

# 2021-2022 UN Security Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

Today and yesterday, 17-18 June 2020, the UN General Assembly elected India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway to the UN Security Council for the period of 2021-2022. With their election, 7 of the 15 members of the Council in 2021 will be “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.

Despite its role as the UN body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, all too often the Security Council has been unable to take timely action on mass atrocity situations due to deep political divisions inside the Council over human rights, conflict prevention and national sovereignty. In recent years this has had a debilitating effect on the Council’s capacity to respond to atrocities in Myanmar, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere. It is therefore more important than ever for Council members to work in creative ways to ensure that the international community is able to take timely, practical action to prevent atrocities and protect vulnerable populations.

Since 2005 the Security Council has adopted 84 resolutions and 21 Presidential Statements that refer to the Responsibility to Protect, including with regard to situations in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria and eight other country situations, as well as a number of thematic issue areas. As we commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Responsibility to Protect, it is our hope that the Security Council will consistently uphold their commitment to taking decisive 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 the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant Special Rapporteurs, Human Right Council-mandated investigative mechanisms and civil society representatives, on situations where populations are at risk of mass atrocities.
- Raise awareness and mobilize timely responses to crises, including through convening “Arria formula meetings” or raising country situations that are not on the Council’s formal agenda under “Any Other Business,” and coordinating Security Council visiting missions to countries where mass atrocity risks are evident.
- Reaffirm the Security Council’s commitment to preventing mass atrocities by establishing a Security Council Working Group on the Prevention of Genocide and other Mass Atrocity Crimes.
- 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 the International Criminal Court and other international justice mechanisms and ensure all perpetrators of mass atrocities are held to account, regardless of position or affiliation.
- Ratify or accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Global Centre has compiled basic profiles on each of the newly-elected Security Council members. These provide an overview 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.

## India

**Head of State:** President Ram Nath Kovind

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Minister for External Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. T. S. Tirumurti

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

### Background

Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992, 2011-2012
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2007-2010, 2011-2014, 2015-2017, 2019-2021
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	5,434 personnel (5 <sup>th</sup> largest contributor)
Signatory Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	Yes
Signatory Safe Schools Declaration:	No
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	No
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 27 August 1959
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

### Security Council Priorities:

- Security Council reform and expansion of membership
- Ensure greater involvement of women in UN Peacekeeping and strengthen cooperation and coordination among troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council and the UN Secretariat
- Conflict prevention and peacebuilding
- Counter-terrorism
- Strengthen engagement between the UN and other regional and sub-regional organizations to promote international peace and security

**On R2P:** “India, like many others, has little disagreement with the rationale of the cardinal features of Pillar I and Pillar II of the Responsibility to Protect. However, we are of the view that appropriate ways need to be found to address the legally complex and politically challenging issues which underlie Pillar III. In our

view, the ability of the international community to take appropriate collective action if a State manifestly fails to fulfill its responsibility to protect its population is still ridden with serious gaps that need to be reflected upon.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, 25 June 2018)

## Ireland

**Head of State:** President Michael D. Higgins

**Head of Government:** Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

**Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Brexit of Ireland:** H.E. Mr. Simon Coveney

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason

### Summary of R2P Engagement

	2009, 2011, 2012, 2017, 2018, 2019
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2008-2019 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

### Background

Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group (WEOG)
UN Security Council Membership:	1962, 1981-1982, 2001-2002
Human Rights Council Membership:	2013-2015
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	474 personnel (36 <sup>th</sup> largest contributor)
Signatory Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	Yes
Signatory Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 11 April 2002
Genocide Convention:	Acceded 22 June 1976
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 2 April 2014

### Security Council Priorities:

- Commitment to rule of law, multilateralism and international rules-based system
- Conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts
- Integrated approach towards post-conflict reconciliation, involving peacebuilding, development, human rights and good governance
- Greater involvement of women in UN Peacekeeping
- Greater transparency and accountability for the Security Council
- Disarmament and non-proliferation

