RESOLUTION 2417 FIVE YEARS ON:
TAKING STOCK AND LOOKING AHEAD TO PREVENT FUTURE CRISES
POC WEEKSIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE
MAY 25, 8:30-10:00 AM
CR 9 AND UN WEB TV

Background

Conflict remains the primary driver of acute food insecurity globally. In 2021, seven out of the world’s ten largest food crises had conflict or violence as the primary driver of acute food insecurity.

Five years ago, the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted Resolution 2417 and recognised the link between armed conflict and violence and conflict-induced food insecurity and the threat of famine.

Resolution 2417 strongly condemns international humanitarian law violations, such as the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, underlining that this act may constitute a war crime, and the unlawful denial of humanitarian access, depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival. Resolution 2417 calls on all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, while also reaffirming the primary responsibility of States to protect populations throughout their whole territories. In particular, the resolution:

- Calls upon parties to take measures to protect civilian objects, including objects necessary for food production.
- Recalls the relevant prohibition on the forced displacement of civilians.
- Underlines the prohibition of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare.
- Urges States to influence parties to armed conflicts to comply with international humanitarian law.
- Urges States to conduct, in an independent manner, full, prompt, impartial, and effective investigations within their jurisdiction into violations of international humanitarian law related to the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare.

Resolution 2417 also created a mechanism for increased reporting on the issue of conflict-induced food insecurity, with the aim of fostering UNSC action and international political attention to help prevent increasing food insecurity. Hence, the resolution requested the UN Secretary-General to:

- Provide information on the humanitarian situation and response, including on the risk of famine and food insecurity in countries with armed conflicts, as part of their regular reporting on country-specific situations.
- Report swiftly to the UNSC when the risk of conflict-induced famine and wide-spread food insecurity in armed conflicts contexts occurs.

The impacts of armed conflicts on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, livestock grazing areas, and fishing grounds, looting, or destruction of food stocks, agricultural assets, and other objects indispensable to the survival of the population, including related infrastructure, as well as impediments to humanitarian assistance. Indirect impacts can include the disruption of food systems and markets, and decreased access to supplies necessary for food preparation such as fuel and water. Explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices, often characteristic of armed conflicts, have serious and lasting socio-economic consequences for affected populations, particularly for the resumption of agricultural activities, restoration of livelihoods, and safe access to markets.

The consequences of conflict-induced hunger and risk of famine are multidimensional, and can have generational impacts on women, men, boys and girls. In the face of hunger, and with armed conflict leaving few options, people are forced to adopt negative coping strategies as their last resort. These strategies often result in children being removed from school, child labour, and increased rates of gender-based violence, including early and forced marriage. Against the backdrop of armed conflict and violence, food insecurity contributes to negative health outcomes, compromises child survival, limits education opportunities, compounds protection risks, and undermines household and community resilience.

Objectives

May 24th, 2023 marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 2417, and presents an opportunity through a high-level side event during Protection of Civilians Week to reflect on implementation. Topics will include what progress has been made, challenges and barriers remaining for action, and solutions States and the broader international community could collectively work towards to address the long-standing challenge of protecting civilians from the impacts of armed conflict and violence on food security and risk of famine. This side event will aim to:

- Take stock on the implementation of Resolution 2417 since its adoption.
- Share the experience and perspectives of affected communities on how armed conflict is causing food insecurity in different contexts through video testimony from impacted communities and CSOs.
- Identify challenges to the implementation of Resolution 2417 and potential solutions, including the identification of ways to ensure that the UNSC is provided with complete, diverse, and quality information.
- Identify processes to enhance the role of civil society and affected communities in the implementation of Resolution 2417.
- Provide insights into potential measures Member States and other key stakeholders can take to prevent and mitigate the impact of conflict on food security and famine risk.
- Renew high-level political commitment for the next five years to improve the implementation of Resolution 2417 and the protection of civilians against food insecurity in situations of armed conflict.
- Announce dates for the forthcoming Resolution 2417 roundtable dialogue series (Nairobi, Dakar, Amman and LAC locations).

Speakers

Moderator: Ms. Carla Carlson, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic
Welcome and Introduction: Ambassador Corinne Ciceron Buhler, Director of International Law, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

- Leader of a network of women's rights and women-led organisations working in the Lake Chad Basin
- Mustafa Othman, Executive Director, Shaqodoon Organization
- Abdulwasea Mohammed, Advocacy, Campaigns and Media Manager, Oxfam, Yemen
- Lola Castro, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, World Food Program

Closing Remarks: Ambassador Tiemoko Moriko, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Cote d'Ivoire