

<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	
Monitoring, analysis and reporting on violations and abuses against children			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2626 (2022)	5 (g)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	36 (b) (ii)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2640 (2022)	26 (d) (ii)
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2662 (2022)	48
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	3 (d) (ii)
		Resolution 2633 (2022)	21
Child protection mandates in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions^a			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2626 (2022)	5 (a), (f) and (j)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	35 (a) (iv), 36 (b) (ii) and (e) (i), 43, 48
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2666 (2022)	24 (i) (e) and (ii) (g), (h) and (k), 28
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution 2631 (2022)	2 (c) (ii) and (f)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2640 (2022)	26 (c) (iii) and (d) (ii), 41
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	3 (a) (i) and (v)
Measures against the perpetrators of violations and abuses against children			
Country- and region-specific	The question concerning Haiti	Resolution 2653 (2022)	16 (a) and (e)
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2624 (2022)	12
Calls for the protection, respect and promotion of the right to education in armed conflict			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in Afghanistan	Resolution 2626 (2022)	5 (f)
	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	56

^a For additional information on mandates and decisions relevant to peacekeeping and political missions, see part X.

27. Protection of civilians in armed conflict

In 2022, the Council held three meetings in connection with the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Two of the meetings took the form of open debates, and one took the form of a briefing.¹⁰¹⁴ No decisions were adopted under the item during the period under review. More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is given in table 1 below.¹⁰¹⁵

On 25 January, at the initiative of Norway, which held the presidency of the Council for the month,¹⁰¹⁶ the Council held a high-level open debate under the sub-item entitled “War in cities: protection of

¹⁰¹⁴ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

¹⁰¹⁵ See also [A/77/2](#), part II, chap. 15.

¹⁰¹⁶ A concept note was circulated by a letter dated 10 January ([S/2022/23](#)).

civilians in urban settings”.¹⁰¹⁷ At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Chair and co-founder of the Mwatana Organization for Human Rights in Yemen.¹⁰¹⁸ In his briefing, the Secretary-General remarked on the devastating harm suffered by civilians and civilian infrastructure when hostilities took place in urban settings, especially when explosive weapons were used in populated areas. In that regard, he mentioned some examples of conflict zones in which the urban civilian population had been heavily impacted, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the State of Palestine. The Secretary-General then outlined some prevention and mitigation measures against the impact of urban war and urged States to follow good practices to reduce the humanitarian impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Furthermore, he welcomed efforts towards a political declaration to address the harm arising from the use of those weapons and urged all Member States to commit themselves to avoiding the use of wide-area explosive weapons in populated areas. Finally, the Secretary-General urged all Member States to use their influence over their partners and allies to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and the adoption of good practices and underlined the Council’s vital role in that regard.

The President of ICRC pointed to the negative impacts of the urbanization of conflict and attacks on interconnected infrastructure on populations in urban areas, with no major improvements despite repeated calls for action. He voiced the Committee’s concerns about the extensive use of heavy explosive weapons in urban and other populated areas, which was a particular cause of civilian harm in current armed conflicts. In that regard, he announced the issuance of a new ICRC report on heavy explosive weapons in populated areas with over a decade of analysis. According to the President, the report, in which ICRC outlined practices and recommendations for political authorities and armed forces on a range of mitigating measures, could serve as a tool to inform ongoing negotiations on a political declaration on explosive weapons in populated areas. ICRC continued to urge Member States to act more decisively to improve their own action and leverage their special relationship with allies and partners to enhance respect for international humanitarian law, and highlighted the urgent need to adopt and implement measures to protect essential services as the world confronted the double vulnerability of conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, the President urged States to fully and swiftly implement resolution 2573 (2021) and stressed the need for Council members to ensure that sanctions did not hinder the work of humanitarian actors to prevent the implosion of basic social service systems.

The Chair of the Mwatana Organization for Human Rights, speaking from Sana’a, reported that civilians continued to suffer in the conflict in Yemen and that all warring parties had committed violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In that regard, she provided a summary of figures documented by her organization, including the number of air and ground attacks, mine explosions and civilians killed or wounded since the outbreak of the conflict in 2014. She noted that, in a large number of those attacks, either no military target had been identified or the documented civilian harm was beyond any apparent military benefit, concluding that those attacks had happened because the parties to the conflict had confidently relied on impunity. She also noted that it was not sufficient to name and shame the warring parties and their behaviour, and that the Council should refer the situation in Yemen to the International Criminal Court.

