

2014-2015 Security Council elections and the Responsibility to Protect

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect welcomes the election of Chad, Chile, Lithuania, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Security Council for 2014-2105. With the addition of these members, in 2014 the Security Council will consist of an overwhelming majority of engaged supporters of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). It is our hope that they will use this opportunity to uphold their commitment to R2P and to take early preventive action to avert the horrors witnessed in Rwanda, Srebrenica and more recently in Syria and Sudan.

Security Council members have a responsibility to ensure that populations are protected in every country from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. To this end, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect urges all Security Council members to:

- Hold a UN Department of Political Affairs Horizon Scanning briefing during their presidency to inform council members of conflict situations where there is a serious risk of mass atrocity crimes;
- Request briefings from the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide as well as Special Rapporteurs on situations where populations are at risk;
- Where appropriate, apply the R2P three pillar framework to crisis situations and take responsible and timely action;
- Restrain from voting against resolutions aimed at responding to situations where genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity are occurring.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly-elected Security Council members. These provide an account of their engagement with R2P, including their participation at the UN General Assembly, whether they have appointed a national R2P Focal Point and their positions on ongoing country situations.

Other relevant background information included are their respective contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, their status with relevant international legal regimes, including the Genocide Convention, the Rome Statute to the ICC and the Arms Treaty, as well as their affiliated groupings or bloc at the regional level and within the UN.

Following the election Dr. Simon Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, remarked: “R2P is only ever as strong as the commitment of the UN member states who support it. Stopping mass atrocity crimes is fundamentally a question of political will. We welcome the election of these new UN Security Council members and call for an end to crimes that stain the conscience of the world.”

Republic of Chile

Head of State: H.E. Mr. Sebastián Piñera

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Alfredo Charme

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Octavio Errázuriz

Summary of R2P Engagement	
R2P debate participation:	2009 , 2010 , 2011 , 2012 , 2013
Opening GA debate R2P reference:	2013
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Group:	GRULAC
UN Security Council Membership:	1952-1953, 61-62, 96-97, 2003-2004
Human Rights Council Membership:	2011, *Current Member (2014)
Contribution to UNPKOs:	498 personnel (36 th)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified June 2009
Genocide Convention:	Ratified June 1953
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed June 2013
Other:	Member of ACT initiative, G77, NAM, UNASUR

NOTES

- **UNSC Goals & Priorities:** Human rights and security; women, peace and security; protection of civilians; children in armed conflict (Government of Chile, 2013)
- **On R2P:** Speaking at the Opening of the 68th UN General Assembly, President Piñera stated, "...if a state cannot or does not want to accomplish this primary duty, then the international community can intervene within the frame of its three accepted pillars."
- **Security Council Veto:** Speaking at the Opening of the 68th UN General Assembly, President Piñera urged countries with the right of veto to "refrain from exercising that right in situations of crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide or ethnic cleansing."
- **Country-specific:** Regarding the situation in Syria, President Piñera has strongly condemned the use of chemical weapons and "the indiscriminate use of force against the civilian population."

Republic of Lithuania

Head of State: H.E. Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaitė

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Linas Linkevičius

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Ms. Raimonda Murmokaitė

Summary of R2P Engagement

R2P debate participation:	N/A
Opening GA debate R2P reference:	2007
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

Relevant Background Information

Group:	Eastern European Group
UN Security Council Membership:	N/A
Human Rights Council Membership:	N/A
Contributions to UNPKOs:	3 personnel (106 th)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified June 2009
Genocide Convention:	Ratified May 2003
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed June 2013
Other:	EU, OSCE, NATO

NOTES

- **UNSC Goals & Priorities:** Arms control and disarmament; rule of law; human rights; women, peace and security; protection of civilians (Lithuanian Government, 2013)
- **On R2P:** “[The] Responsibility to protect is our joint commitment to an individual's right to life. And a promise that he or she will not fall victim to genocide, war crimes or ethnic cleansing while the rest of the world goes about business as usual.”
- **Country-Specific:** At the February 2013 UNSC debate on Protection of Civilians, Lithuania’s Permanent Representative to the UN said: “Accountability is fundamental to improving the protection of civilians. Consistency and determination in tackling impunity are a way of sending a strong signal of deterrence to would-be perpetrators...Lithuania was one of the 57 States to sign a letter in January, calling upon the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.”

