FORUM: General Assembly 1

QUESTION OF: The question of ethnic cleansing and measures taken to eradicate it.

SUBMITTED BY: People’s Republic of China

Co-submitted by: Finland, Israel, Argentina, Denmark, Arab League, Spain, UN Women

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

*Defining* ethnic cleansing as “a purposeful policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove by violent and terror-inspiring means the civilian population of another ethnic or religious group from certain geographic areas”

*Recalling* that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

*Recognizing* Responsibility to Protect (R2P), a global political commitment endorsed by all member states of the United Nations (UN) in 2005, for its goal of “narrow the gap between Member States’ pre-existing obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and the reality faced by populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,”

*Recalling* that the United Nations are prepared to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner to cease and prevent “ethnic cleansing”, through the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate,

*Keeping in mind* that A study conducted by Am J Psychiatry reported a decrease of PTSD level after reintegration in North America, the average severity was 12.5, compared with 20.6 at initial assessment. At 1-year follow-up, 25 of the refugees experienced a decrease in PTSD symptoms, one remained the same, and eight experienced an increase,

*Recognizing* the victims of ethnic cleansing,

*Recalling* State’s primary responsibility to protect civilians and to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, as provided for by relevant international law, and further, reaffirming the responsibility of each individual State to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity,

*Noting* also that terrorism is an important element in an increasing number of “ethnic cleansing” situations and that countering incitement to terrorism, motivated by extremism and intolerance, and addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, can complement “ethnic cleansing” prevention efforts,

1. Strongly condemns all violations of international humanitarian law;
2. Acknowledges the important role the following can play in contributing to the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of “ethnic cleansing;
   1. United Nations regional offices,
   2. Special Political Missions,
   3. United Nations Human Rights Council
   4. as well as regional and subregional organizations and arrangements;
3. Expresses its willingness to give prompt consideration to early warning cases brought to its attention by the Secretary-General, including to the dispatch, in appropriate circumstances, of preventive political missions and encourages the Secretary-General to bring to its attention any matter which in his opinion may threaten human rights;
4. Acknowledges that serious abuses and violations of international human rights or humanitarian law, including sexual, gender-based, racially-based and ethnically-based violence, can be an early indication of an escalation into “ethnic cleansing”;
5. Commits to taking early and effective action to prevent “ethnic cleansing” and, to that end, to employ all appropriate means at its disposal, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;
6. Afirms its commitment to consider and use the tools of the United Nations system to ensure that early warning of potential “ethnic cleansing” translates into early, concrete preventive action;
7. Urgesall Member States to provide funding and resources, such as counseling and therapy, for victims of ethnic cleansing, when an psychological evaluation finds:
   1. High rates of PTSD,
   2. Elevated levels of depression,
   3. General trauma:
      1. PTSD was diagnosed in 65% of the refugees,
      2. Depressive disorders in the other 35%:
8. Calls for enhanced cooperation and capacity building with regional and subregional organizations and arrangements to help to prevent “ethnic cleansing”, its spread and impact, including through cooperation in early warning mechanisms as well as to help facilitate preventive action; consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;
9. Expresses its continued willingness to make use of the advisory, advocacy and resource mobilization roles of the United Nations Human Rights Council in the prevention and eradication of “ethnic cleansing”;
10. Suggests that all Member States drive funding for refugee camps for displaced persons who were dislocated from their original homes as a result of ethnic cleansing to prevent:
    1. Dehydration
    2. Starvation,
    3. Risk of outbreaks of diseases such as cholera,
    4. Overcrowding,
    5. Unhygienic living conditions;
11. Emphasizes the need for governments to identify and clarify plans and policies that might involve factors of Ethnic Cleansing such as:

a. Discrimination at a national scale,

b. Segregation at national scale,

c. Violence committed to certain ethnic group or groups at a national scale;

1. Decides to remain actively seized on the matter.