

2016-2017 UN Security Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect welcomes the election of Japan, Senegal and Uruguay to the UN Security Council for 2016-2017. With the election of these members, eight of the fifteen members of the Security Council are also members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). We also note the election of Egypt and Ukraine. We encourage all Security Council members to commit to the prevention of, and accountability for, mass atrocity crimes, including within their own domestic jurisdictions. It is our hope that the Security Council will uphold their commitment to R2P and take early preventive action to avert emerging crises. The Council should also work constructively and collaboratively to halt ongoing atrocities in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

Members of the Security Council have a responsibility to maintain international peace and security and ensure that all populations are protected 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:

- Ensure all Council members are aware of potential crises before they deteriorate by holding Arria Formula meetings, Informal Interactive Dialogues and briefings by the Special Advisers for the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, as well as regular use of “Any Other Business” to raise matters of immediate concern;
- Refrain from voting against, or otherwise blocking, credible Council action aimed at preventing or halting mass atrocity crimes. If a negative vote is cast, members should explain publicly what alternative strategy they propose to protect populations at risk;
- Sign on to the declaration of France and Mexico and the Code of Conduct of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly-elected Security Council members. These provide an account of their engagement regarding the prevention of mass atrocity crimes, including whether they have appointed a National R2P Focal Point, their respective contributions to UN Peace Operations and their status with regard to the Genocide Convention, Rome Statute and Arms Trade Treaty.

Following the election Dr. Simon Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, remarked: “Not since 1945 have so many people been displaced by war and conflict. As we mark the 10th anniversary of R2P and the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we urge the newly elected members of the Council to do all they can to prevent and protect vulnerable populations from mass atrocity crimes.”

Egypt

Head of Government: Prime Minister Sherif Ismail

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

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Amr Abdellatif Aboulatta

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2012 , 2013 , 2014 , 2015
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Group:	Africa Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1949-1950, 1961-1962, 1984-1985, 1996-1997
Human Rights Council Membership:	2009-2010
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	2,062 personnel (15 th largest contributor)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signed 26 December 2000 (Not Ratified)
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 8 February 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Non-signatory
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct	No
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration	No
Other:	Member of AU, G77, LAS, NAM, OIC

Security Council Goals & Priorities: Counter-terrorism, economic and social development, human rights, peacekeeping.

On R2P: “Currently, the concept of ‘Responsibility to Protect’ is a broad political term that has yet to evolve legally. A lot of work needs to be done to clarify this important concept and to bring it in conformity with the UN Charter and the relevant principles of International Law.” – H.E. Mr. Amr Abdellatif Aboulatta, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN, at the 8 September 2015 UN General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on R2P.

Security Council Veto: “We consider the French initiative to regulate the use of the veto in situations of mass atrocities a positive step in our collective endeavors to improve the working methods of the Security Council. [...] Egypt is strongly committed to a comprehensive reform of the Council which would make it effective in maintaining international peace and security, particularly when it comes to mass atrocities as well as the protection of civilians under imminent threat.” – H.E. Mr. Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, at the 25 September 2014 Ministerial Side-Event on regulating the veto in the event of mass atrocities.

Notable Quote: “Egypt is a founding member of the United Nations, and has ever since strongly contributed to the realization of its goals, especially in the areas of peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development.” – H. E. Mr. Abdelfattah Al-Sisi, President of Egypt, at the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, 24 September 2014.

Japan

Head of Government: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

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

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009 , 2011 , 2012 , 2013 , 2015
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1958-1959 , 1966-1967 , 1971-1972 , 1975-1976 , 1981-1982 , 1987-1988 , 1992-1993 , 1997-1998 , 2005-2006 , 2009-2010
Human Rights Council Membership:	2007-2008, 2010-2011, 2015-2016
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	272 personnel (54 th largest contributor)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 17 July 2007
Genocide Convention:	Non-signatory
Arms Trade Treaty:	Acceded 9 May 2014
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration	Yes
Other:	Member of APEC, G20, OECD

Security Council Goals & Priorities: Human security, sustainable development, UN reform, women, peace and security.

On R2P: “The concept of the Responsibility to Protect has recently become clearer, thanks to discussions held among member states. Based on these developments, we now believe that the potential for misunderstanding of these two concepts [human security and R2P] is quite low.” - H.E. Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN, at the 8 September 2015 UN General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on R2P.

Security Council Veto: “These are both important and welcoming initiatives. We need to continue our discussion on these initiatives as part of the efforts by the international community to implement the Responsibility to Protect.” – H.E. Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN, on the initiatives of France and Mexico and of the ACT Group at the 8 September 2015 UN General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on R2P.

