

## **2014-2015 UN Security Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect**

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect welcomes today's election of Chad, Chile, Lithuania, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Security Council for 2014-2015. With the addition of Chile and Nigeria, 10 of the 15 members of the Security Council in 2014 are members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). It is our hope that they will use this opportunity to uphold their commitment to R2P and to take timely, preventive action to avert the horrors witnessed in Rwanda, Srebrenica and, more recently, Syria and Sudan.

Security Council members have a particular responsibility to ensure that populations are protected from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, regardless of where these crimes are occurring. To this end, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect urges newly-elected Security Council members to:

- Hold a UN Department of Political Affairs Horizon Scanning briefing during their presidency to inform council members of situations where there is a serious risk of mass atrocity crimes;
- Request briefings from the UN Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, as well as relevant Special Rapporteurs on situations where populations are at risk;
- Uphold the preventive component of the Responsibility to Protect by taking early action to avert mass atrocity crimes, and be prepared to take timely and decisive action should those efforts fail;
- Support diplomatic initiatives aimed at restraining the use of the veto in mass atrocity situations by permanent members of the Security Council.

The Global Centre has compiled brief profiles on each of the newly-elected Security Council members. These provide an account of their engagement with R2P, including their participation at the UN General Assembly, whether they have appointed a national R2P Focal Point and their positions on ongoing country situations.

Other relevant background information includes their contribution to UN peacekeeping operations, their status with regard to the Genocide Convention, the Rome Statute to the ICC and the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as their affiliated groupings or bloc at the regional level and within the UN.

Following the election, Dr. Simon Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, remarked: "R2P is only ever as strong as the commitment of the UN member states who support it. Stopping mass atrocity crimes is fundamentally a question of political will. We welcome the election of these new UN Security Council members and call on them to consistently utilize their position to prevent atrocities and protect vulnerable populations."

## Chad

**Head of State:** H.E. Général de Corps d'Armée Idriss Deby Itno

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. Mahamat Zene Cherif

### Summary of R2P Engagement

<b>Participation in UNGA R2P Dialogue:</b>	No
<b>Reference to R2P at UNGA Opening:</b>	No
<b>R2P Group of Friend member:</b>	No
<b>Appointed R2P Focal Point:</b>	No

### Relevant Background Information

<b>Group:</b>	African Group (Central)
<b>UN Security Council Membership:</b>	N/A
<b>Human Rights Council Membership:</b>	N/A
<b>Contributions to UNPKOs:</b>	1299 personnel (23 <sup>rd</sup> largest contributor)
<b>Rome Statute of the ICC:</b>	Ratified November 2006
<b>Genocide Convention:</b>	Non-signatory
<b>Arms Trade Treaty:</b>	Signed September 2013
<b>Other:</b>	Member of the AU, ECCAS, Francophonie, G77, NAM

### NOTES

- **UNSC Goals and Priorities:** Sahelo-Saharan Security; counter-terrorism; AU-UN cooperation (Security Council Report, 2013). Country-Specific – Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Sudan.
- **On R2P:** No major statements or engagement on R2P.
- **Country-Specific:** At the Opening of the 68<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, President Deby addressed the “alarming” situation in the Central African Republic and called a “rapid response” to the crisis. President Deby also called upon the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the rebel factions within the country to find a “negotiated settlement” to the crisis.

## Chile

**Head of State:** H.E. Mr. Sebastián Piñera

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Alfredo Charme

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. Octavio Errázuriz

### Summary of R2P Engagement

<b>Participation in UNGA R2P Dialogue:</b>	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
<b>Reference to R2P at UNGA Opening:</b>	2013
<b>R2P Group of Friends member:</b>	Yes
<b>Appointed R2P Focal Point:</b>	No

### Relevant Background Information

<b>Group:</b>	GRULAC
<b>UN Security Council Membership:</b>	1952-1953, 61-62, 96-97, 2003-2004
<b>Human Rights Council Membership:</b>	2011, 2014
<b>Contribution to UNPKOs:</b>	498 personnel (36 <sup>th</sup> largest contributor)
<b>Rome Statute of the ICC:</b>	Ratified June 2009
<b>Genocide Convention:</b>	Ratified June 1953
<b>Arms Trade Treaty:</b>	Signed June 2013
<b>Other:</b>	Member of ACT initiative, G77, NAM, UNASUR

### NOTES

- **UNSC Goals & Priorities:** Human rights and security; women, peace and security; protection of civilians; children in armed conflict (Government of Chile, 2013).
- **On R2P:** “...If a state cannot or does not want to accomplish this primary duty, then the international community can intervene within the frame of its [R2P’s] three accepted pillars.” – President Piñera at the Opening of the 68<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly
- **Security Council Veto:** Speaking at the Opening of the 68<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, President Piñera urged veto-holding countries on the Security Council to “refrain from exercising that right in situations of crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide or ethnic cleansing.”
- **Country-specific:** Regarding the situation in Syria, President Piñera has strongly condemned the use of chemical weapons and “the indiscriminate use of force against the civilian population.”

