

UN Human Rights Council Elections for 2020-2022 and the Responsibility to Protect

Today the UN General Assembly elected Armenia, Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Libya, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Namibia, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Sudan and Venezuela to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2020-2022 term. With the elections of Germany, Japan, Marshall Islands, Netherlands and Republic of Korea, 20 of the 47 Council members during 2020 will also be members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect in Geneva.

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 (OHCHR) – 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.

The election of states that have a history of violating or abusing human rights undermines the credibility of the HRC. States elected to the HRC are supposed to demonstrate their commitment to the highest standards of human rights, including their full cooperation with all UN mechanisms. These are conditions set forth in UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251. The fact that potential mass atrocity crimes are occurring in a number of HRC member states is deeply disturbing. For example, despite the fact that Venezuela has undermined the promotion and protection of human rights both domestically and internationally, it was elected to the HRC today. Ongoing systematic violations in Venezuela - authorized at the highest level of the government - may amount to crimes against humanity and are currently subject to an investigation by an HRC-mandated body, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela.

Since 2008, the HRC has referred to states' responsibility to protect their populations in 46 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:
 - Ask the UN Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Security Council relevant decisions and reports by the HRC;
 - Encourage the UN General Assembly to ensure information collected by special procedures and international investigative mechanisms, including those mandated by the HRC, is relayed to the Security Council in a timely manner;
 - Encourage the Security Council to request regular briefings by the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
 - Promote a thematic dialogue on human rights and the prevention of mass atrocities.
- Make better use of the UPR to detect early warning signs of potential mass atrocity crimes:
 - In preparation for your national report, consider what action your government has taken to uphold its primary responsibility to protect all populations on your territory;
 - Use the UPR to ask relevant questions regarding the ratification and implementation of core human rights treaties, as well as regarding risk factors related to systematic violations and abuses of human rights.
- Ensure the HRC responds in a timely and effective manner to atrocity situations:

- Actively support the adoption of resolutions addressing serious violations of human rights;
 - Support HRC-mandated investigative mechanisms with a view to ensure accountability for possible atrocity crimes;
 - Where an imminent risk of mass atrocity crimes is detected, Council members should hold a special session in order to help mobilize appropriate international diplomatic action.
- 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.

Armenia

Head of State: President Armen Sarkissian

Head of Government: Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Zohrab Mnatsakanyan

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Andranik Hovhannisyan

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern Europe Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	-
UN Security Council Membership:	-
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	33
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 13 September 1993
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratification: 24 January 2011
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: January 2020 Previous Reviews: January 2015, May 2010
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2019: A/HRC/RES/42/20 (Transitional Justice) 2018: A/HRC/RES/37/44 (Prevention of Genocide) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/10 (Transitional Justice) 2015: A/HRC/RES/28/25 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signature: 1 October 1999
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 23 June 1993
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Actively engage with UPR mechanisms and establish an internal mechanism for reporting and coordinating the follow-up to all human rights recommendations;
- Foster cooperation aimed at the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities and the further development of national and international early warning mechanisms;
- Promote the concept of tolerance as an essential step to creating more inclusive societies;
- Combat hate speech and hate crimes by addressing the issue at the national, regional and international levels.

On R2P and the HRC: “The resolutions adopted within the Human Rights Council serve the purpose of elaboration of preventive strategies against the crime of genocide. In March this year, the Human Rights Council adopted, by consensus, a resolution on ‘Prevention of Genocide’ initiated by Armenia, which urges all States to implement accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the prevention of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2018)

Brazil

Head of State: President Jair Messias Bolsonaro

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Ernesto Araújo

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Nazareth Farani Azevêdo

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
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:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015, 2017-2019
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:	291
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratification: 28 September 1989
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratification: 29 November 2010
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: May 2022 Previous Reviews: May 2017, May 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 September 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 15 April 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 12 November 2018

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Foster initiatives on the fight against racism and racial discrimination;
- Support programs and initiatives aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating discrimination and violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres;
- Promote concrete measures to ensure that human rights defenders have a safe and supportive environment;
- Engage in debates on the right to privacy in the digital age and the full enjoyment of human rights on the internet;
- Strengthen efforts to combat violence and discrimination against vulnerable populations.

On R2P: “The most recent report of the Secretary-General invites member states to look inwards. As the report accurately points out, viewing R2P only as an international issue reinforces the erroneous notion that it is primarily about international responses to domestic crisis. On the contrary, for R2P to overcome criticism, its implementation should not focus on the exceptional and sporadic imposition of coercive measures, but rather on the constant development of structural policies that contribute to more peaceful, inclusive and tolerant societies. They include actions on human rights education, promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance, measures against xenophobia and racial discrimination, reparation programs to victims of serious human rights violations and the promotion and protection of the human rights of the most vulnerable segments of the population.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019)

Germany

Head of State: President Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Head of Government: Chancellor Angela Merkel

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Heiko Maas

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
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:	2006-2009, 2013-2015, 2015-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1995-1996, 2003-2004, 2011-2012, 2019-2020
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	520
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratification: 1 October 1990
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratification: 24 September 2009
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: May 2023 Previous Reviews: May 2018, April 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2019: A/HRC/RES/42/31 (Central African Republic), 42/22 (Syria), 42/20 (Transitional Justice), 41/25 (Syria), 40/7 (Syria), 40/16 (South Sudan), 40/18 (North Korea) 2018: A/HRC/RES/39/20 (Syria), 38/20 (Syria), 37/1 (Syria), 37/29 (North Korea), 37/38 (Syria), 37/40 (South Sudan), 37/44 (Prevention of Genocide) 2017: A/HRC/RES/36/22 (Syria), 34/23 (North Korea), 34/37 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/30 (Syria), 33/10 (Transitional Justice), 32/9 (Syria), 31/5 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/30/5 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/27/5 (Syria), 26/4 (Syria), 25/7 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 24 November 1954
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 2 April 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Use the possible one-year overlap of its membership in the UN Security Council and HRC to closely connect issues of peace and security with human rights;

- Support and strengthen the framework of the HRC as the primary UN forum for human rights and actively participate in discussions on the efficiency and the institutional status of the HRC;
- Remain committed to the right to freedom of expression and fight for press freedom, the protection of journalists and combating hate speech;
- Advocate the freedom of religion and belief and interfaith dialogue;
- Actively engage in the discourse of future challenges to human rights that derive from climate change and the use of artificial intelligence.

On R2P: “We would like to thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid al-Hussein, for maintaining an early warning mechanism by continuously bringing critical country situations to our attention. The fact that genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing not only persist but are actually on the rise, constitutes a stark reminder of the urgent need to find solutions to prevent these crimes and thereby implement the responsibility to protect... It is essential that States have an accurate understanding of the sources of potential domestic risks. This risk assessment stemming from pillar 1 of R2P is based on the principle that no country is immune from atrocity risks.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

Indonesia

Head of State: President Joko Widodo

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mrs. Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Hasan Kleib

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2010, 2011-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	1973-1974, 1995-1996, 2007-2008, 2019-2020
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	2,905
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratification: 28 October 1998
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 27 September 2010
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: May 2022 Previous Reviews: May 2017, May 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Genocide Convention:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Strengthen the bridge between the HRC and the UN Security Council, and provide meaningful contributions to preventing the possible polarization of human rights issues within both mechanisms;
- Enhance the prevention mandate of the HRC through cooperation and dialogue before possible conflicts arise;
- Strengthen the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, as well as other relevant thematic ASEAN human rights commissions, such as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children;
- Strengthen human rights machineries at the national, provincial, district and municipal levels.

