



# **Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General

July 2025

Original: English and French

---

**2025 session**

21 - 24 July 2025

ECOSOC High-Level Segment

## **Statement submitted by World Without Genocide in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

\*The present statements are issued without formal editing



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General

July 2025

Original: English and French

---

## Statement

Women and girls are increasingly victimized in armed conflicts. Their vulnerability is exacerbated by United Nations Security Council vetoes prohibiting aid, ceasefires, and peacekeepers. The veto system must be changed.

In 2023, there were 170+ armed conflicts, and 612 million women and girls were living near conflict areas. The proportion of women killed in armed conflicts doubled in 2023 compared to 2022 and there were 3,688 cases of conflict-related sexual violence. 117.3 million people were forcibly displaced, half of them women.

United Nations mechanisms fail to protect vulnerable populations.

The United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Russian Federation, and China are permanent members of the Security Council. Ten additional states fill remaining Security Council seats on a rotating basis.

Permanent members can veto any resolution and it is canceled. Rotating members do not have this privilege.

Many United Nations officials say that resolutions are binding. If that were the case, there would be no conflict-related sexual violence.

Part of the problem lies with the veto system. There have been 88 vetoes since 1989. The United States of America and Russian Federation cast 75% of them, with China casting the rest.

These vetoes denied ceasefires, humanitarian aid, peacekeepers, and other measures to halt violence. The United States of America blocked 10 of 14 Gaza-related resolutions since 2023. 70% of those killed in that war have been women and girls. In the 2003 Darfur crisis, the Russian Federation and China used explicit or implicit vetoes to block peacekeeping, thereby supporting the Sudanese government, a partner in oil and arms trade. On November 18, 2024,

\*The present statements are issued without formal editing



## **Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General

July 2025

Original: English and French

---

a resolution to increase aid and implement a ceasefire in today's Sudan crisis was supported by 14 of 15 Security Council members but was vetoed by the Russian Federation.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France wield 'pen power,' deciding whether and how resolutions are drafted, thereby setting the Security Council's agendas. The Russian Federation, United States of America, and China now appear to control the results with their frequent vetoes.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Abolish the veto. Base decisions on a 15-member vote.
2. Disallow vetoes on resolutions about war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity.
3. Disallow vetoes for aid or peacekeeping.
4. Require that a veto go to the General Assembly for a decision.

Veto power obstructs resolutions, hampers aid, and heightens danger to vulnerable populations.

**Word count: 400**