

2018-2019 UN Security Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

Today, 2 June 2017, the United Nations General Assembly elected Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Peru and Poland to the UN Security Council for 2018-2019. The Netherlands was also elected for 2018. With their election, 8 of the 15 members of the Council in 2018 are "Friends of the Responsibility to Protect" – having appointed an R2P Focal Point and/or joined the Group of Friends of R2P in New York and Geneva.

The global displacement of civilians due to conflict, mass atrocities and persecution is at its highest level since the end of the Second World War. As the UN body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council must ensure that populations in every country are protected from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Since 2005 the Security Council has adopted 58 resolutions and 17 Presidential Statements that refer to the Responsibility to Protect. It is our hope that the Security Council will consistently uphold their commitment to R2P by taking early preventive action to avert emerging crises and halt atrocities wherever they are threatened.

To this end, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect encourages all Security Council members to:

- Request briefings from the UN Secretary General's 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. In line with the Human Rights Up Front initiative, UN officials should bring to the Security Council's attention any situation where civilians face the threat of mass atrocities.
- Reaffirm the Security Council's commitment to preventing mass atrocities by establishing a Security Council Working Group on R2P. Security Council members should also convene "Arria-formula meetings" on country situations that are not on the Council's formal agenda but where civilians face the risk of mass atrocities as well as regularly use "Any Other Business" to raise emerging crises.
- Adhere to the ACT Code of Conduct by which Council members commit to take timely and decisive action to protect civilians and not vote against any credible resolution aimed at preventing mass atrocities.
- Support international justice mechanisms and ensure all perpetrators of mass atrocities are held to account, regardless of position or affiliation.

The Global Centre has compiled basic profiles on each of the newly-elected Security Council members. These provide an account of their engagement with R2P, including whether they have appointed an R2P Focal Point, their respective contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, and their status with relevant international legal regimes, including the Genocide Convention and Arms Trade Treaty.

Côte d’Ivoire

Head of Government: Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Marcel Amon Tanoh

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Claude Stanislas Bouah-Kamon

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2012, 2013, 2014
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1964-1965, 1990-1991
Human Rights Council Membership:	2013-2015, 2016-2017
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	8 personnel
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	Yes
Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	No
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 15 February 2013
Genocide Convention:	Acceded 18 December 1995
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 26 February 2015

Security Council Priorities:

- Peace and international security
- Peacekeeping operations
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
- Security sector reform
- Terrorism and maritime piracy
- Global warming
- Promotion of early warning mechanism and non-proliferation of small arms

On R2P: “At the international level, the violence suffered by populations in Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria, and Iraq is there to remind us that much remains to be done to integrate R2P into global governance. For this reason, the ten-year anniversary of R2P must be an opportunity for us all to strongly reaffirm our commitment to the norm which is above all an indisputable moral imperative in the face of barbaric mass atrocities.” – Statement by Côte d’Ivoire at the 2014 UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P.

Equatorial Guinea

Head of Government: Prime Minister Francisco Pascual Obama Asue

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Agapito Mba Mokuy

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Anatolio Ndong Mba

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: African Group

UN Security Council Membership: Never served

Human Rights Council Membership: Never served

Contribution to UN Peacekeeping: 0

Signatory ACT Code of Conduct: No

Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration: No

Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians: No

Safe Schools Declaration: No

Rome Statute of the ICC: Non-signatory

Genocide Convention: Non-signatory

Arms Trade Treaty: Non-signatory

Security Council Priorities:

- Peace, stability and development in Africa
- Human rights, poverty and poor governance
- Alleviating the effects of climate change
- Terrorism and organized crime

On R2P: Equatorial Guinea has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.

Despite its stated commitment to human rights on the UN Security Council, it has not ratified many relevant international conventions.