**On R2P:** “We are pleased to support our ACT Group's Code of Conduct, which to date has been endorsed by some 117 countries as well as the Declaration on voluntary restraint on the use of the veto by the Permanent Members of the Security Council. These initiatives help reinforce the collective responsibility to prevent mass atrocity crimes.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, 27 June 2019)

## Kenya

**Head of State and Government:** President Uhuru Kenyatta

**Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade:** H.E. Ms. Monica Juma

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. Lazarus Ombai Amayo

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2011
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

### Background

Regional Group:	African Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1973-1974, 1997-1998
Human Rights Council Membership:	2013-2015, 2016-2018
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	156 personnel (63 <sup>rd</sup> largest contributor)
Signatory Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	Yes
Signatory Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	No
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 15 March 2005
Genocide Convention:	No
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

### Security Council Priorities:

- Build linkages between the UN and African bodies to help prevent and solve regional conflicts
- Promote justice, human rights and democracy
- Ensure strong and clear mandates for peace operations, backed by sufficient, predictable and sustainable financial support, in particular those led by the African Union
- Promote inclusive and triangular coordination among the UN Security Council, Secretariat and Troop Contributing Countries
- Ensure equal participation of men and women in conflict resolution
- Climate change and security
- Youth empowerment
- Sustainable development
- Counter-terrorism

**On R2P:** “Kenya condemns violence against civilian populations wherever it takes place. Recent events remind us of the tragic human and political cost incurred when the international community fails to act in time to protect civilians. We agree therefore that situations do arise where the international community must act decisively to protect civilians as and when situations warrant such action, nonetheless it is

important that actions to prevent or mitigate harm to civilians must be carefully thought through and take into account the consequences of intended and unintended outcomes.” (UN General Assembly Informal Dialogue on the “Responsibility While Protecting,” 21 February 2012)

## Mexico

**Head of State and Government:** President Mr. Andrés Manuel López Obrador

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. Juan Ramón de la Fuente Ramirez

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Background	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)
UN Security Council Membership:	1946, 1980-1981, 2002-2003, 2009-2010
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016, 2018-2020
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	13 personnel (96 <sup>th</sup> largest contributor)
Signatory Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	Yes
Signatory Safe Schools Declaration:	No
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 28 October 2005
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 22 July 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 25 September 2013

### Security Council Priorities:

- Promote respect for international law
- Peaceful resolution of disputes, legal equality of states, international cooperation for development and protection of human rights
- Prioritize dialogue and conciliation in responding to conflicts
- Improve the working methods of the Security Council
- Women, Peace and Security
- Climate change and security
- Non-proliferation

**On R2P:** “Protecting the population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is not a matter of political will, but an obligation under international law... In the face of outright challenges to multilateralism, we must intensify our efforts to make the United Nations fit for purpose. It is



insufficient to have early warnings to imminent crises if these go unheeded.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, 27 June 2019)

## Norway

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Erna Solberg

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Ms. Mona Juul

### Summary of R2P Engagement

	2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	Also part of the statement by the Nordic States: 2016, 2018 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

### Background

Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group (WEOG)
UN Security Council Membership:	1949-1950, 1963-1964, 1979-1980, 2001-2002
Human Rights Council Membership:	2010-2012
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	66 personnel (72 <sup>nd</sup> largest contributor)
Signatory Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	Yes
Signatory Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 16 February 2000
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 22 July 1949
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 12 February 2014

### Security Council Priorities:

- Common solutions to global issues, including climate change and pollution, refugees and migration
- International security and sustainable development
- Multilateral cooperation
- Women's rights and participation at all levels of society
- More transparent and representative Security Council

**On R2P:** "Upholding our collective responsibility to protect must remain at the center of our commitment to an international rules-based order. The multilateral system we have all worked so hard to create deserves our unwavering respect. We must urgently increase the speed at which we move towards a prevention-centered analysis, as well as a culture of earlier preventive action when signs of atrocity crimes are

identified. There are no excuses for inaction.” (Delivered by Norway on behalf of the Nordic countries, UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, 27 June 2019).