

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 2 May 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that Mozambique, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of May 2024, will hold an open debate on the theme “Protection of civilians in armed conflict: twenty-fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution [1265 \(1999\)](#)” on 21 May, at 10 a.m.

In order to guide the discussions, Mozambique has prepared an aide mémoire (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pedro **Comissário**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 2 May 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Aide mémoire for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Protection of civilians in armed conflict: twenty-fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1265 (1999)”, to be held on 21 May 2024 at 10 a.m.

I. Introduction

Mozambique, in its capacity as President of the Security Council, will organize an open debate on the theme: “Protection of civilians in armed conflict: twenty-fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1265 (1999)”, scheduled to take place on 21 May 2024.

The event, one of the signature events of Mozambique as the Presidency of Security Council for the month of May, provides a timely opportunity to assess and reflect on the challenges and progress made in the protection of civilians over the past quarter century.

As we commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1265 (1999), which first established the protection of civilians as a crucial issue of international peace and security, and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, it is imperative to address the current threats and challenges to international humanitarian law.

The open debate will draw upon the annual report of the Secretary-General, which highlights the erosion of international humanitarian law principles, in particular during a period marked by significant global conflicts and frequent violations, where belligerent forces actors are willing to ignore international humanitarian law and the rules of law or invoke them selectively.

Despite a century of legal provisions protecting the sanctity and the respect of the life of non-combatants and regulating the conduct of war, the increasing risk of misinterpretation requires the constant affirmation of their applicability. These laws remain important pillars of international coexistence, in particular in the context of the ever-changing nature and methods of war.

This event not only recalls the historical significance of these milestones but also underscores the urgent need to reinforce the commitment of Member States of the United Nations and other stakeholders towards upholding and advancing the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The persistent violations spotlight the need for more robust mechanisms to ensure compliance and accountability.

The open debate offers a platform for Member States and various stakeholders to engage in a comprehensive discussion about the existing challenges to the protection of civilians, as well as to explore future opportunities for the Security Council to strengthen its role in safeguarding civilians in conflict zones. It also provides an opportunity to reaffirm the relevance and applicability of international humanitarian law and international human rights law everywhere and anywhere.

The reflection is crucial to prevent further erosion of international humanitarian law and to ensure that all actors, including humanitarian workers, are protected and able to perform their critical functions in conflict environments.

Now, more than ever, it is essential to uphold the ethical imperative foundational to these rules, ensuring their adherence is unconditional and vital for human dignity and the effectiveness of international law.

II. Briefers

- Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Joyce Msuya
 - President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger
 - Representative of a civil society organization (to be confirmed).
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