

2017-2019 UN Human Rights Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect welcomes the election of 14 members to the Human Rights Council for the period of 2017 to 2019. The Global Centre also notes that Iraq, Croatia, and Rwanda will serve their first term on the Human Rights Council. With the election of Rwanda, Japan, Hungary, United Kingdom and United States, 18 of the 47 Council members are also members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect.

Mass atrocity crimes - genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing - are usually the culmination of sustained human rights abuses. By addressing specific risk factors for mass atrocities, the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms (including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Special Procedures and treaty bodies) help to uphold our collective responsibility to protect.

Since 2008, the Human Rights Council has referred to states' responsibility to protect their populations in over 20 thematic and country resolutions. However, more work is needed to translate the rhetoric of prevention into a practical reality. In this regard, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect encourages all Human Rights Council members to:

- Improve practical links between the human rights and peace and security agendas:
 - 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;
 - Ensure that information collected by Special Procedures mandate holders is relayed to the Security Council in a timely manner;
 - Include in the mandate of all Commissions of Inquiry a recommendation to brief the Security Council once a year.
- Make better use of the UPR to detect and prevent early signs of mass atrocity risk factors:
 - 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 widespread and systematic abuses of human rights;
 - Where an imminent risk of mass atrocity crimes is detected, Human Rights Council members should act in a timely manner, by holding a special session before these violations reach the level of mass atrocity crimes;
 - The UPR can also be a forum to discuss a state's domestic prevention architecture and make targeted and constructive recommendations.
- Pay increased attention to possible human rights violations committed by troop contributing countries during UN peacekeeping operations.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly-elected Human Rights Council members. These provide a basic overview of their engagement with R2P and their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Brazil

Head of State: President Michel Temer

Minister for External Relations: H.E. Mr. José Serra

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunlop

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin America and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2006-June 2011, January 2013-December 2015
UN Security Council Membership:	1946-1947, 1951-1952, 1954-1955, 1963-1964, 1967-1968, 1988-1989, 1993-1994, 1998-1999, 2004-2005, 2010-2011
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	1,303 (21 st largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 23 September 1985 Ratification: 28 September 1989
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 29 November 2010
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2017 Previous Reviews: April 2008, May 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 September 2002
Genocide Convention:	Ratification: 15 April 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Reflect the interrelated and mutually reinforcing agendas of development and human rights in the work of the Human Rights Council.
- Make dialogue, cooperation and engagement the cornerstone of the Council.
- Engage different actors to find ways to strengthen the preventive dimension of the Council.
- Implement the right to development.

On R2P: “Since 2005, the Security Council adopted 50 resolutions that refer to the responsibility to protect – 13 of them over the last year. As the most inclusive and democratic organ of the United Nations, this General Assembly should not shy away from assuming its legitimate role in shaping the debate on enhancing the protection of populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It is high time the General Assembly recovers ownership in this realm and provides an objective reflection of the lessons learned over the last eleven years. Brazil remains convinced that the adoption of a meaningful and forward-looking General Assembly resolution on R2P would be pivotal in this endeavor.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

China

Head of State: President Xi Jinping

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Wang Yi

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Ma Zhaoxu

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2006-2012, January 2014-December 2016
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent Member (Since 1971)
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	2,639 (12 th largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 12 December 1986 Ratification: 4 October 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2018 Previous Reviews: February 2009, October 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Ratification: 18 April 1983
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Strengthen the system of consultative democracy, accelerating community building and enhancing democracy at grass-roots levels.
- Protect the rights and interests of ethnic minorities, women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Nationally, promote employment, improve institutions for democracy, develop relations between ethnic groups, and expand the coverage of the child welfare system.

On R2P: “First, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document defines R2P extremely cautiously, limiting its scope to strictly four types of international crimes; namely genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. All parties should not expand or interpret this concept at will. At present, there are still differences among Member States with regard to the application and implementation of R2P. The United Nations should continue discussion on this concept. Second, the governments of various countries have the primary responsibility for the protection of their citizens. The international community, when necessary, can provide constructive assistance focusing on capacity building in various countries while strictly abiding by the UN Charter. These principals and purposes, in particular, respect the principle of state sovereignty.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2015)

Croatia

Head of State: President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs: H.E. Mr. Miro Kovač

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Vesna Batistic Kos

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern Europe Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	
UN Security Council Membership:	2008-2009
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	17 (96 th largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Succession: 12 October 1992
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2020 Previous Reviews: November 2010, May 2015
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	Ratification: 12 October 1992
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Share domestic experience with addressing hate crimes.
- Support gender mainstreaming in the UN's three pillars of human rights, peace and security, and development.
- Support the UN's work on women's rights and violence against women.
- Continue to be dedicated to the protection of civilians in conflict, including through the promotion of international humanitarian law.
- Advance the rights of refugees and migrants.