On R2P: “Indonesia remains of the view that promoting the principles of responsibility to protect, particularly the prevention and capacity building and assistance aspects, are keys in order to get more acceptance among member states on the concept of R2P, through a transparent and open discussion... In our view, while human and institutional capacity are obviously of great importance, capacity building is also essential in such areas as strengthening legal frameworks and early warning. If the Responsibility to Protect is to be successfully and effectively implemented systematic measures must be put in place to promote its principles. Indonesia would also once again like to emphasize the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks and building the resilience of communities all over the world. We must ceaselessly work to promote respect and tolerance among all people at various levels.” (UN General Assembly Informal Debate on R2P, 2018)

Japan

Head of Government: Prime Minister Shinzō Abe

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi

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

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015, 2017-2019
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
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	4
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:	Ratification: 23 July 2009
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: November 2022 Previous Reviews: November 2017, October 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2018: A/HRC/RES/39/20 (Syria), 38/20 (Syria), 37/29 (North Korea) 2017: A/HRC/RES/34/23 (North Korea), 34/37 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/30 (Syria), 32/9 (Syria), 31/5 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/30/5 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/27/5 (Syria), 26/4 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 October 2007
Genocide Convention:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Engage in awareness-raising activities and the creation of consultation platforms to combat hate speech;
- Promote efforts to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Continue to promote a range of actions to increase gender equality;
- Engage in constructive bilateral dialogue with various countries, including those on the agenda of the HRC.

On R2P: “States’ primary responsibility as well as the international society’s collective responsibility to protect people from mass atrocities are well acknowledged. However, civilians are increasingly trapped in armed conflict. Increase of battle-related deaths is sharp and the number of forced displacement is larger than ever. I agree with the Secretary-General that we need to match our commitments with the experience of vulnerable people on the ground. In doing so, I wish to once again highlight that prevention and early action are key in the context of R2P.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2018)

Libya

Head of State and Government: Prime Minister and President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord Fayez al-Sarraj

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Mohamed T.H. Siala

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: No Acting Permanent Representative

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2012, 2013, 2016, 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2010-2013
UN Security Council Membership:	1976-1977, 2008-2009
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 16 May 1989
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: May 2020 Previous Reviews: May 2015, November 2010
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 16 May 1989
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 9 July 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Contribute and work through regional human rights mechanisms to advance and promote human rights;
- Support OHCHR and all UN programs that play an important role in the protection of human rights;
- Strengthen cooperation and establish a constructive dialogue with all civil society and non-governmental organizations active in the field of human rights at the national and international level;
- Promote the right to development as a fundamental right for all;
- Support the work of the HRC and ensure the necessary protection of international human rights instruments and related conventions.

On R2P: “The principle of R2P is one of the important principles adopted by leaders of the world in 2005 because of the need to develop the UN’s responsibility to deal with threats against the lives of civilians regarding war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, as well as others... The world has witnessed the UN intervention to protect civilians from genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing but we are witnessing the fact that this was not enough. R2P is an international strategy which should continue after assistance has been provided to help the new governments to put an end to suffering in their territories and to implement their capacities for peace and security in order to provide a proper life for their citizens.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

Marshall Islands

Head of State: President Hilda Heine

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. John Silk

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Doreen Debrum

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2019. Signed on to Pacific Islands Forum statement: 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	-
UN Security Council Membership:	-
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 12 March 2018
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: May 2020 Previous Reviews: May 2015, November 2010
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2019: A/HRC/RES/40/18 (North Korea)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Improve cooperation between multilateral discussions at the HRC and activities of Special Procedures mandate-holders;
- Boost visibility, ownership and implementation of HRC resolutions and outcomes;
- Work with HRC members and stakeholders to help strengthen the UPR process to identify and address unique issues;
- Strengthen the HRC Trust Fund for SIDS/LDC participation and other avenues which boost voices of the most vulnerable communities and UN member states without diplomatic representation in Geneva.

On R2P and the HRC: “The Secretary General’s report in May on R2P highlighted that there are existing gaps in, ‘our stated commitment’ and the reality on the ground and we therefore urge action to address these gaps. Respect for International Conventions, awareness and accountability should be the foundation for R2P. We acknowledge the link between the Human Rights Council and the Security Council and encourage the further strengthening of these links. Our institutions and mechanisms based in Geneva can play an important role in preventing mass atrocity crimes. We are encouraged that one of our own from the region currently sits on the Human Rights Council, thereby demonstrating the importance we place on such bodies.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019, delivered by Marshall Islands on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States)

Mauritania

Head of State: President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani

Head of Government: Prime Minister Ismail Ould Bedda Ould Cheikh Sidiya

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Mohamed El Habib Bal

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:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2010-2013
UN Security Council Membership:	1974-1975
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	749
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 17 November 2004
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratification: 3 October 2012
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: November 2020 Previous Reviews: November 2015, November 2010
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Genocide Convention:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 27 December 2015

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Ensure that all human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development) are considered equally important in the work of the HRC and OHCHR;
- Support the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Arab Commission on Human Rights;
- Build and strengthen capacities of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Promote international cooperation with UN bodies in order to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms which contribute to stability and the establishment of peaceful relations between nations;
- Ensure greater involvement of civil society organizations in the actions of the various mechanisms of the HRC.

