



**ICRtoP**

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR **THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT**

H.E. Mr. Didier Burkhalter  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

May 21, 2012

Your Excellency,

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P) and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) would like to thank you, as a member of the S5, for your initiative calling upon permanent members of the Security Council to refrain from using their veto to block action aimed at preventing or ending genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

The Secretary-General, in his 2009 report on Implementing the Responsibility to Protect, urged the P5 to refrain from employing or threatening to employ the veto in such situations. We see your efforts as a positive example of states putting R2P in practice and giving life to the Secretary-General's recommendations.

Noting Ambassador Seger's comment that P5 states' veto restraint is in keeping with their obligations under paragraph 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, we share your disappointment that opposition within the General Assembly led to the withdrawal of the resolution.

The Security Council continues to face challenges to act in a unified way as it responds to mass atrocity crimes. You have our enduring support for your efforts to ensure that the Security Council never again fails to act in the face of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Grateful for your work towards halting mass atrocity crimes and building a stronger United Nations, we take this opportunity to send you our best regards.

Yours truly,

Dr. Simon Adams  
Executive Director, GCR2P

Dr. Andrés Serbin  
Chair, ICRtoP  
Executive Director, Coordinadora Regional de  
Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales