

Explanation of Vote

Mr. President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the co-penholders that put forward the resolution on Conflict and Hunger: Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Tuesday's open debate on the Protection of Civilians provided ample evidence of the timely nature of our resolution, and of its necessity;

As stated in the Secretary-General's report on PoC, the number of food insecure people is rising, mainly due to armed conflict.

Recent reports from WFP and FAO confirm this deeply concerning trend.

The resolution before us is a landmark text; for the first time this Council unequivocally condemns the use of starvation as a method of warfare.

It clearly acknowledges the fact that conflict can lead to increased food insecurity, and recognizes the need to break the vicious cycle between armed conflict and food insecurity.

Most importantly, this text places the most vulnerable people in conflict situations firmly on the agenda of the Council.

Innocent civilians, suffering from hunger due to the consequences of war, are at the heart of this text. So is the respect for international humanitarian law and accountability.

I would like to highlight three important aspects of this resolution:

1. Early warning: the Secretary-General will brief this Council whenever situations occur where people are severely food insecure as a consequence of war.
2. Humanitarian assistance: rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access needs to be granted in line with international humanitarian law.
3. Utilizing the Council's toolkit: The Council can consider sanctioning, as appropriate, those that unlawfully deny access or those that starve civilians. Also, the Council can task peacekeeping operations to facilitate humanitarian access.

It is a truly hopeful sign that the Council managed to unanimously agree on some of the basic norms of humanity.

We would like to thank all Council Members for their truly constructive engagement throughout the negotiation process.

Today we managed to take another significant step towards making the use of starvation as a method of warfare a crime of the past.

Thank you.