During the debate that ensued, Member States shared their perspectives on the impact of armed conflict in urban areas. Participants reflected on the major complexities of the prevailing wars at the time, including the embedding of non-State actors and armed groups in the infrastructure of urban areas in contravention of international humanitarian law. The Prime Minister of Norway stated that warfare in urban areas, in particular in protracted conflicts, caused civilian deaths and human suffering beyond what was acceptable and stressed that civilians must be protected whether or not an individual military attack was considered legal. He added that it was not just a question of complying with international humanitarian law and made a number of proposals for actions that should be taken for the effective

¹⁰¹⁷ See S/PV.8953 and S/PV.8953 (Resumption 1). In accordance with the understanding reached among Council members in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, five non-Council members also participated by submitting written statements (see S/2022/54). For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the pandemic, see part II.

¹⁰¹⁸ See S/PV.8953.

protection of civilians and civilian objects in urban settings. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Gabon stated that recent partial data revealed that an average of eight times more civilians were killed in urban warfare than in conflicts in rural areas. He added that the complexity of urban theatres was a major challenge for military and humanitarian operations owing to the density of the population and the overlap of civilians and combatants. Member States stressed the need for parties to conflict to avoid the use of explosive weapons with wide-area impacts in densely populated areas and to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law and all relevant instruments. A number of delegations highlighted concerns about the devastating impact of armed conflicts on civilian populations that had been reflected in the latest report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.¹⁰¹⁹ In that regard, several delegations recalled the unanimous adoption of, or urged compliance with, resolution [2573 \(2021\)](#) concerning the protection of civilians and essential civilian infrastructure.¹⁰²⁰ In addition, several Member States proposed concrete actions, including the use of sanctions to coerce or deter perpetrators;¹⁰²¹ strengthening the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian and reconstruction processes and initiatives;¹⁰²² and documenting civilian harm as a means to assess whether the predicted casualties of military operations corresponded to the damage actually caused to civilians.¹⁰²³ Some Member States underscored the need for United Nations peacekeeping operations to better integrate the protection of civilians into mission planning and for their mandates to better reflect the realities on the ground.¹⁰²⁴ The representative of Canada pointed out that action to condemn a State or an armed group that flouted the law was taken less frequently due to the Council often being obstructed by the veto.¹⁰²⁵ He noted that, since 2011, the Council had been blocked 16 times from taking urgently needed action on the Syrian Arab Republic, including to address some of the most pressing humanitarian aspects of the civil war. Moreover, he stated that it was incumbent upon all Member States to challenge the Council when its will was blocked by the veto and to pressure it to achieve its mandate or find alternative avenues of collective address under the Charter.

On 25 May, the Council held its annual open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict to discuss the latest report of the Secretary-General.¹⁰²⁶ At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Director of Coordination in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Director General of ICRC, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Rescue Committee and the Country Director of Women for Women International in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.¹⁰²⁷

The Director of Coordination in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs highlighted some of the key concerns set out by the Secretary-General in his annual report, including the fact that when explosive weapons had been used in populated areas, such as in Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Gaza, about 90 per cent of the casualties had been civilians, compared with 10 per cent in other areas. Other concerns that he voiced included attacks against schools and health-care facilities and damage to the natural environment and essential infrastructure. He noted that conflict-driven hunger had worsened, leading to acute food insecurity among millions of people in 24 States, including Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. Moreover, humanitarian operations had continued to face complex access challenges that had deprived people of the assistance that they needed to survive in Somalia, the Central African Republic and Myanmar. In that connection, he stated that sanctions and broadly conceived counter-terrorism measures had impeded principled humanitarian activities and that

¹⁰¹⁹ See [S/PV.8953](#) (Ireland, Mexico, Albania, India, Liechtenstein, Switzerland (on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict), Austria, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran and Poland); [S/PV.8953 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Ecuador, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Holy See and Georgia); and [S/2022/54](#) (Azerbaijan, Republic of Korea, Rwanda and San Marino). See also [S/2021/423](#).

¹⁰²⁰ See [S/PV.8953](#) (United States, Mexico, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Austria, Malta, Italy, Germany and Poland); [S/PV.8953 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Japan, Ecuador, Sweden, Holy See and Belgium); and [S/2022/54](#) (Republic of Korea and San Marino).

