



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 117

### Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 28 May 2020

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/74/L.66](#) and [A/74/L.66/Add.1](#))]

### 74/275. International Day to Protect Education from Attack

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* that everyone has the right to education, and recalling in that regard the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>2</sup> the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,<sup>3</sup> the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>5</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>6</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>7</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>8</sup>

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it committed to providing inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical and vocational training; all people, irrespective of sex, age, race or ethnicity, and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations, should have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 75, No. 973.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.



*Recalling* its resolution 64/290 of 9 July 2010 on the right to education in emergency situations, in which it condemned the targeting of civilians as such in situations of armed conflict, including schoolchildren, students and teachers, as well as attacks on civilian objects such as educational institutions, where prohibited under international law, recognized that such acts may constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949<sup>9</sup> and, for States parties, war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,<sup>10</sup> and reminded all parties to armed conflict of their obligations under international law to refrain from the use of civilian objects, including educational institutions, for military purposes and child recruitment,

*Recognizing* the importance of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all,

*Emphasizing* the need to take steps to achieve the full realization of the right to education for all children and, in particular, to take all feasible measures to protect schools from attacks, as well as persons entitled to protection in relation to them in situations of armed conflict, to refrain from actions that impede children's access to education, and to facilitate access to education in armed conflict,

*Expressing particular concern* that many children in armed conflict, in particular girls, lack access to education owing to attacks against schools, damaged or destroyed school buildings, mines and unexploded ordnance, insecurity, the prevalence of violence, including gender-based violence, in and around schools and loss of documentation,

*Noting* efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the right to education and facilitating continuation of education in armed conflict, including the efforts of Member States that are signatories to the Safe Schools Declaration,

*Recalling* its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

*Expressing its dismay* at the aggravation of attacks on educational institutions, their students and staff, in contravention of international humanitarian law, recognizing the grave impact that such attacks have on the full realization of the right to education, in particular of women and girls, and reiterating its condemnation in the strongest terms of all such attacks,<sup>11</sup>

*Profoundly concerned* about the growing number of attacks and threats of attacks against schools, and recognizing the grave impact of such attacks on children's and teachers' safety, as well as on the full realization of the right to education, expressing its concern also that the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law may also affect the safety of children and teachers and the right of the child to education, and encouraging all States to strengthen efforts to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of international law,

*Deeply concerned* that school-related violence against girls, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, such as violence perpetrated by teachers, continues to deter girls' education and, in many cases, the transition to and completion of secondary education, and that these risks may influence parents' decision to allow girls to attend school,

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., vol. 2187, No. 38544.

<sup>11</sup> See resolution 70/137.

*Urging all parties to armed conflict to fulfil their applicable obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including to respect civilians, including students and educational personnel, and civilian objects such as educational institutions,*

*Calling upon all Member States, including donors, and inviting the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels and to consider increasing their contributions to education programmes defined in humanitarian appeals, including humanitarian consolidated and flash appeals, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, as a means of ensuring adequate, timely, predictable, flexible and needs-based resources,*

*Noting the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the six grave violations committed against children in armed conflict,*

1. *Decides to proclaim 9 September the International Day to Protect Education from Attack;*

2. *Reaffirms the right to education for all and the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels, including for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities, where possible, including through adequate funding and infrastructural investments, for the well-being of all, in this regard recognizes that access to quality education in humanitarian emergencies can contribute to long-term development goals and reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law, strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes, when in contravention of international humanitarian law, and encourages efforts to promote safe and protective school environments in humanitarian emergencies;*

3. *Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, individuals and other relevant stakeholders, to observe the International Day to Protect Education from Attacks in an appropriate manner;*

4. *Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund to facilitate the observance of 9 September of every year as the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67;*

5. *Stresses that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;*

6. *Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders for appropriate observance.*

28 May 2020