

**Explanation of position after the adoption of draft resolution L.
“Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations
Personnel”**

by

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The safety of the people working in the field for achieving the goals of the United Nations is a crucial task for this organization – which is why we attach great importance to the draft resolution just adopted. We are pleased to be part of the consensus on this resolution, but would also like to point out where the text falls short of our expectations.

Throughout the negotiations on the resolution we just adopted, we have advocated the inclusion of an explicit reference to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel as well as its Optional Protocol. The Optional Protocol, adopted by consensus about a year ago following a mandate given by our Heads of states on Government at the 2005 summit, expands the scope of application of the Convention and - taken together – these two instruments constitute the legal regime for the protection of UN personnel. We therefore fail to see any justification for the deletion of the reference to the Optional Protocol from this resolution – even more so since the only provision in question is favorable to host States.

Combating impunity for attacks against humanitarian personnel is one of the most effective tools to prevent such violence and to increase the safety and security of relief workers in the field. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court criminalizes attacks against UN personnel and thus greatly contributes to progress in this field. Nevertheless, this year’s resolution makes a step backwards by merely noting the work of the ICC and not even acknowledging its significance to the topic at hand.

During the negotiations, we joined other delegations who stressed the need to also reflect that national and local aid workers are more often

targeted by violence than international personnel. This has been evidenced by the most recent studies mentioned in the SG report. Unfortunately, a specific mention of this fact was not possible either. Here again, striving for consensus has led to a text which insufficiently reflects the realities it purports to address.

We have joined consensus on this text because the safety and security of humanitarian personnel is a topic of utmost importance both for the United Nations and for the millions of people suffering from humanitarian emergencies. While we value the importance of consensus on a topic like the one at hand, we also believe that the principle of consensus can be reconciled with a text that does justice to the topic at hand. We look forward to signing on to a text on this issue next year which fulfills both these criteria

I thank you.