¹⁰²¹ See [S/PV.8953](#) (United Arab Emirates and France); and [S/2022/54](#) (Myanmar).

¹⁰²² See [S/PV.8953](#) (Norway, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland (on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict) and Germany); and [S/PV.8953 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Indonesia).

¹⁰²³ See [S/PV.8953](#) (Brazil).

¹⁰²⁴ See [S/PV.8953](#) (Ireland, France and Slovenia); and [S/PV.8953 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Guatemala and Philippines).

¹⁰²⁵ See [S/PV.8953 \(Resumption 1\)](#).

¹⁰²⁶ See [S/PV.9042](#) and [S/PV.9042 \(Resumption 1\)](#). See also [S/2022/381](#).

¹⁰²⁷ See [S/PV.9042](#).

misinformation and disinformation had eroded trust, putting humanitarians at risk of harm and ultimately jeopardizing humanitarian operations. Turning to the conflict in Ukraine, he said that the war had effectively ended Ukrainian food exports and that the humanitarian impacts were being felt far beyond Ukraine, with price increases for staple foods threatening people in countries across Africa and the Middle East, exacerbating suffering in other conflict situations and planting the seeds for further political instability and unrest worldwide. The Director of Coordination concluded by mentioning a few practical steps that States and non-State armed groups should take to fully comply with international humanitarian law, as repeatedly stated by the Secretary-General. Such steps included tracking reports of civilian harm to gauge the impact of military operations and shift course, if necessary; increasing understanding of the effects of conflict on the natural environment and integrating legal protection for the environment into military training, doctrine and policy and legal frameworks; engaging in political dialogue, training and joint operational planning with security allies, including non-State armed groups, and withholding arms transfers where there was a clear risk that the arms would be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law; ensuring that humanitarian operations were shielded from the political dynamics of conflict and supporting humanitarian engagement with all parties to conflict; facilitating humanitarian activities and excluding them from the scope of counter-terrorism and sanctions measures; investigating alleged war crimes, prosecuting perpetrators, ensuring reparations for victims and strengthening other States' capacity to investigate and prosecute; and developing policy frameworks and building upon good policies and practices.

The Director General of ICRC stated that, while certain progress had been made on the normative and policy fronts on the issue of the protection of civilians, the reality on the ground continued to tell a very different story, with deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian objects, frequent indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, and the politicization of humanitarian action while political solutions to end conflict remained elusive. He added that States were falling short of their primary responsibility to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law. To that end, he urged States to take decisive action in three areas, namely, making the protection of civilians a strategic priority in the planning and conduct of all military and security operations in populated areas; working to avoid and prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation in armed conflicts and to mitigate their impact on affected people; and refraining from making operational humanitarian organizations such as ICRC responsible for sharing data from international humanitarian law monitoring. In that regard, the Director General stated that there was a need to bridge the wide gap between the ever-growing protection and assistance needs of conflict-affected people and the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver an adequate response. That meant removing obstacles such as restrictive measures that criminalized aid, denied access, politicized funding or imposed requirements compromising humanitarian principles. He concluded by stating that the responsibility for removing those obstacles and for ensuring protection lay first and foremost with States, including the members of the Council.

The President of the International Rescue Committee said that the system for protecting civilians was not succeeding and that no failure was greater than the denial of access for innocent civilians to the legal right to receive life-saving aid. In that context, he stated that every year the delivery of aid became harder in conflict zones, not because the natural geography was more difficult but because the human-made obstacles were more significant. He said that, while the Council was not responsible for the tactics of those laying siege to communities or targeting civilians or aid workers, it was responsible for the failure to hold those actors to account and to curb their illegal excesses, and that was what needed to change. He added that the denial of humanitarian access should be a permanent item at the Council and that the Council should set a standard for defending United Nations officials who called out violations of international law, noting that those officials should be backed by independent assessments of access violations that left no room for political pressure. He stressed the importance of early warning mechanisms and suggested that resolution 2417 (2018) on conflict-induced hunger could be an effective indicator of food insecurity and famine and a tool to fight it if it were not undermined by weak and inconsistent implementation, data and reporting. Lastly, he said that, where the Council had direct power over access to aid, such as in the upcoming vote on renewing cross-border access to the Syrian Arab Republic, such votes should be based on facts and law alone to ensure that humanitarian aid reached those in need by the most direct and effective routes. When the Council was divided, the General Assembly could continue to play a critical role in establishing independent mechanisms to gather evidence on international humanitarian law violations.

