

Forum: The Special Conference

Question of: Ensuring the Freedom of Speech in Post Conflict Zones

Submitted by: Canada



Co-submitted by: United States of America, Bolivia, Belgium, United Kingdom, Chile, Italy, Germany, Guatemala, Ecuador, Dominica, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Ireland, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Cape Verde, Armenia, Japan, Palau, Uruguay, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Gambia, Czech Republic, Jordan, Denmark, San Marino, Cuba, Spain, Ukraine, Fiji, Croatia, Indonesia, Australia, Moldova, Guinea Bissau, France, Sierra Leone, Monaco, Nepal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Solomon Islands, Israel, Algeria, Kenya, Argentina, Romania, Papua New Guinea, South Korea, Portugal, Norway, Namibia, Botswana, Bahamas, Finland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Costa Rica, Hungary, Latvia, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines and Lithuania

- 1 The Special Conference,
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- 3 *Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
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- 5 *Further reaffirming* the existence of the fundamental human right of freedom of speech as
- 6 established in article 19 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR),
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- 8 *Remembering* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as one of the two
- 9 international treaties which elaborate on the provisions of the UNDHR, ratified by 167 States as
- 10 of August 2012,
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- 12 *Acknowledging* the definition of post conflict zones as given by the Heidelberg Institute for
- 13 International Conflict Research,
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- 15 *Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation in order to ensure freedom of speech in
- 16 post conflict zones,
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- 18 *Realizing* that unbiased and pluralistic information is crucial to a functioning democratic society,
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- 20 *Emphasizing* that unbiased and pluralistic sources of media are a central factor in the process of
- 21 informing the public,
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- 23 *Recalling* United Nations Resolution 1325 which urges the international community to include
- 24 women's groups and individual women in all post conflict reconstruction, development and
- 25 peace processes,
- 26
- 27 *Acknowledging* the productive work of NGOs working in the field of free and independent press
- 28 and combatting censorship as well as reporting from areas regardless of risk for themselves,
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30 *Alarmed* by the restriction of freedom of speech in several cases around the world,
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32 *Noting with appreciation* that NGOs are already taking actions in counteracting this issue,
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34 *Observing* that the international community has been unable to end the impairment of freedom of
35 speech up to this point,
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37 *Bearing in mind* that biased media has led to enormous tragedy in the past,
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39 *Acknowledging* that establishing regulations and penalties depends upon the participation of
40 countries all around the globe,
41
42 *Confident* that the assembled Member States are working together to find the best possible
43 resolution to address the problems of ensuring freedom of speech in post conflict zones,
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45 1. **Reaffirms** that according to the United Nations Charter Chapter I, Article 2, Clause 7,
46 the United Nations is not authorized “to intervene in matters which are essentially within
47 the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the members to submit such matters
48 to settlement under the present charter”;
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50 2. **Calls upon** UN member states to create a special committee, the Freedom of Speech
51 Committee (FOSC), which operates in post-conflict zones and whose responsibilities
52 include staying in contact with affected governments in post conflict zones to find long-term
53 solutions to provide and ensure freedom of speech for its citizens;
54
55 3. **Encourages** the Member States of the UN to sign and ratify the International Covenant
56 on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
57
58 4. **Encourages** all Member States to support NGOs
59 a. Who the United Nations Human Rights Council determines as
60
61 i. Free,
62 ii. Independent,
63 iii. Unbiased,
64 iv. Pluralistic,
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66 b. who are eager to report in and from post-conflict states respecting the domestic
67 legislation of the internationally recognized government;
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69
70 5. **Calls for** the establishment of Training Centres for Unbiased News (TCUNs) in every
71 member state, as a part of journalism schools, in order to:
72 a. educate journalists worldwide on how to report unbiased and pluralistically
73 b. offer a platform for exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of journalism
74 c. provide safe havens for persecuted journalists in post conflict zones to prevent
75 unjust imprisonments,