On R2P: "We have stated on multiple occasions that the protection of civilians is first and foremost a responsibility of national authorities. However, the international community has to take on its part of the responsibility for protection, and take collective action through the Security Council if and when national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations." (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Cuba

Head of Government: President Raúl Modesto Castro Ruz

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Bruno Eduardo Rodríguez Parrilla

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin America and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2006-December 2012, January 2014-December 2016
UN Security Council Membership:	1949-1950, 1956-1957, 1990-1991
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	None
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 27 January 1986 Ratification: 17 May 1995
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2009 Ratification: 2 February 2009
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2018 Previous Reviews: May 2013, February 2009
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Ratification: 4 March 1953
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote the right to development.
- Combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
- Ensure full respect for the principles of universality, indivisibility, objectivity and non-selectivity in strengthening cooperation on human rights matters.

On R2P: “Ensuring that the international community does not remain impassive in the face of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing is a noble effort. However, in many cases the promotion of R2P conceals an interest of using this principle as another tool to facilitate interference, an agenda of regime changes, or subversion or aggression of other States.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Egypt

Head of State: President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Sameh Hassan Shoukry

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Amr Ramadan

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2007-June 2010
UN Security Council Membership:	1946, 1949-1950, 1984-1985, 1996-1997, 2016-2017
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	2,889 (10 th largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 25 June 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next review: November 2019 Previous reviews: November 2014, February 2010
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/31/30 (The effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signature: 26 December 2000
Genocide Convention:	Ratification: 8 February 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote the constructive role of NGOs and civil society in the work of the Human Rights Council.
- Focus on economic, social and cultural rights; the rights of migrants; protection of the family.
- Continue to promote the realisation of the right to development.
- Support regional and international processes that advance women's and children's rights.
- Strengthen national human rights bodies; integrate human rights into national development policies; strengthen national redress mechanisms.

On R2P: "Notwithstanding the noble goals which the notion of R2P seeks to achieve, we believe that R2P still contains political and legal gaps, which if left unresolved and not clearly defined would do more harm than good with regards to the universal acceptance of the principle of R2P. Currently, R2P is a broad political commitment that has yet to evolve legally. As such, it is imperative that an agreement be reached on the conceptual framework of the principle before discussing practical aspects pertaining to the operationalization of the concept." (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Hungary

Head of State: President János Áder

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade: H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Zsuzsanna Horváth

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2009-December 2012
UN Security Council Membership:	1968-1969, 1992-1993
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	93 (70 th largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 28 November 1986 Ratification: 15 April 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2021 Previous Review: May 2011, May 2016
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	A/HRC/33/L.12 (the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 7 January 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 2 April 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Contribute to initiatives to combat sexual violence in conflict.
- Promote minority issues, the rights of indigenous peoples, human rights defenders, freedom of religion and belief, and the independence of the judiciary.
- Apply and promote a rights-based approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Further engage and support civil society organizations, especially those based in Hungary.

On R2P: “We share the view that early warning plays an important role in preventing atrocity crimes and is the basis of early action. As regards the question of the use of force, we consider that as a first priority, peaceful measures should be taken to prevent atrocity crimes. The use of force should remain a last resort, which should only be used in case authorization is given by the Security Council. The root causes that may give rise to these heinous crimes are manifold, and so are the solutions. We also share the view that all relevant international actors – including states, regional organizations and the UN – can and should contribute to the operationalization of the R2P, especially through sharing information and best practices and coordinating their responses.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Iraq

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mr. Haider Al Abadi

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Abdul-Kareem Hamza Al-Eshaiker Al-Jaafari

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Mouayed Saleh

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2016
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:	1957-1958, 1974-1975
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	None
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 7 July 2011
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Accession: 12 November 2010
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next review: November 2019 Previous reviews: November 2014, February 2010
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/30/15 (Human rights and preventing and countering violent extremism) 2015: A/HRC/28/30 (Abuses committed by Da'esh)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 20 January 1959
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Repeal laws that discriminate against women and promote the participation of women in national decision-making processes.
- Continue to cooperate with Treaty Bodies by presenting regular periodic reports.
- Bring a unique perspective to the Human Rights Council regarding extremism and refugees.