The Country Director of Women for Women International in the Democratic Republic of the Congo focused her briefing on the challenges faced by the women and other marginalized populations affected by conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on how gender-transformative approaches and local women's organizations like hers must be part of the strategy from the start to ensure better humanitarian access and the protection of all civilians. In that regard, she said that there must be closer coordination among humanitarian country teams, government authorities, peacekeeping missions and civil society across the planning and implementation phases of humanitarian responses.

Following the briefings, delegations discussed the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in various conflict zones around the world and the unprecedented challenges to global efforts for the protection of civilians. In that connection, a number of delegations underscored the need for the full and effective implementation of relevant Council resolutions concerning the protection of civilians.¹⁰²⁸ The representative of Brazil expressed the view that it was clear that the problem was not the absence of norms but rather the lack of their implementation and of respect for them.¹⁰²⁹

In terms of the most pressing protection challenges, speakers pointed to the use of heavy explosives in densely populated areas and the widespread availability of weapons; conflict-related sexual violence and the increased vulnerabilities faced by women, children, refugees, internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities; the shrinking of the humanitarian space due to deliberate attacks on humanitarian and medical personnel, schools and medical facilities; and the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation. Several delegations also raised concerns about the unintended consequences of sanctions and counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian assistance.¹⁰³⁰ In that regard, some delegations underscored the need to consider safeguards or humanitarian carveouts, such as the one established by resolution 2615 (2021) concerning Afghanistan, in order to exclude the application of sanctions to humanitarian activities. The representative of France stressed the need to sanction violations of international humanitarian law with regard to the protection of civilians by making better use of the tool of sanctions against those responsible for those violations.¹⁰³¹ A number of speakers also touched upon the fact that the world faced unprecedented levels of food insecurity due to the widespread and protracted armed conflicts. In that regard, several delegations expressed the view that the adverse effects of the conflict in Ukraine on food and energy prices had exacerbated an already critical humanitarian situation in conflict zones.¹⁰³²

Member States drew attention to the instrumental role played by peacekeepers in the protection of civilians and to the increasing challenges faced by United Nations missions around the world in executing their protection mandates. In that connection, many delegations advocated more adequate training and resources to enable peacekeepers to effectively implement their protection mandates.¹⁰³³ In addition, a number of speakers stressed the importance of preventing the outbreak of armed conflicts as the most effective way to protect civilians.¹⁰³⁴ While most delegations called for compliance with international

¹⁰²⁸ See [S/PV.9042](#) (Gabon, United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway, Albania, China, Mexico and Switzerland (on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict)); and [S/PV.9042 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, New Zealand, Austria, Yemen, South Africa, Japan, Morocco, Poland, Italy, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Argentina, Republic of Korea and Belgium). For more information on the discussion concerning the obligation of Member States to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council in the context of the protection of civilians in armed conflict, see part V, sect. II.

¹⁰²⁹ See [S/PV.9042](#).

¹⁰³⁰ See [S/PV.9042](#) (Brazil, Ireland, France, Norway, United Arab Emirates, Mexico and Switzerland (on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict)); and [S/PV.9042 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (European Union (also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine) and Islamic Republic of Iran).

¹⁰³¹ See [S/PV.9042](#).

¹⁰³² See [S/PV.9042](#) (United States, Albania, Mexico and Türkiye); and [S/PV.9042 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Ecuador, European Union (also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine), Portugal, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Greece and Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries)).

¹⁰³³ See [S/PV.9042](#) (India, Norway, China, United Arab Emirates and Egypt); and [S/PV.9042 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (New Zealand, Estonia, Australia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Argentina, Indonesia, Guatemala, Malaysia and Chile).