- 76 d. support the developing print, developing broadcast market and independent
77 journalists by means of such as, but not limited to providing startup:
78
79 i. funds,
80 ii. equipment,
81 iii. materials,
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83
84 6. **Requests** the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to:
85 a. support governments in constructing communication infrastructure in order to
86 increase access possibilities to internet, radio and printed media,
87 b. support research on possibilities that enable access to internet in regions which are
88 underdeveloped and isolated;
89
90 7. **Asks** Amnesty International and other NGOs to further monitor media in post conflict
91 zones in order to:
92 a. detect the wide spreading of hatred campaigns,
93 b. prevent outbreaks of violence;
94
95 8. **Requests** the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to:
96 a. fund the programs requested in operative clause 5,
97 b. give financial aid to post conflict zones governments, if they are legitimated by
98 their people and executing their power in accordance with the human rights, in
99 order to build up communications infrastructure, under the condition that
100 independent reporters are allowed to enter and freely operate in their respective
101 territories,
102 c. give funds to NGOs
103 i. supporting free and independent journalism,
104 ii. who comply with criteria of operative clause 4,
105 d. fund Amnesty International's monitoring services described in operative clause 6;
106
107 9. **Calls for** the establishment of a special committee, "Women in Conflict Zones" (WICZ),
108 to:
109 a. monitor and support that women's groups and individual women, as well as
110 children, are included in the reconstruction and development of post conflict
111 zones,
112 b. support women and women groups in post conflict zones,
113 c. monitor that women are granted equal rights and the same freedom of speech as
114 men;
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116 10. **Proposes** all member states should allow independent public service broadcasters
117 alongside government broadcasters;
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119 11. **Encourages** the establishment of a system for the allocation of broadcast licences and
120 frequencies, insulated from political and commercial interference;
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- 122 12. **Requires** that investigations on the attacks against and killings of local and foreign
123 journalists in post conflict zones are made by independent investigators sent by the UN;
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- 125 13. **Suggests** all post-conflict states to allow their inhabitants to voice their opinions freely as well as
126 to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, either orally, in writing or in print,
127 in the form of art or through any other media of their choice, with country-specific exceptions
128 accepted by the state's legitimate, internationally recognized government only in the following
129 cases:
- 130 a. harming public order and endangering the state,
 - 131 b. incitement of criminal acts and physical violence,
 - 132 c. harassment towards ethnic minorities and religious groups dwelling in the given
133 state,
 - 134 d. infringement with public morality,
 - 135 e. disclosing information classified as confidential or strictly confidential on
 - 136 i. criminal investigations,
 - 137 ii. trials documents,
 - 138 iii. business secrets,
 - 139 iv. state secrets,
 - 140 f. stopping further developments in political progresses;
- 141 14. **Further suggests** the legislative body of post-conflict states to set up a national
142 committee that determines and need be updates a clear legal definition of hate speech and
143 terrorism so that the countries' judiciary authorities can have an objective basis when
144 ruling based on Operative Clause 12;
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- 146 15. **Encourage** the internationally recognized governments of post-conflict countries that had
147 to face civil war to use state-owned media to strengthen the nationwide unity of the state
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- 149 **a;** by educational programs for children and adults alike highlighting the negative
150 effects of war such as but not limited to:
 - 151 i. Famine,
 - 152 ii. electricity shortages,
 - 153 iii. water shortages,
 - 154 iv. other supply shortages,
 - 155 v. structural changes in the employment sector that result in the rise of
156 temporary, as well as long term unemployment,
 - 157 **b;** via promoting the reconstruction of the country altogether regardless of
158 religion, ethnic background and political views,

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c; if it is possible, by documentary on the population, as

- i. common cultural heritage,
- ii. religious similarities,
- iii. history of peaceful coexistence leading prosperity and development,
- iv. shared or similar ethnic background;

16. **Further invites** all UN Member States to establish a TCUN in their countries;