



ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT
 UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK 19-21 June 2018

“Enhancing respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians: Sharing good practices”

21 June 2018 from 8:30 to 9:45 am in Conference Room 9

Sponsors and Organizers: Austria and UN OCHA

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme: *Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives

In his 2018 report on the Protection of Civilians, the UN Secretary-General painted a bleak picture of “immeasurable human and societal decimation,” but also offered some glimmers of hope: “There are practical steps that have been, and could again be, taken by parties to conflict and member States to respect and ensure respect for the law and enhance the protection of civilians.” Some of these include national policy frameworks for the protection of civilians, limits to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, action plans with State forces and armed groups to end the recruitment and use of children, strict arms export controls based on the risk of serious violations of international humanitarian (IHL), and good practices in the protection of medical care. This event will examine and promote some recent and ongoing efforts to develop and adopt good practices to enhance respect for IHL and the protection of civilians.

Discussion topics and panel composition

Panelist	Discussion topic
Mr. Nazifullah Salarzai, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations	Examining the new Afghan national policy on the prevention and mitigation of civilian casualties
Mr. Philipp Charwath, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations	Making responsible arms transfers
Mr. Charles Sabga, Deputy Head of Delegation and Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation to the United Nations	Good practices in the protection of medical care in armed conflict

Panelist	Discussion topic
Ms. Nelly Sabarthes-Gasparinatos, Political Affairs Officer, Office of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict	Efforts to engage non-state armed groups in action plans to comply with IHL and commit to protecting civilians

Format

The event will principally gather diplomats and organizations who cover humanitarian issues. Panelists will make brief presentations highlighting some good policies and practices. Participants will have ample opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion. The presentations and ensuing discussion will be moderated by Ms. Nathalie Weizmann, Policy Branch, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Background Material

- Secretary-General Report on the Protection of Civilians, S/2018/463, 14 May 2018, available [here](#).
- Website of the Office of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict, available [here](#).
- ICRC Health Care in Danger Resource Centre, available [here](#).
- Control Arms resources on implementing the Arms Trade Treaty, available [here](#).
- OCHA compilation of military policy and practice: Reducing the humanitarian impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, available [here](#).

Contact

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