¹⁰³⁴ See [S/PV.9042](#) (United Kingdom, Brazil, Albania, United Arab Emirates and Egypt); and [S/PV.9042 \(Resumption 1\)](#) (Slovenia, Viet Nam, Qatar, Maldives, Uruguay, Croatia (on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect) and Chile).

humanitarian law and accountability, some participants also underscored the necessity of embedding civilian protections into national laws.¹⁰³⁵ The representative of New Zealand said that improved integration with the United Nations peacebuilding architecture would better protect civilians at all stages of conflict.¹⁰³⁶

On 15 September, at the request of Brazil and Ireland, as co-focal points on food security and armed conflict, the Council held a meeting further to a white note sent to the Council by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on 24 August in accordance with resolution 2417 (2018).¹⁰³⁷ In that resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report swiftly to the Council when the risk of conflict-induced famine and widespread food insecurity in armed conflict contexts occurred. Accordingly, the situations in the following four regions were detailed in the white note: northern Ethiopia, north-east Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. At the meeting, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Recalling the request of the Council in resolution 2417 (2018), the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs reported on the recent assessments in the four regions in which such a risk was clear.¹⁰³⁸ In that regard, the Under-Secretary-General reported that, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification system for monitoring food security worldwide, hundreds of thousands of people in those regions were facing catastrophic levels of hunger – the equivalent of phase 5 of the system, which was the ultimate, most devastating phase. Elaborating on the main drivers of hunger due to the direct and indirect impact of conflict and violence, he noted that, in each context, a similar pattern recurred, characterized by forced displacement, the disruption of access to markets, agricultural production and income generation by explosive remnants of war, the destruction of essential civilian infrastructure and equipment, the deliberate suspension of access to commercial supplies and essential services, and the eventual use of hunger as a tactic of war. Humanitarian organizations faced impediments and attacks that prevented them from reaching people in need and made their suffering worse. After providing a snapshot of the situation in each of the regions in crisis, the Under-Secretary-General recommended four specific steps to be taken by Member States with regard to each area, namely, to pursue peaceful and negotiated resolutions to conflicts and other situations of violence; to remind and encourage States and armed groups to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law; to support an integrated response to address the underlying drivers of acute food insecurity; and to sustain humanitarian financing for those crises. Before concluding, the Under-Secretary-General pointed to the impact of climate change and how it was felt variously by those who did little to create it. Drawing attention to the risk of famine in Somalia specifically, he called upon the climate community and Member States to ensure that money pledged for climate financing reached its destination.

In his briefing, the Chief Economist of FAO underscored that conflict had immediate and lasting effects on every dimension of agrifood systems and severely hampered humanitarian access to civilians. Before describing the situations in the four contexts addressed in the white note, he said that, although not included in detail in the white note, it was important to describe the dire situation in Somalia and to draw the Council's attention to Afghanistan, where the humanitarian situation remained highly fragile. In closing, he said that preventing conflict was the most effective means of preventing famine and that immediate action was essential to minimize potential calamities.

In his briefing, the Executive Director of WFP stated that the world was facing a global emergency of unprecedented magnitude, with the threat of mass starvation and famine growing constantly. He echoed the assessments of the situations in Ethiopia, north-east Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen by previous briefers and urged the Council to show the leadership the world needed to facilitate political solutions to end those wars.

¹⁰³⁵ See S/PV.9042 (United Kingdom, France and Mexico); and S/PV.9042 (Resumption 1) (Canada, South Africa, Italy and Croatia (on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect)).

¹⁰³⁶ See S/PV.9042 (Resumption 1).

¹⁰³⁷ See S/PV.9133. See also resolution 2417 (2018), paras. 1 and 12.

¹⁰³⁸ See S/PV.9133.

In the ensuing debate, Council members emphasized that armed conflict and violence remained primary drivers of the risk of conflict-induced famine and widespread food insecurity in parts of South Sudan, Yemen, north-east Nigeria and northern Ethiopia, as highlighted in the white note, as well as in Somalia and Afghanistan. A number of participants¹⁰³⁹ highlighted the Council's preventive role in averting conflict, as envisaged in resolution 2417 (2018), and called for the full implementation of that resolution. In that connection, the representatives of Mexico and the United States underscored the importance of the white note as a useful early warning tool. Many delegations¹⁰⁴⁰ expressed the view that the conflict in Ukraine had exacerbated the already precarious situation in those regions. In contrast, the representative of the Russian Federation stated that the causes of food crises in any country needed specific analysis without hasty generalizations. He added that the Secretary-General had recently warned of the risk of mass famine in five countries, four of which had been the subject of items of the Council for years. In that context, the Russian representative said that it was regrettable that the subject of food security was being manipulated for geopolitical ends and that "Western countries continue[d] to blame Russia for every problem", including the food crisis, even as they acknowledged that it had preceded the special military operation in Ukraine.

Throughout 2022, the Council continued the practice of hearing briefings by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs concerning the protection of civilians in armed conflict under country- and region-specific items.¹⁰⁴¹ The Council also included protection-related provisions in most of its decisions in relation to both country- and region-specific items and thematic ones during the year. The Council focused on multiple aspects of the protection of civilians agenda and used a variety of language formulas to address the protection of civilians in its decisions. Selected provisions of those decisions are listed in table 2 below. In particular, the Council: (a) strongly condemned all forms of violence and abuses committed against civilians, in particular against women and children, and demanded the cessation of attacks against humanitarian and medical personnel and civilian infrastructure, including attacks against schools, hospitals and humanitarian facilities;¹⁰⁴² (b) demanded that all parties to armed conflict ensure rapid, safe and unhindered access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need and ensure the safety of humanitarian and medical personnel; (c) called upon all relevant parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law and called for accountability measures against perpetrators of such crimes; (d) emphasized the primary responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations and called for their action to protect civilians; (e) requested additional monitoring and response mechanisms to threats and attacks against civilians and reporting arrangements in order to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict; and (f) adopted or expressed its intention to adopt targeted measures, including sanctions, against individuals or entities who violated international humanitarian and human rights law. In that regard, the Council also decided on humanitarian exemptions and urged Member States to minimize and mitigate the unintended adverse humanitarian consequences of targeted measures, as decided later in the year by resolution 2664 (2022).¹⁰⁴³ In addition, the Council's practice of strengthening the mandates of United Nations peace operations with a view to protecting civilians continued to evolve. During the reporting period, the Council continued to request several missions to make the protection of civilians under threat of physical violence a specific priority and benchmark of their mandates, with particular attention on, but not limited to, women, children, refugees and internally displaced persons, including by creating a secure environment for the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, strengthening local community engagement and empowerment and early warning mechanisms, and using strategic communications to counter disinformation and misinformation.¹⁰⁴⁴

¹⁰³⁹ Brazil, Ireland, United Arab Emirates, Norway, Albania, United States and France.

¹⁰⁴⁰ Brazil, Ireland, United Arab Emirates, Mexico, Norway, India, Albania, United States, France and Italy.

¹⁰⁴¹ In 2022, the Council heard briefings by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 35 times at public meetings and 20 times at either private meetings or informal consultations, for a total of 55 briefings. For more information on briefings on those items prior to 2022, see *Repertoire, Supplement 2021*, part I, sect. 25.

¹⁰⁴² For more information on the decisions of the Council concerning children and armed conflict, and specifically the protection of schools and education facilities, see sect. 26 above. For more information on the decisions of the Council concerning conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence, see sect. 29 below.

¹⁰⁴³ Resolution 2664 (2022), para. 7. For more information on the discussion related to preventing humanitarian consequences of sanctions, see sect. 28 below. For more information on the economic problems arising from the implementation of sanctions by the Council, see part VII, sect. IX.

¹⁰⁴⁴ For more information on the mandates of peacekeeping and special political missions, see part X.

Table 1
Meetings: protection of civilians in armed conflict, 2022

<i>Meeting record 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.8953, S/PV.8953 (Resumption 1) and S/2022/54 25 January	War in cities: protection of civilians in urban settings Letter dated 10 January 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2022/23)		33 Member States ^d	President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, Chair and co-founder of the Mwatana Organization for Human Rights	Secretary- General, all Council members, ^b all invitees ^c	
S/PV.9042, S/PV.9042 (Resumption 1) 25 May	Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2022/381)		50 Member States ^d	Seven invitees ^e	All Council members, all invitees ^f	
S/PV.9133 15 September			Italy	Under- Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Executive Director of the World Food Programme	All Council members, all invitees	

^a Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine and Yemen.

^b Ghana was represented by its Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Norway (President of the Council) was represented by its Prime Minister. Gabon was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; the United Arab Emirates was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Political Affairs; and the United States was represented by its Permanent Representative to the United Nations and member of the President's Cabinet.

^c The Chair and co-founder of the Mwatana Organization for Human Rights participated in the meeting with audio only. The representative of Sweden spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; the representative of Switzerland spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict; and the representative of the European Union spoke also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

^d Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Yemen.

