



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nations
Security Council - 2021-2022

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED
CONFLICT: FOOD INSECURITY DUE TO CONFLICT
AND VIOLENCE

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN KIMANI
- PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2022, 3PM

Thank you,

I thank Martin Griffiths, David Beasley and Maximo Torero for their briefings. I also welcome the participation of Ambassador Maurizio Massari.

Madam President

Given that we are discussing specific countries whose people are suffering the distress of food insecurity, we would ideally want to hear from the concerned states to have a fuller picture of the situation.

After all, if practical solutions are the outcome we seek, every useful insight shared today will need to build on the efforts of those states, and their ability and willingness to work with the United Nations and the International Community.

We welcome the humanitarian briefings and welcome the briefers awareness that the emergencies are taking place in a broader political, economic and environmental context.

That context is further complicated by the fact that we are presently in the grip of a global food and energy crisis whose causes extend far beyond the national situation and include geopolitical, economic and climate change drivers.

Madam President,

Humanitarian organisations are undertaking heroic efforts all over the world. They are short of the resources they require, and the emergencies are growing by the day. Our humanitarian colleagues should be supported in their urgent calls for adequate funding, and indeed for rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access.

However, we should not focus entirely and exclusively on the emergency responses to man-made conflicts. We know that in most of the countries and regions most affected by violent conflict, its causes include climate change and the shortfalls in development and the consequent poverty and inequality.

While food insecurity may be most acute in the limited areas where violence is occurring, in most conflict-afflicted countries, it is a broader phenomenon. We therefore urge the relevant states, regional bodies and UN entities to bring a renewed and resourced focus on Sustainable Development 2 seeking zero hunger by 2030. Their efforts should be coordinated and collaborative to ensure that they are conflict responsive.

Pursuing these targets requires an immediate focus on increasing agricultural productivity. Particularly in supporting access to affordable fertilisers and de-risking investments in fertiliser production in Africa. This push will come hand in hand with a just energy transition that allows countries to use their hydro-carbon resources for economic development. Countries that strongly

advocate for humanitarian response should embrace a just energy transition in the Global South as key to achieving their advocacy.

Madam President,

We also argue that this is the right time for the Council to re-engage with its preventive mandate particularly in regard to the climate crisis in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, to mention only two of the most affected regions.

There is sufficient evidence that the climate crisis aggravates conflict and may even be a direct driver. We urge the Council to heed the strong call by countries in the region for action that links climate action with the UN's peacekeeping and political missions.

Mr President,

The Security Council must retain its strong support for humanitarian action while making progress in meeting its mandate to protect civilians in situations of threats to international peace and security.

The best way to achieve our mandate is to make stronger efforts to encourage, facilitate and enforce political settlements that deliver ceasefires, dialogue, reconciliation, and post-conflict reconstruction. This is practical work foremost. The efforts we undertake in the Council, particularly in the timing and thrust of meetings, statements and resolutions, is most effective when connected to ongoing efforts to mediate and negotiate ceasefires and settlements.

In situations where there is no peace to keep, and there are terrorist or militant groups that are a pervasive and devastating threat to civilians, the Council must reconsider its continuing reluctance to support UN financial support for regional enforcement efforts.

It should also further embrace the work and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission as it deploys livelihoods support and development in preventing conflict.

I thank you for your attention!