

2018-2020 UN Human Rights Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

Today the UN General Assembly elected Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2018-2020 term. With the election of Australia, Chile, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain and Qatar, 20 of the 47 Council members during 2018 will be members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect.

Unfortunately, this year's HRC election saw 'clean slates' in four of the five regional groups: the Latin American and Caribbean Group, Eastern European Group, Western European and Others Group, and African Group. Clean slate elections threaten to undermine the credibility and effectiveness of the HRC as they do not encourage states to demonstrate their commitment to the highest standards of human rights and their full cooperation with all UN mechanisms. These are conditions set forth in UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 for all HRC members. Moreover, the fact that potential mass atrocity crimes are occurring in a number of current and newly elected HRC member states is particularly disturbing.

A strong and credible HRC can help uphold the international community's Responsibility to Protect. Mass atrocity crimes are often the culmination of sustained human rights violations and abuses. The Human Rights Council and its mechanisms - including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Special Procedures and treaty bodies, as well as the technical assistance provided by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - all play an essential role in providing early warning of the risk factors that can lead to crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and genocide.

Since 2008, the HRC has referred to states' responsibility to protect their populations in 22 thematic and country resolutions. But more work needs to be done to turn early warning into timely preventive action. In this regard, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect encourages all HRC members to:

- Improve the link between human rights and peace and security:
 - Support the Swiss Appeal of 13 June 2016 to put human rights at the center of conflict prevention, by asking the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Security Council relevant decisions and reports by the Human Rights Council;
 - Encourage the General Assembly to ensure information collected by Special Procedures and international investigative mechanisms is relayed to the Security Council in a timely manner;
 - Promote a thematic dialogue on human rights and the prevention of mass atrocities.
- Make better use of the UPR to detect early signs of potential mass atrocity crimes:
 - In preparation for your national report, consider what action your government has taken to implement R2P nationally.
 - Use the UPR to ask relevant questions regarding the ratification and implementation of core prevention treaties, as well as regarding risk factors such as the use of hate speech and systematic violations and abuses of human rights;
 - Where, through the UPR mechanism, an imminent risk of mass atrocity crimes is detected, Council members should act in a timely manner, by holding a special session before these violations reach the level of mass atrocity crimes;

- Make use of the Irish Principles, which lay out independent and objective considerations to guide decisions on whether and when the HRC should respond to a country-specific situation.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly-elected Human Rights Council members. These provide a basic overview of their commitment to prevent mass atrocities by protecting and promoting human rights.

Afghanistan

Head of State: President Ashraf Ghani

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mrs. Suraya Dalil

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	---
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	---
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	0
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 4 February 1985 Ratification: 1 April 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: January 2019 Previous Reviews: May 2009, January 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 10 February 2003
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 22 March 1956
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote and protect political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights globally.
- Use the Universal Periodic Review for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Use the Special Procedures to bring the voices and needs of the most vulnerable to the HRC.
- Ensure the non-politicization of the HRC.
- Use dialogue, capacity building, and technical assistance to improve the effectiveness of international cooperation in addressing human rights challenges.

On R2P: *Afghanistan has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

Angola

Head of State: President João Lourenço

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. George Rebelo Chikoti

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Apolinário Jorge Correia

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	---
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2007-2010, 2011-2013
UN Security Council Membership:	2003-2004, 2015-2016
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	0
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 24 September 2013
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 24 September 2014
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: October 2019 Previous Reviews: February 2010, October 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	No
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Commit to the universality of all human rights, including the right to development.
- Ensure adequate and effective responses to human rights crises.

On R2P: *Angola has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

Australia

Head of Government: Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Ms. Julie Bishop

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. John Quinn

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western Europe & Others
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	1946-1947, 1956-1957, 1973-1974, 1985-1986, 2013-2014
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	38
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 10 December 1985 Ratification: 8 August 1989
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: October 2020 Previous Reviews: January 2011, November 2015
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2017: A/HRC/34/24 (DPRK), A/HRC/34/25 (South Sudan), A/HRC/34/26 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/31/17 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/32/25 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/33/19 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), A/HRC/RES/33/23 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/30/10 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/23 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/26/23 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/27/16 (Syria) 2013: A/HRC/RES/22/22 (Prevention of Genocide), A/HRC/RES/22/24 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/21/26 (Syria) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya), A/HRC/RES/17/17 (Libya), A/HRC/RES/S-18/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 11 December 1948 Ratification: 8 July 1949
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Advance the rights of women and girls.
- Promote good governance and democratic institutions.
- Promote and protect freedom of expression.

