



Security Council

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Letter dated 27 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2573 (2021), related to the agenda item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” and adopted on 27 April 2021. Resolution 2573 (2021) was adopted in accordance with the voting procedure set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), a procedure agreed in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

Pursuant to that procedure, I enclose herewith copies of the related documents:

My letter dated 26 April 2021 addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (annex I), putting to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/402 (enclosure to annex I); and

Letters received in reply from the members of the Security Council indicating their national position on the draft resolution (annexes II to XVI).

This letter and its enclosures will be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
President of the Security Council



Annex I

Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the members of the Security Council in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, as set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to all members of the Council (S/2020/253), I would like to draw your attention to the following.

The members of the Council have discussed a draft resolution, submitted by Viet Nam, in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”. That draft resolution, contained in document S/2021/402 and enclosed herein, has been put into blue.

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I hereby put the above-mentioned draft resolution to a vote. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period for this draft resolution will begin at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 26 April 2021. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period will expire at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 27 April 2021.

Please submit your vote (in favour, against, or abstain) on the draft resolution, as well as your possible explanation of vote, by sending a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires a.i. within the non-extendable 24-hour voting period set out above to the Director of the Security Council Affairs Division in the United Nations Secretariat (egian@un.org).

It is my intention to circulate a letter listing the outcome of the vote within three hours of the conclusion of the 24-hour voting period. I also intend to convene a video-teleconference of the Security Council to announce the outcome of the vote shortly after the conclusion of the voting period, on the morning of Tuesday, 27 April 2021.

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
President of the Security Council

Enclosure

United Nations

S/2021/402

**Security Council**Provisional
26 April 2021

Original: English

Viet Nam: draft resolution*The Security Council,*

Reiterating its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this context, the need to promote and ensure respect for international humanitarian law,

Recalling all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1265 (1999), 1894 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2175 (2014), 2286 (2016), 2417 (2018), and its Presidential Statements of 12 February 1999 (S/PRST/1999/6), 12 February 2013 (S/PRST/2013/2), 9 August 2017 (S/PRST/2017/14), 20 August 2019 (S/PRST/2019/8), and 29 April 2020 (S/PRST/2020/6),

Reaffirming the full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Reiterating the primary responsibility of States to protect the population throughout their territories,

Gravely concerned about the level of violence against civilians in situations of armed conflicts, including indiscriminate attacks and establishment of military positions in densely populated areas, and their devastating impacts upon civilians,

Emphasising with deep concern that ongoing armed conflicts have devastating impacts on civilians and civilian objects, including civilians engaged in duties related to the operation, maintenance or repair of civilian infrastructure that is critical to the delivery of essential services to the civilian population and their assets that are civilian as such, and on objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, exacerbate existing socio-economic fragilities and vulnerabilities, overstretch limited resources, resulting in reduced access to essential services such as health care, water, sanitation, energy, posing devastating consequences for the civilian population, and hindering an effective humanitarian response,

Recognizing the interconnectedness of certain essential services, as well as the vulnerabilities of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population that can be damaged in situations of armed conflict,

Reiterating the call on all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law including regarding respecting and protecting civilians and taking constant care to spare civilian objects, including

such objects critical to the delivery of essential services to the civilian population, refraining from attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects that are indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and respecting and protecting humanitarian personnel and consignments used for humanitarian relief operations,

Further expressing concern about the misuse of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population in contravention of applicable international law, that may endanger civilians and their ability to access essential services in situations of armed conflict,

Recalling its deep concern at the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law, *recognising* that such use may render schools legitimate targets of attack, thus endangering children's and teachers' safety as well as children's education,

Noting with concern the threats posed to civilian infrastructure, including that which supports essential services to the civilian population, by the use of any means or methods of warfare in violation of international humanitarian law, and the potentially devastating humanitarian impact of such use in situations of armed conflict,

Noting that armed conflicts, violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and destruction of or other damage to objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population can reduce or deprive civilians of access to essential services in situations of armed conflicts, and can be drivers of or aggravate forced displacement, compound the spread of infectious diseases in these contexts and hamper an effective public health response,