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

Namibia

Head of State: President Hage G. Geingob

Head of Government: Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Penda Andreas Naanda

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2014
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2014-2016
UN Security Council Membership:	1999-2000
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	48
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 28 November 1994
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: January 2021 Previous Reviews: January 2016, January 2011
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 September 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 28 November 1994
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 25 September 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

None Stated

On R2P: “The Secretary-General’s report received support based on historical national or regional experiences, as well as the conviction that no region or country is immune from the risks of conflicts. As such, we applaud the Secretary-General’s assessment on how to advance the responsibility to protect. It is time for us to establish our collective benchmarks and goals for actualizing the aspirations of the responsibility to protect both at domestic and international levels.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2014)

The Netherlands

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mark Rutte

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Stephanus Abraham Blok

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Monique T.G. Van Daalen

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes (Geneva Co-Chair)
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2007-2010, 2015-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	1946, 1951-1952, 1965-1966, 1983-1984, 1999-2000, 2018
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	40
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratification: 21 December 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratification: 23 March 2011
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: May 2022 Previous Reviews: May 2017, May 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2019: A/HRC/RES/42/22 (Syria), 42/20 (Transitional Justice), 41/25 (Syria), 40/7 (Syria), 40/16 (South Sudan), 40/18 (North Korea) 2018: A/HRC/RES/39/20 (Syria), 38/20 (Syria), 37/1 (Syria), 37/29 (North Korea), 37/38 (Syria), 37/40 (South Sudan), 37/44 (Prevention of Genocide) 2017: A/HRC/RES/36/22 (Syria), 34/23 (North Korea), 34/34 (South Sudan), 34/37 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/30 (Syria), 33/10 (Transitional Justice), 32/9 (Syria), 31/5 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/28/25 (Prevention of Genocide) 2014: A/HRC/RES/27/5 (Syria), 26/4 (Syria), 25/7 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 20 June 1966
Arms Trade Treaty:	24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Remind the HRC of its mandate to address human rights violations, including gross and systematic violations;
- Actively engage in HRC efforts aimed at preventing human rights violations and initiate or encourage early action on country situations and broad human rights concerns that could lead to human rights crises;

- Strengthen accountability for perpetrators and to enhance access to remedy and justice for victims of human rights violations and combat impunity for the most serious crimes under international law, by means of national or international criminal proceedings;
- Promote international tribunals and the authority and universality of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and continue to call upon the UN Security Council to refer cases to the ICC as appropriate.

On R2P and the HRC: “Regular sessions, special procedures, treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review help documenting patterns of human rights violations that might escalate into mass atrocities. They provide us with early warning signals on which the High Commissioner can brief the Human Rights Council and the Security Council when requested. This valuable and essential New York–Geneva interaction needs a boost. The Security Council should not ignore the possibility to be adequately informed, and moreover, not think twice about taking timely and decisive action.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019)

Poland

Head of State: President Andrzej Duda

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Jacek Czaputowicz

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Zbigniew Czech

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2015, 2016, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern Europe Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2010-2013
UN Security Council Membership:	1946-1947, 1960, 1970-1971, 1982-1983, 1996-1997, 2018-2019
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	5
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratification: 26 July 1989
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 25 June 2013
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: May 2022 Previous Reviews: May 2017, May 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2019: A/HRC/RES/40/18 (North Korea) 2018: A/HRC/RES/38/20 (Syria), 37/1 (Syria), 37/29 (North Korea), 37/38 (Syria), 37/40 (South Sudan) 2017: A/HRC/RES/34/23 (North Korea), 34/34 (South Sudan), 34/37 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/30 (Syria), 33/10 (Transitional Justice), 32/9 (Syria), 31/5 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/30/5 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/27/5 (Syria), 26/4 (Syria), 25/7 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 14 November 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 24 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Participate in various activities of the HRC, particularly debates on children rights, promoting good governance and the rights of religious minorities;
- Submit the biannual resolution at the HRC on the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Enhance efforts for the protection of freedom of religion and belief;

- Provide further financial support for international humanitarian institutions in order to strengthen the role of humanitarian law.

On R2P: “It is also important to recognize and strengthen linkages between R2P and other sectors such as peacekeeping, peacebuilding, women’s rights and participation or disarmament. Protection of civilians requires comprehensive prevention policies and measures... We truly believe that time has come to enhance the implementation of R2P and mainstream this important concept deeper into the UN activities. We also concur with those delegations who supported the ideas of including the responsibility to protect in the formal agenda of the General Assembly and reaffirming our commitment to R2P through a new General Assembly resolution.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016).

Republic of Korea

Head of State: President Moon Jae-in

Head of Government: Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Ms. Kang Kyung-wha

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Ms. Ji-Ah Paik

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015, 2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1996-1997, 2013-2014
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	621
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 9 January 1995
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: November 2022 Previous Reviews: November 2017, October 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2018: A/HRC/RES/37/29 (North Korea), 36/22 (Syria) 2017: A/HRC/RES/34/23 (North Korea) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/1 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 February 2003
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 14 October 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Entry into force: 26 February 2017

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Contribute to international efforts to promote gender equality and sustainable development;
- Examine the possibility of becoming a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- Constructively engage in the UPR;

On R2P and HRC Mechanisms: “We also need to make better use of UN human rights systems and strengthen the links between the Human Rights Council and the Security Council. Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Special Procedures can help identify possible risks early on and facilitate actions by national governments and the international community, and regular Security Council briefings on mass atrocity situations by the High Commissioner for Human Rights can help better incorporate mass atrocity prevention into the Security Council’s agenda. (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019)

Sudan

Head of State: First Lieutenant General Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan Abdelrahman Al-Burhan, Chairman of the Transitional Military Council

Head of Government: Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Ms. Asama Mohamed Abdalla

Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Mr. Osman Abufatima Adam Mohammed

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	-
UN Security Council Membership:	1972-1973
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 4 June 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: May 2021 Previous Reviews: May 2016, May 2011
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signature: 8 September 2000
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 13 October 2003
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

None Stated

On R2P: “Protecting civilians is a noble cause. However, it should be done by the countries in question as they bear this responsibility. It should not be used as a political tool to achieve narrow interests or to trade the suffering of civilians and to legitimize practices that run counter to the Charter of the United Nations and international law.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

Venezuela

Head of State: President Nicolás Maduro Moros

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Jorge Arreaza

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

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin America & Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2013-2015, 2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1962-1963, 1977-1978, 1986-1987, 1992-1993, 2015-2016
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	None
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratification: 29 July 1991
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 21 October 2008
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: November 2021 Previous Reviews: November 2016, October 2011
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Entry into force: 1 July 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 12 July 1960
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Cooperate with the UN General Assembly, the HRC and its Special Procedures, and mechanisms of the universal system for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Provide broader access to Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts;
- Monitor commitments under international human rights treaty bodies and the UPR;
- Assess the scope and negative impact on the full enjoyment of human rights of the application of unilateral coercive measures of an extraterritorial nature by States and institutions;
- Develop an anti-imperialist doctrine on the interference of governments and business groups in human rights, environmental and indigenous issues as an instrument for infiltrating States and infringing on their sovereignty.

On R2P: “Venezuela has reiterated its commitment to the need to prevent crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and ethnic cleansing—whoever has committed them and wherever they are perpetrated. On a number of occasions, Venezuela has expressed its rejection of the intentions of some states to invoke the notion of the Responsibility to Protect in reference to conflict situations involving civilians. We have firmly opposed trying to incorporate this in a de facto way into the principles and standards within the Charter of the United Nations. Venezuela believes that there are still many differences as to the content and scope of the notion of the Responsibility to Protect.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)