Kuwait

Head of Government: Prime Minister Jaber al-Mubarak Al-Hammad al-Sabah

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi

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
UN Security Council Membership:	1978-1979
Human Rights Council Membership:	2011-2014
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	None
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	No
Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	No
Safe Schools Declaration:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Non-signatory
Genocide Convention:	Acceded 7 March 1995
Arms Trade Treaty:	Non-signatory

Security Council Priorities:

- Conflict prevention, mediation and resolution
- Terrorism and extremism
- Peacekeeping and peacebuilding
- International peace and security
- Reform of the Security Council's working methods

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

Kuwait is a major contributor to humanitarian assistance and has been particularly engaged in efforts to raise donor funds for relief efforts in Syria.

The Netherlands

Head of Demissionary Government: Prime Minister Mark Rutte

Demissionary Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Bert Koenders

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Karel van Oosterom

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes (Co-chair of the Group of Friends in NY and Geneva)
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group (WEOG)
UN Security Council Membership:	1946, 1951-1952, 1965-1966, 1983-1984, 1999-2000
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2007-2010, 2015-2017
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	457 personnel
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	Yes
Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	Yes
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 17 July 2001
Genocide Convention:	Acceded 20 June 1966
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 18 December 2014

Security Council Priorities:

- Supporting UN Peacekeeping Operations
- Enhancing international security and stability
- Strengthening the international legal order
- Advancing inclusive sustainable growth

On R2P: “The successful implementation of R2P requires national action. States are primarily responsible for the protection of their populations against atrocities and have a wide range of policy options at their disposal. A practical first step for States is appointing a national Focal Point for R2P.” – Statement by the Netherlands at the 2015 UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P.

The Netherlands co-chairs the Group of Friends of R2P in New York and Geneva. The Netherlands has also co-hosted eight annual Ministerial Meetings on R2P during the UN General Assembly High Level Week and also co-hosted the 2014 meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points in Gaborone, Botswana.

Peru

Head of Government: Prime Minister Fernando Zavala Lombardi

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

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra

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: Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group: Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

UN Security Council Membership: 1955-1956, 1973-1974, 1984-1985, 2006-2007

Human Rights Council Membership: 2006-2008, 2011-2014

Contribution to UN Peacekeeping: 393 personnel

Signatory ACT Code of Conduct: Yes

Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration: Yes

Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians: No

Safe Schools Declaration: No

Rome Statute of the ICC: Ratified 10 November 2001

Genocide Convention: Ratified 24 February 1960

Arms Trade Treaty: Ratified 16 February 2016

Security Council Priorities:

- Conflict prevention
- Greater transparency, accountability and representation on Security Council
- Protection of civilians
- Peacekeeping operations
- Terrorism and violent extremism

On R2P: “The Government of Peru is fully committed to the progressive development of the responsibility to protect as a principle. We regard its three pillars as mutually reinforcing and non-sequential. We are convinced that the best way to prevent the risk of atrocity crimes is by ending poverty and promoting social inclusion.” – Statement by Peru at the 2014 UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P.

Poland

Head of Government: Prime Minister Beata Szydło

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Witold Waszczykowski

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Bogusław Winid

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2015, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern European Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1946-1947, 1960, 1970-1971, 1982-1983, 1996-1997
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2010-2013
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	7 personnel
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	Yes
Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	Yes
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 12 November 2001
Genocide Convention:	Acceded 14 November 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 17 December 2014

Security Council Priorities:

- Conflict prevention
- Reform of the Security Council
- Sustainable development issues
- Climate change
- Protection of civilians and children in armed conflict

On R2P: “Prevention of conflict lies in the heart of the United Nations activities and it constitutes the very core of responsibility to protect. Conflict prevention is a choice and effort we need to make every day in order to build more peaceful and prosperous societies. Given the current global challenges and threats, it is necessary to consistently increase our capacities for early-warning and prevention both at home as well as at the international level.” – Statement by the Republic of Poland at the 2016 UN General Assembly Interactive Dialogue on R2P.