Reiterating its commitment to pursue all possible avenues to prevent and end armed conflicts, including through addressing their underlying root causes in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable manner,

Reiterating the need to strengthen efforts to resolve armed conflict and build sustainable peace and convinced that the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population should be an important aspect in this regard,

Reiterating deep concern at the increasing number of civilians in ongoing armed conflict and related violence facing the threat of conflict-induced food insecurity and the threat of famine,

Noting that the humanitarian situation in many armed conflicts can also be compounded by economic crises, increasingly frequent and severe weather events, and natural disasters and has deteriorated as a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and, in this regard, reaffirming the need for combatting and sustainably recovering from the pandemic,

Recalling the obligations of all parties to armed conflicts under international law, including international human rights law, as applicable, and international humanitarian law including the prohibition of attacks directed against civilians and civilian objects, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, hospitals, and other medical facilities,

Underlining the obligations of all parties to armed conflicts under international humanitarian law related to protecting civilians and civilian objects, meeting the basic needs of the civilian population within their territory or under their control, and allowing and facilitating the rapid and unimpeded passage of impartial humanitarian relief to all those in need,

Stressing the particular impact that armed conflict has on women, children, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and other civilians who may have specific vulnerabilities including persons with disabilities and older persons, including through increased risk of violence and lack of access to essential services, and stressing the protection and assistance needs of all affected civilian populations,

Recalling its practice that mandates of UN peacekeeping and other relevant missions include, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, provisions regarding the protection of civilians,

Stressing the need to fight against impunity and the importance of ensuring accountability for serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Recognising the need to return as quickly as possible and in an inclusive and equitable manner provision of essential services, while building back better and providing more resilient essential services to the civilian population, in contributing to advancing the comprehensive approach to sustaining peace in countries in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict, and in this regard, welcoming relevant international and regional cooperation,

1. *Strongly condemns* attacks in situations of armed conflicts directed against civilians as such and other protected persons or civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, resulting in the deprivation of the civilian population of objects indispensable to their survival, as flagrant violations of international humanitarian law, deplores the long-term humanitarian consequences of such attacks for the civilian population and demands that all parties to armed conflict immediately put an end to such practices;

2. *Demands* that all parties to armed conflicts fully comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including regarding distinguishing between, on the one hand, civilian populations, civilian objects and all other persons and objects afforded protection, and, on the other hand, combatants and military objectives, prohibiting indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, taking all feasible precautions in planning, deciding and conducting attacks to avoid, and in any event minimize, harm to civilians and civilian objects, and taking all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population and civilian objects within their control against the effects of attacks;

3. *Further demands* that all parties to armed conflict fully comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law regarding taking due care to spare the civilian population, civilians and civilian objects, refraining from attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and respecting and protecting humanitarian personnel and consignments used for humanitarian relief operations;

4. *Strongly condemns* the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in a number of armed conflict situations which is prohibited by international law and may constitute a war crime;

5. *Strongly condemns* the unlawful denial of humanitarian access and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival in situations of armed conflict, as well as the misuse of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population in violation of international law by all parties to armed conflict;

6. *Urges* all parties to armed conflict to protect civilian infrastructure which is critical to the delivery of humanitarian aid including for the provision of essential services concerning vaccinations and related medical care and other

essential services to the civilian population in armed conflict and to ensuring the proper functioning of food systems and markets in situations of armed conflict;

7. *Reiterates* its demand that all parties to armed conflict engage immediately in a durable humanitarian pause to facilitate safe, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance, provision of related services by impartial humanitarian actors, consistent with humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and medical evacuations, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and refugee law as applicable, as well as equitable, safe and unhindered delivery and distribution of COVID-19 vaccination in areas of armed conflict;

8. *Reiterates* the important role that capacity building in international humanitarian law can play in supporting efforts to protect objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and welcomes efforts by all parties to integrate or continue to integrate measures in this regard;

9. *Encourages* all efforts to protect objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and civilian infrastructure that is critical to enable the delivery of essential services in armed conflict, upon request, to meet the basic needs of the civilian population, including by:

(a) Protection of civilians operating, maintaining or repairing these objects, as well as their movement for the purpose of maintaining, repairing or operating such objects;

