



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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## Joint Statement

### Ministerial Roundtable Discussion on Responsibility to Protect: Responding to Imminent Threats of Mass Atrocities

*Friday, 23 September 2011, New York.*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Dr. U. Rosenthal, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Haroldo Rodas Melgar, in association with the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, co-hosted a ministerial meeting on *Responsibility to Protect: Responding to Imminent Threats of Mass Atrocities* today. The meeting was attended by senior representatives of governments, including 14 Ministers. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, also participated in the meeting.

The principle of the Responsibility to Protect has come a long way since 2005. The commitment to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing has now become an operational reality. The advocacy of ministers from all regions of the world has been vital in shifting the debate on Responsibility to Protect from a question of principle to a more precise application. At this morning's meeting a cross-regional group of ministers, as well as Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, shared ideas and discussed effective international responses to protect populations under imminent threat of mass atrocities.

This morning's meeting discussed the full range of preventive, mediated and coercive policy instruments that can be deployed in addressing these risk situations. Difficult lessons from various country situations were discussed and debated in a constructive way. The co-hosts remain committed to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect as an effective mechanism for responding to the urgent needs of peoples and societies at grave risk of mass atrocity crimes. They look forward to the annual informal interactive dialogue on Responsibility to Protect in the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.