On R2P: “We emphasize the report of the Secretary General A/65/877 entitled ‘the role of regional arrangements and sub regional arrangements in implementing the responsibility to protect,’ which referred to the role and importance of joint actions among states to prevent the commission of genocidal massacres against innocents. This requires a political will which does not simply limit itself to rhetoric and denunciation and condemnation, but rather the translation of this discourse into a practical reality, through cooperation and among states not to allow terrorist groups to move on their territories or facilitate their crossing.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Japan

Head of Government: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Koro Bessho / H.E. Mr. Junichi Ihara

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	Japan 2006-June 2011, January 2013-December 2015
UN Security Council Membership:	1958-1959, 1966-1967, 1971-1972, 1975-1976, 1981-1982, 1987-1988, 1992-1993, 1997-1998, 2005-2006, 2009-2010, 2016-2017
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	272 (54 th largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 29 June 1999
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 23 July 2009
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next review: November 2017 Previous reviews: May 2008, October 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/31/18 (Situation of Human Rights in DPRK) 2014: A/HRC/27/01 (Enforced or involuntary disappearances)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 October 2007
Genocide Convention:	No
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Bring both country (particularly on the DPRK and Cambodia) and thematic (particularly on persons affected by leprosy) situations of concern to the attention of the Council.
- Promote bilateral dialogues on human rights.
- Help promote human rights overseas through development cooperation.
- Continue to promote human rights at the General Assembly, focusing on human security, participation and protection of women, disaster risk reduction, and violence against children.

On R2P: “Eleven years have passed since the concept of the Responsibility to Protect was unanimously established by the General Assembly. Since then, much has been discussed around this concept and there were some developments to improve the system-wide capacity of the UN to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes. But in such a time of crisis, we need to reaffirm our commitment to our responsibility and redouble our efforts to protect populations from tragedies which we are still facing today.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Rwanda

Head of State: President Paul Kagame

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation: H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Dr. Francois Xavier Ngarambe

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	
UN Security Council Membership:	1994–1995, 2013–2014
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	6,146 (5 th largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 15 December 2008
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2020 Previous Review: January 2011, November 2015
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 16 April 1975
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed: 5 June 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

Not stated.

On R2P: “Claims about the status of R2P as a new norm of international conduct have been strongly resisted, and commission of mass atrocities are not only widespread, but recurring in many parts of the world. Today, Responsibility to Protect has more support in principle, but is far from being put into practice. We believe that action to prevent future genocide and mass atrocities involves broad areas of activity, including preventing armed conflict, protecting civilians in armed conflict, ending impunity, ensuring early and clear warning and taking swift and decisive action.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Saudi Arabia

Head of State: King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Adel Al Jubeir

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Faisal Bin Hassan Trad

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	No
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2006-December 2012, January 2014-December 2016
UN Security Council Membership:	2014–2015
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	None
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 23 September 1997
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next review: November 2018 Previous Review: October 2013, February 2009
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/33/L.30, A/HRC/32/25 and A/HRC/31/17 (Syrian Arab Republic) 2015: A/HRC/30/10 (Syrian Arab Republic), A/HRC/30/18 (Technical assistance and capacity building for Yemen in the field of human rights)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 13 July 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Committed to enact legislation and establish mechanisms to strengthen the institutional framework for human rights.
- Cooperate with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including through the Universal Periodic Review and Special Procedures mandate holders.

On R2P: *No official statement.*

South Africa

Head of Government: President Jacob Zuma

Minister for International Relations and Cooperation: H.E. Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2006–June 2010, January 2014–December 2016
UN Security Council Membership:	2007–2008, 2011–2012
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	1,427 (20 th largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 29 January 1993 Ratification: 10 December 1998
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2017 Previous Review: May 2012, April 2008
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/33/L.16 (Technical assistance and capacity building in the field of human rights in CAR), A/HRC/33/L.26 (Technical assistance and capacity building for human rights in the DRC), A/HRC/33/L.4 (Technical assistance and capacity building to improve human rights in Sudan)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002 (Notification of decision to leave submitted to the UN Secretary-General on 19 October 2016)
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 10 December 1998
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

Not stated.