(b) Allowing and facilitating safe passage of equipment, transport and supplies necessary for the reparation, maintenance or operation of such objects;

10. *Stresses* the need to ensure better cooperation and coordination at the international level, including among the United Nations and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, including through technical assistance and capacity building, with a view to supporting those affected by armed conflict to reduce humanitarian needs, enhance long-term recovery, protect livelihoods, improve access to essential services, build resilience of conflict-affected populations, and recover from the pandemic, while ensuring full, equal and meaningful participation of women in efforts to promote and maintain peace and security and promoting the inclusion of young people, and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Encourages* the enhancement of technical expertise as appropriate within United Nations country teams so that they may, where appropriate and within their respective mandates and capabilities, respond effectively to support the provision of essential services;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include as a sub-item in the reports on the protection of civilians the issue of protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

Annex II**Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I thank you and your team for the continued strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Please be kindly informed that China votes in favour of draft resolution S/2021/402, submitted by Viet Nam, in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

Annex III

Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, that my delegation votes in favour of the Security Council draft resolution contained in document S/2021/402, in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.

(Signed) **Sven Jürgenson**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations

Annex IV**Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: French]

I refer to the letter dated 26 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council calling on the members of the Security Council to vote on the draft resolution submitted by Viet Nam under the agenda item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”, put into blue under the symbol S/2021/402. France votes in favour.

(Signed) **Nicolas de Rivière**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

Annex V

Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 26 April 2021 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution contained in the document S/2021/402 related to the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 (S/2020/253) from the President of the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that India votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) **T. S. Tirumurti**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Annex VI**Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 26 April 2021, on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”, document S/2021/402.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council for the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that Ireland votes in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/402.

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

Annex VII

Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution (S/2021/402) submitted by Viet Nam in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.

In that respect, I wish to inform you that Kenya votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) Martin **Kimani**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

Annex VIII**Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the letter dated 26 April 2021 regarding the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”, submitted by Viet Nam and contained in document S/2021/402.

In accordance with the procedure outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253) for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that Mexico votes in favour of the aforementioned draft resolution.

(Signed) **Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramírez**

Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

Annex IX

Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in response to the letter dated 26 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council calling on the members of the Council to express their votes on the draft resolution (S/2021/402) submitted by Viet Nam, in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.

In accordance with the agreed temporary procedures for the adoption of draft resolutions during the coronavirus disease pandemic restrictions, I have the honour to indicate that the Republic of the Niger decides to vote in favour of said draft resolution.

(Signed) Abdou **Abarry**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations

Annex X**Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the President of the Security Council's letter dated 26 April 2021 relating to the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/402 in connection with the agenda item "Protection of civilians in armed conflict". In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of draft resolutions under the current circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, I am pleased to inform you that Norway votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) Mona Juul

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

Annex XI

Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 26 April 2021 on the beginning of the voting procedure for the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” (S/2021/402).

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions of the Security Council being in place during the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic outlined in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation votes in favour of draft resolution S/2021/402.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

Annex XII**Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution (S/2021/402) submitted by Viet Nam in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”.

In that respect, I wish to inform you that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

(Signed) Inga Rhonda **King**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations

Annex XIII

Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to the letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the draft resolution contained in document S/2021/402, submitted by Viet Nam in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict”, I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of the draft resolution.

(Signed) Tarek **Ladeb**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

Annex XIV**Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

With reference to the letter dated 26 April 2021 from the President of the Security Council, the United Kingdom votes in favour of the draft resolution (S/2021/402) in connection with the agenda item "Protection of civilians in armed conflict".

(Signed) Jonathan **Allen**

Ambassador

Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations

Annex XV

Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the draft resolution submitted by Viet Nam in connection with the agenda item “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” (S/2021/402), the United States of America votes in favour.

(Signed) Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United States of America
to the United Nations

Annex XVI**Letter dated 26 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

In reference to the letter of the President of the Security Council of 26 April 2021 relating to the draft resolution under the agenda item entitled “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” as contained in document S/2021/402, I would like to hereby inform you that Viet Nam votes in favour of said draft resolution.

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations
