



SOFIMUN
Sofia International Model United Nations

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EXAMPLE POSITION PAPER

Security Council

Republic of South Africa

The issues before the Security Council are:

1. Protecting civilians in Armed Conflict
2. Somalia

General position

The Republic of South Africa strongly believes that the fortunes as a nation are intimately interconnected with the fortunes of neighbouring countries, the African continent and all of humanity. Therefore South Africa continues to be actively engaged in the effort to build a better Africa and world, not only on the basis of moral responsibility but also as a collective self-interest.

A major part of South Africa's foreign policy agenda on the African continent has been to actively engage in mediation as well as participating in peacekeeping operations in conflict situations in Africa and beyond. The South African Parliament adopted the [White Paper on South African Participation in International Peace Missions](#), in October 1999, committing South Africa to supporting initiatives of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity aimed at the Prevention, Management and Resolution of international conflicts.

With the important position in the Security Council, South Africa wants to advance the cause of Africa in international affairs, in particular, and confirm that Africans occupy the front ranks in the world struggle for peace, security and stability.

1. Protecting civilians in Armed Conflict

South Africa deplores any disregard for International Humanitarian Law, where civilians and non-combatants become the victims of conflict and indiscriminatory weapons. South Africa strives to contribute to the formulation of international law and enhance respect for its provisions. The government believes that working within the framework of international law and in concert with other countries and multilateral institutions, the current conflict challenges can be tackled. At the same time creating awareness for the respect of human rights in conflict situations as well as a general respect for international humanitarian law. With the important position in the Security Council, South Africa wants to promote international humanitarian law. A number of significant



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International Humanitarian Law instruments¹ have already been ratified by the government and South Africa continues to address the delays encountered with the Geneva Conventions Bill through the National International Humanitarian Law Committee and the Plenary Defence Council. In addressing violations of International Humanitarian Law, it is South Africa's conviction that using international criminal law yields the best results.

Millions of people, particularly in Africa, continue to face threats posed not only of war and conflict, but also of terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, organised crime and civil violence. South Africa recognizes that the nature of armed conflict is increasingly changing. Those conflicts between states account for only a small proportion of overall conflicts and many conflicts are now waged between non-state actors, consisting of groups within countries, or by armed groups against States. International terrorism has tragic consequences and the South African government strongly condemns suicide bombings and barbaric terrorist attacks against innocent civilians.

South Africa continues to play an active role in all aspects of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation as these relate to both weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms, including small arms, light weapons and anti-personnel mines.

Furthermore, South Africa is concerned with the apparent increasing number of attacks on humanitarian personnel, highlighted in recent media reports. South Africa supports the official mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as an impartial, neutral, and independent organisation which aim to "protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance".

Moreover, a zero-tolerance policy should be implemented with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations peacekeeping and related personnel. South Africa is especially concerned with children in this respect. The implementation of a comprehensive strategy for assistance and support to the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel is also important so that all (children) who are victims of, or born as a result of, such abuse receive support.

¹ including the Geneva Convention as well as Optional Protocols I and II, the International Criminal Court Statute, the Hague Convention, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Convention, the Landmine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Treaty) and the Conventional Weapons Conventions. South Africa has also signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, in 2002, its passage through parliament is complete and the final process for ratification has been initiated.



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2. Somalia

South Africa is concerned that the situation in Somalia is not getting any better. It is still characterized by a grave humanitarian crisis, major political divisions, including within the Transitional Federal Government, and general insecurity in the country. The humanitarian situation remains fragile precisely because of insecurity and political divisions. South Africa acknowledges the necessity of humanitarian assistance so as to alleviate the suffering of the people of Somalia and is committed to do whatever it can to make sure that the people of Somalia are not allowed to suffer any more than they have.

South Africa believes that a dialogue that includes all parties, irrespective of their religious beliefs, will be the key to Somalia's people being able to live side-by-side in peace. The only way that this is possible, and thus the only way forward is to encourage and support inclusive political process as well as to deploy a peacekeeping operation. A conducive security environment has to be created to allow the political process to proceed. It is therefore important to seriously look into a contingency plan for possible deployment of a peacekeeping force in Somalia.

South Africa would like to turn to the Secretary- General's report on Somalia published on March 14th 2008 as a source of approaches to addressing the situation in Somalia, including the best way to proceed with the eventual deployment of a United Nations mission. South Africa is aware of the difficulty and danger of such a mission, as was communicated in the report above mentioned. The report shows that the security situation in Somalia has further complicated by regional and international factors, including the proliferation of arms, the potential use of Somalia as a stage for a proxy war among neighbours and the continuing threat of piracy, which adversely affects the delivery of humanitarian supplies. The security situation in Somalia can change very rapidly, therefore the peacekeeping force may find itself in a peaceful situation one day and in serious conflict the next.

However, South Africa is committed to deploying a United Nations peacekeeping force as soon as possible. Because, despite the admirable work of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in maintaining peace in Somalia, their work has gone beyond sustainability and effectiveness. The problem for AMISOM is not just a lack of resources, but also the nature of the mandate. AMISOM was deployed as a stop-gap until the United Nations can deploy. Therefore South Africa stresses the need for a deployment of a United Nations Peacekeeping force in Somalia, in order to stop the situation in Somalia from being a constant threat to international peace and security.