

Statement by Belgium on behalf of the European Union- 65th UNGA- Humanitarian Affairs

Statement on behalf of the European Union by the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations on the United Nations 65th General Assembly Resolution on the Safety and security of Humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

15 December 2010

Mister President, Excellencies,

It is a great honour to present on behalf of the European Union the draft resolution in document A/64/L.31 on "Safety and security of Humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel". The European Union, my country Belgium and EU Commissioner Georgieva in particular, attach great importance to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel. We are worried and aghast by the increasing number of casualties and accidents of humanitarian personnel in recent years, especially when attacks are deliberately targeted or politically motivated against United Nations and humanitarian personnel. This year we welcome the entry into force of the additional protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated personnel, which expands the scope of the Legal protection of the Convention to the personnel of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies. We hope that more States will become parties to the Convention and the additional protocol in the coming years. This draft resolution and the increasing list of cosponsors show that all Member States feel concerned about and can come together around safety, security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel. The work, the commitment and the courage of the humanitarian workers is highly valued, especially of locally recruited personnel. This year, we also welcome the contribution of the women personnel in humanitarian operations and ask special attention for the specific security threats women face. Giving the high number of casualties and victims among humanitarian workers resulting from road incidents, the issue of road safety is highlighted this year. The Secretariat is requested to take initiatives to promote road safety and strengthen training and report on the steps taken to improve data collection and analysis on road incidents. Finally, there is an expression of support to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and the United Nations Security Management System, in particular to the significant change in approach towards security management. The new approach is designed to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance and gives guidance to the designated officials on how to stay instead of when to leave in circumstances where the

delivery of humanitarian assistance has become more complicated. In closing, I thank all delegations for the engagement in the negotiations, the openness and the frankness of the exchanges and the willingness to agree upon the important questions addressed in this resolution. We look forward to the adoption of this resolution by consensus once again.

Thank you.