- Advance human rights for indigenous people.
- Promote strong national human rights institutions and capacity building.

On R2P: “The indifference of some Member States to their R2P responsibilities is a driver of much of the death and displacement we are witnessing. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General’s report providing a vision for how we can collectively tackle obstacles to R2P’s implementation. Prevention is a keystone. As the report highlights, preventive capacities need to be cultivated at the local, national, regional and international levels in order to translate early warning into early response. [...] When we become aware that states are failing in their R2P responsibilities we must speak out – in the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly, and the Security Council. I can assure you that Australia’s voice will be loud and clear.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Chile

Head of State: President Michelle Bachelet

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Heraldo Muñoz Valenzuela

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Marta Maurás Perez

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2008-2011, 2011-2014
UN Security Council Membership:	1952-1953, 1961-1962, 1996-1997, 2003-2004, 2014-2015
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	79
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 23 September 1987 Ratification: 30 September 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 8 December 2009
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: January 2019 Previous Reviews: May 2009, January 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-18/1 (Syrian Arab Republic's R2P), A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libyan Government's R2P)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 29 June 2009
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 11 December 1948 Accession: 3 June 1953
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Enhance cooperation between the three pillars of the UN of human rights, peace and security and development.
- Support the participation of civil society and input from human rights defenders.
- Contribute to the strengthening of the HRC and its mechanisms, including by enhancing its prevention and protection mandate and by drawing attention to the underfunding of the UN's human rights pillar.

On R2P: “We support the recommendation of incorporating R2P as an agenda item, but we would also like to call for respect for the work of the organization and its principals and prerogatives; aiming at operationalizing humane lines of action proposed and giving priority to the rights and dignity of victims; ending impunity; promoting the participation of civil society and local communities amongst other actors, as well as improving strategic communications for awareness and transparency.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Head of State: President Joseph Kabila

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Raymond Tshibanda

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Zénon Mukongo Ngay

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	---
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	1982-1983, 1990-1991
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	0
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 18 March 1996
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: April 2019 Previous Reviews: December 2009, April 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2015: A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 11 April 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 31 May 1962
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities: Not Available

On R2P: *The Democratic Republic of the Congo has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

Mexico

Head of State: President Enrique Peña Nieto

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Luis Videgaray Caso

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Jorge Lomónaco

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016
UN Security Council Membership:	1946, 1980-1981, 2002-2003, 2009-2010
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	30
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 18 March 1985 Ratification: 23 January 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 18 March 2008
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: October 2018 Previous Reviews: February 2009, October 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2017: A/HRC/34/25 (South Sudan) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/19 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya) 2008: HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 14 December 1948 Ratification: 22 July 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote the objective and effective treatment of human rights situations in all parts of the world.
- Contribute to mainstreaming human rights throughout the UN system.
- Strengthen the prevention and early warning functions of the HRC.

On R2P and HRC Mechanisms: “In order to prevent mass atrocities, it is essential that we emphasize the importance of the implementation of Agenda 2030, and the need to incorporate a human rights perspective into these efforts. We advocate for the incorporation of a coherent and cross-cutting perspective of human rights in the work of the United Nations, across the other two pillars of the UN: sustainable development and international peace and security. In this sense, there is also need to strengthen mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between the General Assembly, the Security Council and other human rights mechanisms and forums of the United Nations system, such as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

Nepal

Head of State: President Bidhya Devi Bhandari

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Deepak Dhital

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2010
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	1969-1970, 1988-1989
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	5,289
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 14 May 1991
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2020 Previous Reviews: January 2011, November 2015
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 17 January 1969
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Share the experience of Nepal’s unique peace process with the international community.
- Mainstream the right to development so that it is on equal footing as civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights.