## Lithuania

**Head of State:** H.E. Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaitė

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Linas Linkevičius

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Ms. Raimonda Murmokaitė

### Summary of R2P Engagement

<b>Participation in UNGA R2P Dialogue:</b>	No
<b>Reference to R2P at UNGA Opening:</b>	2007
<b>R2P Group of Friends member:</b>	No
<b>Appointed R2P Focal Point:</b>	No

### Relevant Background Information

<b>Group:</b>	Eastern European Group
<b>UN Security Council Membership:</b>	N/A
<b>Human Rights Council Membership:</b>	N/A
<b>Contributions to UNPKOs:</b>	3 personnel (106 <sup>th</sup> largest contributor)
<b>Rome Statute of the ICC:</b>	Ratified May 2003
<b>Genocide Convention:</b>	Ratified February 1996
<b>Arms Trade Treaty:</b>	Signed June 2013
<b>Other:</b>	Member of EU, OSCE, NATO

### NOTES

- **UNSC Goals & Priorities:** Arms control and disarmament; rule of law; human rights; women, peace and security; protection of civilians (Lithuanian Government, 2013).
- **R2P:** “[The] Responsibility to protect is our joint commitment to an individual’s right to life. And a promise that he or she will not fall victim to genocide, war crimes or ethnic cleansing while the rest of the world goes about business as usual.” – Former President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus, at the 2005 World Summit.
- **Country-Specific:** “Accountability is fundamental to improving the protection of civilians. Consistency and determination in tackling impunity are a way of sending a strong signal of deterrence to would-be perpetrators...Lithuania was one of the 57 States to sign a letter in January, calling upon the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.” - Lithuania’s Permanent Representative to the UN at the February 2013 UNSC debate on the Protection of Civilians.

## Nigeria

**Head of State:** H.E. Mr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mrs. Viola Adaku Onwuliri

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu

### Summary of R2P Engagement

<b>Participation in UNGA R2P Dialogue:</b>	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013
<b>Reference to R2P at UNGA Opening:</b>	No
<b>R2P Group of Friends member:</b>	Yes
<b>Appointed R2P Focal Point:</b>	No

### Relevant Background Information

<b>Group:</b>	African Group (West)
<b>UN Security Council Membership:</b>	1966-67, 78-79, 94-95, 2010-2011
<b>Human Rights Council Membership:</b>	2009, 2012
<b>Contribution to UNPKOs:</b>	4880 personnel (5 <sup>th</sup> largest contributor)
<b>Rome Statute of the ICC:</b>	Ratified September 2001
<b>Genocide Convention:</b>	Acceded July 2009
<b>Arms Trade Treaty:</b>	Ratified August 2013
<b>Other:</b>	Member of the AU, Commonwealth, ECOWAS, G77, NAM

### NOTES

- **UNSC Goals & Priorities:** Conflict prevention; peacekeeping; protection of civilians; arms control; piracy; counter-terrorism (Security Council Report, 2013). Country-specific – Central African Republic, Guinea, Mali.
- **R2P:** “[The] *raison d’être* of the state revolves around the R2P and...[the state] shall act responsibly and accountably to justify the reason for its essence.”- Nigeria’s representative at the 2012 UN General Assembly dialogue on R2P.
- **Country-Specific:** Speaking at the Opening of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, President Jonathan stated that “progress is being made” in response to multiple crises on the African continent, including Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On Syria, the President condemned “in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons,” and called for a negotiated settlement to the crisis.

## Saudi Arabia

**Head of State:** H.E. King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Prince Saud Al-Faisal

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. Abdallah Yahya A. Al-Mouallimi

### Summary of R2P Engagement

<b>Participation in UNGA R2P Dialogue:</b>	No
<b>Reference to R2P at UNGA Opening:</b>	No
<b>R2P Group of Friends member:</b>	No
<b>Appointed R2P Focal Point:</b>	No

### Relevant Background Information

<b>Group:</b>	Asia-Pacific Group (Arab Swing Seat)
<b>UN Security Council Membership:</b>	N/A
<b>Human Rights Council Membership:</b>	2009, 2012
<b>Contributions to UNPKOs:</b>	0
<b>Rome Statute of the ICC:</b>	Non-signatory
<b>Genocide Convention:</b>	Acceded July 1950
<b>Arms Trade Treaty:</b>	Non-signatory
<b>Other:</b>	Member of the ACT initiative, G20, G77, GCC, LAS, NAM, OIC

### NOTES

- **UNSC Goals & Priorities:** Conflict prevention; mediation; peace and security in the Middle East; counter-terrorism. Country-specific – Israel-Palestine, Syria, Yemen (Security Council Report, 2013).
- **On R2P:** No major statements or engagement on R2P. However, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supported the 2011 UNSC-mandated civilian protection operation in Libya.
- **Country-Specific:** “The Syrian humanitarian crisis is a source of shame on the conscience of the international community which stands paralyzed towards this issue. As a result, the crisis of the Syrian refugees reached a historic record as it has become the worst crisis since the genocide in Rwanda as per United Nations testimonies...any delay from the international community to take action means more suffering for the helpless Syrian people.” – Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at a July 2013 UNSC meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Syria).

## **List of Abbreviations**

ACT – Accountability, Coherence and Transparency  
AU – African Union  
ECCAS – Economic Community of Central African States  
ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States  
EU – European Union  
G20 – Group of 20  
G77 – Group of 77  
GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council  
GRULAC – Group of Latin American and Caribbean States  
LAS – League of Arab States  
ICC – International Criminal Court  
N/A – Not applicable  
NAM – Non-Aligned Movement  
NATO – North-Atlantic Treaty Organization  
OIC – Organization of Islamic Cooperation  
OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe  
UNASUR – Union of South American Nations  
UN PKOs – UN Peacekeeping Operations