenge but also an opportunity for the international community. By lifting sanctions and improving relations between nations, we could be able to rise from COVID-19 as an even more peaceful world. The language of sanctions is not the way to follow if conflict parties are asked to a ceasefire or peaceful solutions. Therefore, when we will truly work together, we can rely on each other to create a more prosperous future. Armed conflicts are diverse in origin and process but are all in need of mediation. The Russian federation will be glad to announce that we can manufacture and deliver vaccines to peacekeeping missions. By doing so conflicts can be maintained und control and the danger for UN personal will be reduced. We will also continue our efforts to improve the vaccine to catch up with the enormous pace the virus is mutating. This will help to reduce conflicts and brings safety for peacekeepers. We will also continue our relations with the other nations that need help during the COVID-19 pandemic with economic support, environmental expertise and stability and safety inside the nation's borders. By this we can assure that civilians can continue their life and maintain work as well as a healthy and happy lifestyle. This can be done by offering diplomatic support to conflicts and mediation with conflict parties. As the UN is not always the institution for mediation that is asked for by conflict parties, we will offer our availability. Our main goal will be to maintain peace or negotiate a ceasefire when needed and possible to bring humanitarian support to the people in need. Through these options the Russian Federation is confident, that peace and security during COVID-19 can be maintained and improved.

I. Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

Civilians continue to account for the vast majority of casualties and are targeted and victims of indiscriminate attacks and other violations and harm by parties to conflict. Alone in 2019 deaths caused by explosives alone numbered 29,485 people. From this 66% were civilians. This number shows how important it is that the United Nations Security Council does everything in its power to ensure conflicts to be safer for civilians. It is crucial to provide ceasefires and with this protection for civilians. Each year not only direct armed violence is endangering people but also inefficient medical support and hunger and thirst. Clean water is still a rare good in many parts of the world, this doesn't improve in conflict length. We closely follow the developments in Yemen, where deadly confrontation has been lasting for more than 7 years, with no end to it in sight, and the conflict in South Sudan which shows signs of improvement. As these two Examples of Armed conflicts are fundamentally different in the development and availability for the international community. Yemen is ongoing and a battlefield of many foreign powers as South Sudan shows a development of a stable government with an election in 2023. By keeping in mind that all conflicts need different attention we to increase the safety of Civilians in Armed conflicts. We welcome the efforts of the United Nations system aimed at contributing to the COVID-19 response worldwide with a particular emphasis on countries in need. In this context, we note the role played by the World Health Organization – not only in its capacity as the leading United Nations specialized agency for health, but also as the health cluster lead in the international response to emergencies with health consequences. It is important to ensure sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance, as called for in resolution 2532 (2020), which should be provided in line with UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 (1991), in particular with full respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the recipient States and without political preconditions. With the bilateral movement that the Russian Federation and the Peoples republic of China started on the 04. of February 2022, we ensured that armed conflicts belong to our priority in foreign politics. We call for individual responses to current armed conflicts, as they need individual attention from the SC. The ongoing conflict in Yemen is sadly prolonged by the resolution 2216 (2015) and should be brought to attention. With sanctions on one hand and the humanitarian aid, that is delivered by the UN, on the other hand civilians are not being helped. It is a devil's wheel to do something good with one action and then reversing it with another action. It should be the number one priority to ensure that aid is delivered to civilians in a quick and effective matter. That can only be done if the UN sees the conflict parties as even negotiators and doesn't let western interests interfere with the mediation. We call on the SC to increase the effort of delivering humanitarian aid, as we will be glad to contribute goods and logistics to improve the ongoing process. These goods will include food and clean water, as this is often needed most, as well as medical supplies that go from bandages over hospital equipment to high tech support - and for the current COVID-19 pandemic also vaccines, in these areas. We will offer logistics on land, sea and in the air to ensure that the supplies reach their targets. This combined with effective mediation efforts from our side, we are sure that the protection of civilians in armed conflicts can be improved. Ceasefires will be continuously the main target of operations to ensure this goal. With implemented ceasefires conflict parties can negotiate and receive as well as deliver humanitarian aid to civilians. For this the Russian Federation offers its support and increases its efforts to maintain good relations with conflict parties. We highly believe that measures taken soon can improve the effectiveness of these efforts and we call on all member of the Security Council to support our ideas. We will be glad to take over these responsibilities and respect our partners in the negotiations of ceasefires. As respect is the only way to reach successful mediations. Respect for territories and sovereignty. In conclusion, we reiterate Russia's readiness to set forth our support for the United Nations effort in protecting civilians in armed conflicts and increase our own efforts to that matter.