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Head of State: H.E. King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Prince Saud Al-Faisal

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Abdallah Yahya A. Al-Mouallimi

Summary of R2P Engagement

R2P debate participation:	N/A
Opening GA debate R2P reference:	N/A
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

Relevant Background Information

Group:	Asia-Pacific Group (Arab Swing Seat)
UN Security Council Membership:	No
Human Rights Council Membership:	2009, 2012
Contributions to UNPKOs:	0 (N/A)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Non-signatory
Genocide Convention:	Acceded July 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Non-signatory
Other:	Member of the ACT initiative, G20, G77, GCC, LAS, NAM, OIC

NOTES

- **UNSC Goals & Priorities:** Conflict prevention; mediation; peace and security in the Middle East; counter-terrorism (Security Council Report, 2013). Country-specific – Israel-Palestine, Syria, Yemen.
- **On R2P:** No major statements or engagement on R2P. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supported the 2011 UNSC-mandated operation in Libya.
- **Country-Specific:** In a speech before the July 2013 UNSC meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Syria), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's representative stated that, "The Syrian humanitarian crisis is a source of shame on the conscience of the international community which stands paralyzed towards this issue. As a result, the crisis of the Syrian refugees reached a historic record as it has become the worst crisis since the genocide in Rwanda as per United Nations testimonies...any delay from the international community to take action means more suffering for the helpless Syrian people."

Republic of Chad

Head of State: H.E. Général de Corps d'Armée Idriss Deby Itno

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Mahamat Zene Cherif

Summary of R2P Engagement

R2P debate participation: N/A

Opening GA debate R2P reference: N/A

R2P Group of Friend member: No

Appointed R2P Focal Point: No

Relevant Background Information

Group: African Group (Central)

UN Security Council Membership: N/A

Human Rights Council Membership: N/A

Contributions to UNPKOs: 1299 personnel (23rd)

Rome Statute of the ICC: Ratified November 2006

Genocide Convention: Non-signatory

Arms Trade Treaty: Signed September 2013

Other: Member of the AU, ECCAS, Francophonie, G77, NAM

NOTES

- **UNSC Goals and Priorities:** Sahelo-Saharan Security; counter-terrorism; AU-UN cooperation (Security Council Report, 2013). Country-Specific – Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Sudan.
- **On R2P:** No major statements or engagement on R2P.
- **Country-Specific:** At the Opening of the 68th UN General Assembly, Chadian President Deby addressed the “alarming” situation in the Central African Republic, and called a “rapid response” to the crisis. President Deby also called upon the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the rebel factions within the country to find a “negotiated settlement” to the crisis, noting in particular the instability in eastern DRC.

Federal Republic of Nigeria

Head of State: H.E. Mr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mrs. Viola Adaku Onwuliri

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu

Summary of R2P Engagement

R2P debate participation: [2009](#), [2010](#), [2012](#), [2013](#)

Opening GA debate R2P reference: N/A

R2P Group of Friends member: Yes

Appointed R2P Focal Point: No

Relevant Background Information

Group: African Group (West)

UN Security Council Membership: 1966-67, 78-79, 94-95, 2010-2011

Human Rights Council Membership: 2009, 2012

Contribution to UNPKOs: 4880 personnel (5th)

Rome Statute of the ICC: Ratified September 2001

Genocide Convention: Acceded July 2009

Arms Trade Treaty: Ratified August 2013

Other: Member of the AU, Commonwealth, ECOWAS, G77, NAM

NOTES

- **UNSC Goals & Priorities:** Conflict prevention; peacekeeping; protection of civilians; arms control; piracy; counter-terrorism (Security Council Report, 2013). Country-specific – Central African Republic, Guinea, Mali.
- **R2P:** At the 2012 informal interactive dialogue on R2P, Nigeria’s representative stated “the *raison d’etre* of the state revolves around the R2P and...[the state] shall act responsibly and accountably to justify the reason for its essence.”
- **Country-Specific:** Speaking at the Opening of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, President Jonathan stated that “progress is being made” is response to multiple crises in the African continent, including in Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On Syria, the President condemned “in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons,” and called for a negotiated settlement to the crisis.

List of Abbreviations

ACT – Accountability, Coherence and Transparency
AU – African Union
ECCAS – Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States
EU – European Union
G20 – Group of 20
G77 – Group of 77
GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council
GRULAC – Group of Latin American and Caribbean States
LAS – League of Arab States
ICC – International Criminal Court
NAM – Non-Aligned Movement
NATO – North-Atlantic Treaty Organization
OIC – Organization of Islamic Cooperation
OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
UNASUR – Union of South American Nations
UN PKOs – UN Peacekeeping Operations