On R2P: “It goes without saying that the fundamental responsibility to protect its population remains with the individual state. However, it is our view that the UN is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion and advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, should not remain as a silent spectator while the individual state manifestly fails to protect its people from the four specified crimes.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue, 2010)

Nigeria

Head of State: President Muhammadu Buhari

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Audu Ayinala Kadiri

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2015-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	1966-1967, 1978-1979, 1994-1995, 2010-2011, 2014-2015
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	1,655
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 28 July 1988 Ratification: 28 June 2001
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Accession: 27 July 2009
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: October 2018 Previous Reviews: February 2009, October 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2011: A/HRC/S-18/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 27 September 2001
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 27 July 2009
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Engage constructively in the evolving modalities of work of the HRC.
- Nurture a spirit of cooperation within the HRC, based on the principles of mutual respect and dialogue, free from politicization.
- Promote greater coherence between the work of the HRC with other United Nations agencies and mechanisms.
- Support international action to advance the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities.

On R2P: “The efforts to protect civilians from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity require that the conditions that allow for these crimes to thrive be brought to an end. In other words, beyond the law enforcement approach, dealing with the political economy of conflicts in a more holistic manner is crucial to finding potential remedies to the situation of conflicts and its attendant crimes around the world. It is in this light that Nigeria endorses the emphasis of the Secretary-General on preventive measures to stop and mitigate mass atrocity crimes.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue, 2017)

Pakistan

Head of State: President Mamnoon Hussain

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Nawaz Shareef

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Farukh Amil

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015
UN Security Council Membership:	1952-1953, 1968-1969, 1976-1977, 1983-1984, 1993-1994, 2003-2004, 2012-2013
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	7,009
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 17 April 2008 Ratification: 23 June 2010
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2017 Previous Reviews: May 2008, October 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Ratification: 12 October 1957
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Make the HRC a forum for dialogue and cooperation.
- Strengthen the HRC's capacity-building and technical assistance with due regard to the values and conditions of all States.
- Focus on programmes that contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights within the region, including mediation of regional conflicts.

On R2P: “The Responsibility to Protect is designed to strengthen, not weaken, sovereignty and sovereign equality of states, as enshrined in the Charter. No outside actor should arrogate to itself the responsibility to judge the fragility or instability within a state to justify intervention. All actions must have the weight of international law behind them. We support common principles of assistance given in the report, especially about national ownership, mutual commitment and prioritizing prevention. The entire UN system should support R2P to deal with the root causes of conflict.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2014)

Peru

Head of State: President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Ricardo Luna Mendoza

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2011-2014
UN Security Council Membership:	1955-1956, 1973-1974, 1984-1985, 2006-2007, 2018-2019
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	235
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 29 May 1985 Ratification: 7 July 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Accession: 26 September 2012
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2017 Previous Reviews: May 2008, November 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/RES/33/19 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice) 2015: A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide) 2012: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya) 2008: HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 10 November 2001
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 11 December 1948 Ratification: 24 February 1960
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 24 September 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support the strengthening of Special Procedures of the HRC, and encourage more states to extend standing invitations.
- Promote cooperation and exchange between UN human rights and regional systems.
- Foster international cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

On R2P and HRC Mechanisms: “In relation to the Universal Periodic Review, we consider that this mechanism has the potential to contribute to the prevention of atrocity crimes.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

Qatar

Head of Government: Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Ali Khalfan Al-Mansouri

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2007-2010, 2010-2013, 2015-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	2006-2007
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	2
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 11 January 2000
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: April 2019 Previous Reviews: February 2010, May 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/31/17, 32/25, 33/23 & 34/26 (Syria), A/HRC/33/19 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice) 2015: A/HRC/30/10 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/25/23, 26/23 & 27/16 (Syria); 2013: A/HRC/22/24, 23/1 & 23/26 (Syria & Al-Qusayr) 2012: A/HRC/19/22 & S-19/1 (Syria & El-Houleh) 2011: A/HRC/S-15/1 & 17/17 (Libya), A/HRC/S-18/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	No
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Use the Universal Periodic Review for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Stress the importance of the non-politicization of HRC mechanisms.
- Use of the Special Procedures mechanism to bring the voices and needs of the most vulnerable to the HRC.
- Increase the effectiveness of international cooperation in addressing human rights challenges through dialogue, capacity building, and technical assistance.