^e The Director of Coordination in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the Director General of ICRC; the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations; the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations; the Permanent Observer of the Holy See; the President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Rescue Committee; and the Country Director of Women for Women International in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

^f Germany was represented by its State Secretary at the Federal Foreign Office. The representative of Croatia spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect; the representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of the Nordic countries; the representative of Switzerland spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict; and the representative of the European Union spoke also on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, Monaco, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine.

**Table 2
Selection of provisions relevant to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, by theme and item, 2022**

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Condemnation and demands for the cessation of attacks and acts of violence against civilians and civilian infrastructure and humanitarian and medical personnel			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	3, 25, 56
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2666 (2022)	7, 9, 10
	The question concerning Haiti	Resolution 2653 (2022)	1
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2628 (2022)	16–18
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	11
Thematic	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	S/PRST/2022/7	fifth, sixth
Demands on parties to allow immediate humanitarian access and ensure the safety of humanitarian and medical personnel and facilities			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	54, 55
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2666 (2022)	31
	The situation in Myanmar	Resolution 2669 (2022)	9
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2657 (2022)	11, 11 (a) and (a) (iii)
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	10, 12

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Calls for compliance with and accountability under applicable international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law and relevant Council resolutions by all parties			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	14, 22
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2666 (2022)	5
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2640 (2022)	31, 46, 47
	The situation in Myanmar	Resolution 2669 (2022)	4, 10
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2657 (2022)	9
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	9
Thematic	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	S/PRST/2022/7	thirteenth
Affirmation of the primary responsibility of States and parties to conflict to protect civilians and calls for action to protect civilians			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	10, 24
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	S/PRST/2022/4	fifth, sixth
		Resolution 2666 (2022)	5, 6
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2640 (2022)	2, 12, 25, 45
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2628 (2022)	6, 9, 14 (c), 19
		Resolution 2657 (2022)	13 (a) and (b)
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	5, 13, 17, 20 (g)
		Resolution 2630 (2022)	4
Requests for specific monitoring and analysis of and reporting on protection of civilians			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	36 (b) (i), 43
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2666 (2022)	30, 43
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2640 (2022)	57 (i) and (iv)
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2642 (2022)	2, 5
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2628 (2022)	11, 53 (f)
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	20 (a)
		Resolution 2633 (2022)	23

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>
Imposition of targeted measures against perpetrators of violations against civilians in armed conflict			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2648 (2022)	5
		Resolution 2659 (2022)	4
	The question concerning Haiti	Resolution 2645 (2022)	5
		Resolution 2653 (2022)	13, 16 (e) and (g)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2649 (2022)	2
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2657 (2022)	11 (d)
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	18
	Resolution 2633 (2022)	13	
Stressing of the need to minimize adverse humanitarian consequences of sanctions measures and humanitarian exemptions			
Country- and region-specific	Peace and security in Africa	S/PRST/2022/6	eighth
	The question concerning Haiti	Resolution 2653 (2022)	10, 17
	The situation in the Middle East	Resolution 2624 (2022)	6, 16
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2662 (2022)	28
Thematic	General issues relating to sanctions	Resolution 2664 (2022)	1, 7
	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	S/PRST/2022/7	seventh, seventeenth
Inclusion of mission-specific protection mandates and benchmarks^a			
Country- and region-specific	The situation in the Central African Republic	Resolution 2659 (2022)	35 (a) (i)–(iv) and (c), 36 (b) (i) and (iii) and (f) (i), (iv) and (vii), 41
	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Resolution 2666 (2022)	21, 24, 24 (i), 24 (i) (a), (e) and (f), 25, 26 (b) and (c)
	The situation concerning Iraq	Resolution 2631 (2022)	2 (c) (i) and (ii)
	The situation in Mali	Resolution 2640 (2022)	26 (b) (i) and (iii), (c) (i) and (ii), (d) (i) and (ii) and (e)
	The situation in Somalia	Resolution 2657 (2022)	7 (a)
	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan	Resolution 2625 (2022)	3 (a) (i)–(iii), (v), (vii), (viii) and (x), (b), (c) (v) and (d) (i) and (iv), 20 (j), 25
Thematic	United Nations peacekeeping operations	S/PRST/2022/5	seventh, fifteenth

^a For additional information on mandates and decisions relevant to peacekeeping and political missions, see part X