On R2P: “The challenges to the implementation of R2P, as mentioned by the Secretary-General include inconsistent application of the principles of international law and the unwillingness of some states to meet their global responsibilities to protect populations from atrocity crimes. Political inactivity, especially within the Security Council due to its political divisions, further stall action to protect vulnerable populations. These are all failures of political will and is a result of the Security Council too often pandering to the narrow self-interest of one or more of the Council’s permanent members.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Tunisia

Head of Government: President Monsieur Béji Caïd Essebsi

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Walid Doudech

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2012
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2006-June 2007
UN Security Council Membership:	1959-1960, 1980-1981, 2000-2001
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	247 (56 th largest)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 26 August 1987 Ratification: 23 September 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 29 June 2011
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next review: May 2017 Previous Review: May 2012, April 2008
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2015: A/HRC/30/15 (Human Rights and preventing and countering violent extremism) 2013: A/HRC/22/24 (Situation of Human Rights in the Syrian Arab Republic)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 September 2011
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 29 November 1956
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Guarantee freedom of expression online.
- Continue the work on human rights defenders, reprisals, and peaceful assembly.
- Continue to contribute to the development of universal norms, including in areas such as civil society space and the protection of journalists.
- Contribute to international efforts to combat violent extremism and terrorism.

On R2P: “The Responsibility to Protect must not call into question the principle of non-interference or of state sovereignty, fundamental principles of international law. Nor should it justify unregulated interventionism. It is fundamental that any action stemming from this concept to be in complete harmony with the provision of the Charter and other rules of international law. Adoptions of a global, participatory approach by all the actors of the international community, including international institutions and indeed regional organizations, can bring about an evolution of the concept in keeping with the principles of international law and international legality.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2012)

United Kingdom

Head of Government: Prime Minister Theresa May

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs: H.E. Mr. Boris Johnson

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Julian Braithwaite

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2006-June 2011, January 2014-December 2016
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent Member
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	337 (52 nd largest contributor)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 15 March 1985 Ratification: 8 December 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2017 Previous Review: April 2008, May 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/32/25 & A/HRC/31/17 (Syrian Arab Republic), A/HRC31/20 (South Sudan) 2015: A/HRC/30/10, A/HRC/29/16 and A/HRC28/20 (Syrian Arab Republic), 29/13 (South Sudan)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: January 30 1970
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entered into force: 24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Find fast solutions to severe human rights crises while applying a conflict prevention lens.
- Defend civil society space.
- Champion the role of NGOs at the Human Rights Council.
- Address impunity and support the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on sexual violence in conflict.
- Encourage countries to uphold their international obligations with respect to freedom of expression
- Promote greater religious tolerance.

On R2P: “Responsibility to Protect is a global issue that can be seen on virtually every item that comes to the Security Council’s agenda. There has been, as others have said, a stark increase in atrocities over recent years. Early warning must be met with early action. Second, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law are the foundation on which the R2P doctrine is built. And Member States, every single one of us, must meet those obligations so that civilians living in conflict today have a chance to live in a peace that they deserve tomorrow. Part of our Responsibility to Protect lies in ensuring that those who seek to harm civilians know that impunity is not an option.” (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

United States

Head of State: President Barack Obama

Secretary of State: H.E. Mr. John Kerry

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Pamela Hamamoto

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	June 2009-December 2015
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent Member
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	68 (73 rd largest contributor)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 18 April 1988 Ratification: 21 October 1994
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	No
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2020 Previous Reviews: November 2010, May 2015
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2016: A/HRC/32/25 and A/HRC/31/17 (Syrian Arab Republic), A/HRC/31/20 (South Sudan), A/HRC/S-24/1 (Burundi) 2015: A/HRC/30/10 (Syrian Arab Republic), A/HRC/29/13 (South Sudan), A/HRC/29/16 and A/HRC 28/20 (Syrian Arab Republic)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signature withdrawn
Genocide Convention:	Ratification: 25 November 1988
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 25 December 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Develop the prevention of atrocities through the Human Rights Council.
- Promote the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons.
- Support the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action on Countering Violent Extremism.
- Promote freedom of religion.
- Focus on the rights of women, LGBT persons, and persons with disability.
- Counter racial and ethnic discrimination both domestically and internationally.

On R2P: "In promoting civilian protection around the globe, the United States actively supports other states' efforts to prevent and mitigate the types of conflicts that might lead to atrocities. Whether it is attacks on civilians in northern Syria, governments that silence protesters through detention or physical attacks, or attacks on human rights defenders and their families in Sudan, we work with our partners, both NGOs and governments, to respond to violations and abuses before they escalate to full-scale atrocities. ... As we continue to strengthen R2P's three pillars, the United States stands ready to work with UN members to continuously improve international efforts to prevent atrocities. Applying the R2P principles will require tough choices and careful consideration of the options, actions, and consequences. What is not acceptable is inaction when faced with threats or instances of atrocities or mass violence." (Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

