Mr.President,

Despite the efforts of the international community **to prevent/ avert** armed conflicts and to minimize their consequences for the civilian population, such conflicts continue to cause the deaths of **thousands of/these** civilians. **These number/include a considerable number** of children, women and other vulnerable groups of the population, including refugees and displaced persons. **Victims/ casualties** of armed conflicts **also include personnel/individuals** rendering humanitarian **assistance/employees** of humanitarian organizations. During armed conflicts in various parts of the **world/ globe/use** is made **of/sophisticated** methods for killing **people,/ sophisticated** methods for killing people are used, as well **as/and** there is also/brutal/horrendously cruel **treatment/abuse of the wounded/ injured**, the sick, the **peaceful citizens/the civilian population,** mass deportations are **common/spurred** on, hostages are taken/there is hostage-taking/and **the bodies of the dead/corpses** are profaned.

There is a **need/for/to undertake/additional efforts to activate/ involve** the **significant/major/important** potential of political and international-legal means for protecting the victims of armed conflicts and tightening the **parameters/norms/bounds** of what is **permissible/ while waging/carrying out/conducting** hostilities. It is important to see to it that all sides to an armed conflict conscientiously **implement/ apply/comply** with the international standards of humanitarian law laid down by/inscribed **in/found** in the Hague and the Geneva conventions. The international community must not put up with/ accept/the actions of those who ignore international standards for **the protection of the civilian population and make use of violence and terror** against the civilian population and humanitarian personnel. **The Security Council must provide active political support for the activity** of the humanitarian organizations, inter alia/including providing for the protection of the civilian population during armed conflicts. The need for such support, however, should definitely/ certainly not/in no way/be considered from an "angle of force,"/in terms of the use offered, as a kind of lack of alternative to the use of armed force. **Force is the means of last resort** for exerting an impact on/attempting to influence the parties to the conflict, (which is) available to the international community. It should be resorted to only/when there has been no success with the use of all political and diplomatic means/when all political and diplomatic means have failed. By no means all humanitarian crises/Not every humanitarian crisis/even when the civilian population is suffering, can be characterized/categorized in this way/manner. As experience has shown (e.g./for example Somalia), an insufficiently grounded/poorly justified/and miscalculated, and in particular unsuccessfully/poorly implemented international intervention involving the use of/with/ using/ force of a "humanitarian nature" is **fraught with consequences for/is likely to lead to a/is highly conducive to** a drastic/severe exacerbation/aggravation of the conflict with all of the (ensuing) negative consequences, inter alia for/including those affecting the/ civilian population. **A source of serious concern** is the attempts to advance the idea that the existence of a humanitarian crisis in one or another country is a sufficient reason/provides sufficient grounds/for unilateral armed intervention bypassing/sidestepping the Security Council. The problem of the protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts is a **wide-ranging/complex one/issue** and requires a **comprehensive/broad approach** from/on the part of/the international community, with emphasis specifically on political-legal methods. We support efforts aimed at additional protection for individual groups of the population, above all children, during armed conflicts. Russia **on several occasions** has put forward humanitarian initiatives, including some regarding the creation/establishment of a system of monitoring and of rapid response by the international community to violations of norms of international law. **We attach great significance to/we consider important as** well/the implementation/application of the concept of the need for national or international criminal prosecution of individuals responsible for war crimes and crimes against mankind.

A contribution to the reaffirmation of the norms of international humanitarian law **will also be made by the activities in Russia** devoted to/marking the centenary of the First Peace Conference.

**Mr. Chairman, (оригинал)**

 Despite the efforts of the international community to avert armed conflicts and to minimize their consequences for the civilian population, such conflicts continue to cause the deaths of thousands of these civilians. These include a considerable number of children, women and other vulnerable groups of the population, including refugees and displaced persons. Victims of armed conflicts also include employees of humanitarian organizations. During armed conflicts in various parts of the globe sophisticated methods for killing people are used, and there is also brutal treatment of the wounded, the sick, the peaceful civilian population, mass deportations are common, hostages are taken, and corpses are profaned. There is a need to undertake additional efforts to activate the significant potential of political and international-legal means for protecting the victims of armed conflicts and tightening the bounds of what is permissible while waging hostilities. It is important to see to it that all sides to an armed conflict conscientiously comply with the international standards of humanitarian law laid down by the Hague and the Geneva conventions. The international community must not put up with the actions of those who ignore international standards for the protection of the civilian population and make use of violence and terror against the civilian population and humanitarian personnel The Security Council must provide active political support for the activity of the humanitarian organizations, including providing for the protection of the civilian population during armed conflicts. The need for such support, however, should definitely not be considered in terms of the use offered, as a kind of lack of alternative to the use of armed force. Force is the means of last resort for exerting an impact on the parties to the conflict available to the international community. It should be resorted to only when all political and diplomatic means have failed By no means all humanitarian crises, even when the civilian population is suffering, can be characterized in this manner. As experience has shown (for example Somalia), a poorly justified and miscalculated, and poorly implemented international intervention involving the use offered of a "humanitarian nature" is likely to lead to a severe exacerbation of the conflict with all of the ensuing negative consequences, including those affecting the civilian population.

A source of serious concern is the attempts to advance the idea that the existence of a humanitarian crisis in one or another country provides sufficient grounds for unilateral armed intervention bypassing the Security Council.

The problem of the protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts is a complex one and requires a comprehensive approach on the part of the international community, with emphasis specifically on political-legal methods. We support efforts aimed at additional protection for individual groups of the population, above all children, during armed conflicts. Russia on several occasions has put forward humanitarian initiatives, including some regarding the establishment of a system of monitoring and of rapid response by the international community to violations of norms of international law. We attach great significance as well to the implementation of the concept of the need for national or international criminal prosecution of individuals responsible for war crimes and crimes against mankind.

A contribution to the reaffirmation of the norms of international humanitarian law will also be made by the activities in Russia marking the centenary of the First Peace Conference.

Господин Председатель,

Несмотря на усилия международного сообщества **по предотвращению** вооруженных конфликтов и минимизации их последствий для гражданского населения, такие конфликты продолжают вызывать гибель **тысяч мирных граждан. Немалое число** среди них составляют дети, женщины и другие уязвимые группы населения, включая беженцев и перемещенных лиц. **Жертвами** вооруженных конфликтов **становится и персонал,** оказывающий гуманитарную помощь. В ходе вооруженных конфликтов в различных районах мира применяются изощренные методы уничтожения людей, изуверская практика обращения с ранеными, больными, **мирным населением,** поощряются массовые депортации, затворятся надругательства **над телами погибших.**

Нужно предпринять дополнительные усилия по задействованию значительного потенциала политических и международно-правовых средств защиты жертв вооруженных конфликтов и ужесточить рамки дозволенности при ведении боевых действий. **Важно добиться того,** чтобы все стороны вооруженного конфликта добросовестно выполняли международные стандарты в области гуманитарного права, установленные Гаагскими и Женевскими конвенциями. Международное сообщество не должно мириться с действиями тех, кто игнорирует международные стандарты **по защите гражданского населения,** использует насилие и террор в отношении мирных граждан и гуманитарного персонала.

**От Совета Безопасности требуется активная политическая поддержка деятельности** гуманитарных организаций, в т.ч. в вопросах обеспечения защиты гражданского населения в ходе вооруженных конфликтов. Необходимость такой поддержки, однако, отнюдь не должна рассматриваться с силового угла, под углом зрения некой безальтернативности задействования военно-силовых рычагов. **Сила — крайнее средство воздействия** на конфликтующие стороны, имеющееся в руках международного сообщества. Прибегать к ней можно только когда использованы, причем безуспешно, все политико-дипломатические рычаги.

Далеко не каждый гуманитарный кризис, даже когда страдает гражданское население, может быть квалифицирован таким образом. Как показывает опыт (например, Сомали), недостаточно обоснованное и просчитанное, а тем более неудачно реализованное международное силовое вмешательство «гуманитарного характера» **чревато** резким обострением конфликта со всеми негативными последствиями, в т.ч. и для гражданского населения. Серьезную озабоченность вызывают попытки продвигать подход, согласно которому наличие гуманитарного кризиса в той или другой стране является достаточным основанием для одностороннего вооруженного вмешательства в обход Совета Безопасности. Проблема защиты гражданского населения в вооруженных конфликтах имеет **комплексный характер** и требует **комплексного подхода** со стороны международного сообщества, с упором именно на политико-правовые методы. Мы поддерживаем усилия, направленные на дополнительную защиту отдельных групп населения, прежде всего детей, в ходе вооруженных конфликтов. **Не раз** Россия выдвигала гуманитарные инициативы, в том числе о необходимости создания системы мониторинга и быстрого реагирования международного сообщества на нарушения норм международного права. **Важное значение мы придаем и** реализации концепции о необходимости национального или международного уголовного преследования лиц, ответственных за военные преступления и преступления против человечности.

Свой вклад в утверждение норм международного гуманитарного права призваны внести **и проводимые в России мероприятия,** посвященные столетию Первой конференции мира.