On R2P: “Qatar is supporting R2P based on our efforts to protect and end violations of international humanitarian law as well as international law.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue, 2016)

Senegal

Head of State: President Macky Sall

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Coly Seck

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2010
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2005-2009, 2009-2012
UN Security Council Membership:	1968-1969, 1988-1989, 2016-2017
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	3,064
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 4 February 1985 Ratification: 21 August 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 11 December 2008
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: October 2018 Previous Reviews: February 2009, October 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2011: A/HRC/S-15/1 (Libya), A/HRC/S-18/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 2 February 1999
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 4 August 1983
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities: Not Available

On R2P: “Today, more than ever, the international community remains challenged by the painful lessons learned from the disastrous consequences of inaction during the perpetration of serious crimes.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue, 2010)

Slovakia

Head of State: President Andrej Kiska

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Juraj Podhorský

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern European States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2008-2011
UN Security Council Membership:	2006-2007
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	178
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Succession: 28 May 1993
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 26 September 2007 Ratification: 15 December 2014
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: January 2019 Previous Reviews: May 2009, February 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2017: A/HRC/34/24 (DPRK) 2016: A/HRC/RES/31/17 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/32/25 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/33/19 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), A/HRC/RES/33/23 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/30/10 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/23 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/26/23 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/27/16 (Syria) 2013: A/HRC/RES/22/22 (Prevention of Genocide) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/21/26 (Syria) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya), A/HRC/RES/17/17 (Libya), A/HRC/RES/S-18/1 (Syria) 2008: HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 11 April 2002
Genocide Convention:	Succession: 28 May 1993
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 10 June 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Intensify cooperation with developing countries, including through democratic institution building and protecting human rights.

- Fight against all forms of racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

On R2P and HRC Mechanisms: “Without respect for human rights, we cannot assume our accountability for prevention of atrocity crimes. In this respect, we welcome the recommendation to intensify the cooperation with human rights monitoring mechanisms, including the better utilization of the Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review process, which undoubtedly contribute to the prevention and early warning of atrocity crimes.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

Spain

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy Brey

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Alfonso Dastis

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Ana María Menéndez Pérez

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western Europe & Other States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2010-2013
UN Security Council Membership:	1969-1970, 1981-1982, 1993-1994, 2003-2004, 2015-2016
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	652
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 4 February 1985 Ratification: 21 October 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 27 September 2007 Ratification: 24 September 2009
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next review: January 2020 Previous Reviews: May 2010, January 2015
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2017: A/HRC/34/24 (DPRK), A/HRC/34/25 (South Sudan), A/HRC/34/26 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/31/17 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/32/25 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/33/19 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), A/HRC/RES/33/23 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/30/10 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/23 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/26/23 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/27/16 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/21/26 (Syria) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya), A/HRC/RES/17/17 (Libya), A/HRC/RES/S-18/1 (Syria) 2008: HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 24 October 2000
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 13 September 1968
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Protect the role and contribution of civil society at the HRC.

- Promote equality and non-discrimination, especially gender discrimination, gender-based violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Combat racism, xenophobia, and hate crime.
- Promote the right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

On R2P and HRC Mechanisms: “For early warning and prevention of atrocity crimes, my country is in favor of strengthening cooperation and dialogue between the UN Security Council and the Human Rights Council. The Universal Periodic Review and the Special Procedures are useful tools to ask all of us if we do enough at the national and regional levels to prevent atrocity crimes.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

Ukraine

Head of State: President Petro Poroshenko

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Pavlo Klimkin

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Yurii Klymenko

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2014, 2015, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern European States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011
UN Security Council Membership:	1948-1949, 1984-1985, 2000-2001, 2016-2017
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	422
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 27 February 1986 Ratification: 24 February 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Accession: 14 August 2015
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2017 Previous Reviews: May 2008, October 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2017: A/HRC/RES/33/23 (Syria), A/HRC/34/24 (DPRK) 2016: A/HRC/RES/31/17 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/32/25 (Syria) 2008: HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 16 December 1949 Ratification: 15 November 1954
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Cooperate with the HRC.
- Adopt the human rights norms and standards existent in Europe.

On R2P and HRC Mechanisms: “Let me begin by reaffirming my Government’s commitment to the World Summit Outcome Document adopted by the General Assembly resolution without vote in 2005. Among other important issues, such as establishing the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, this document contains three paragraphs on the subject of our discussion – the Responsibility to Protect all populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)