Notable Quote: “Japan has been, is now, and will continue to be a force providing momentum for proactive contributions to peace.” – H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, at the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, 25 September 2014.

Senegal

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Abdallah Dionne

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Fodé Seck

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	<u>2010</u>
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Group:	Africa Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1968-1969 , 1988-1989
Human Rights Council Membership:	2008-2009
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	3,613 personnel (7 th largest contributor)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 2 February 1999
Genocide Convention:	Acceded 4 August 1983
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 25 September 2014
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct	No
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration	Yes
Other:	Member of AU, G77, NAM, OIC, WAEMU

Security Council Goals & Priorities: Peacekeeping and international security, promotion of economic and social progress, promotion and protection of human rights and international law.

On R2P: “All the questions related to implementing R2P will only be answered through genuine dialogue, a frank and constructive dialogue, involving all actors of the international scene” – H.E. Mr. Paul Badji, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the UN, at the 9 August 2010 UN General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on R2P.

Security Council Veto: “In 2015, I hope that on the 70th anniversary of our organization we will see a starting point for a remodeled and renewed Security Council. In this regard, Senegal would like to welcome the French initiative to suspend the veto right in case of mass atrocities.” – H.E. Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of Senegal, at the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, 25 September 2014.

Notable quote: “My delegation is convinced of the urgent need to establish a holistic approach capable of strengthening the capacity and the resilience of countries who face recurrent crises as well as new conflicts. From that point of view, a body such as the International Criminal Court has within its mandate a significant role to play in restoring peace.” – H.E. Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of Senegal, at the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, 25 September 2014.

Ukraine

Head of Government: Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H. E. Mr. Pavlo Klimkin

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Yuriy Sergeyev

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	<u>2014</u>
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Group:	Eastern Europe Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1948-1949, 1984-1985, 2000-2001
Human Rights Council Membership:	2007-2008, 2010-2011
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	557 personnel (42 nd largest contributor)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signed 20 January 2000 (Not Ratified)
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 15 November 1954
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed 23 September 2014 (Not Ratified)
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration	Yes
Other:	Member of BSEC, Council of Europe, OSCE

Security Council Goals and Priorities: Counterterrorism, international peace and security, UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding, non-proliferation and disarmament, UNSC reform.

On R2P: “We would like to emphasize that the excessive use of the principles of the responsibility to protect can lead to gross danger for specific states and international community in general. Among examples are attempts of Russia, who from the moment of the creation of the “R2P” expressed concerns of the potential risks of such principle, to use it to rationalize its military actions in the territory of Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014 as obligations to protect so called Russian-speaking population.” - H.E. Mr. Yuriy A. Sergeyev, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN, at the 8 September 2014 UN General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on R2P.

Security Council Veto: “Abuse of the veto right, its usage as a “license to kill” is unacceptable. In this context I welcome the initiative of my French colleague President Hollande, supported by President Pena Nieto of Mexico, on the Political Declaration to restrain from the veto right among the P5 Members in case of mass atrocities.” – H.E. Mr. Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, at the opening of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, 29 September 2015.

Notable Quote: “We watch closely the situation in Syria, which remains extremely alarming... We call on all relevant parties to exert maximum efforts to settle the conflict on the basis of respect to the UN Charter and universally recognized principles of international law.”– H.E. Mr. Viktor Yanukovych, former President of Ukraine, at the opening of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, 26 September 2012.

Uruguay

Head of State: President Tabaré Vázquez

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H. E. Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Gonzalo Koncke

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2012 , 2013 , 2014 , 2015
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Group:	Group of Latin American and Caribbean States
UN Security Council Membership:	1965-1966
Human Rights Council Membership:	2008-2009, 2011-2012
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	1,461 personnel (20 th largest contributor)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 28 June 2002
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 11 July 1967
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 25 September 2014
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration	Yes
Other:	Member of G77, MERCOSUR, OAS, UNASUR

Security Council Goals & Priorities: UN peace operations, protection of civilians, peacebuilding, human rights, international law.

On R2P: “The United Nations, the General Assembly, this is the place to discuss this issue. We support that the debate on the responsibility to protect is institutionalized at the heart of the Assembly, as well as a formalization of the mandate of the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly periodically on the developments of this matter.” – H.E. Mr. José Luis Cancela, former Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the UN, at the 5 September 2012 UN General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on R2P.

Security Council Veto: “As a member of the ACT Group, we support the Code of Conduct. We also support the French and Mexican proposal to have voluntary restraint of the use of the veto when it comes to cases of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.” H.E. Mr. Gonzalo Koncke, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the UN, at the 8 September 2015 UN General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on R2P.

Notable Quote: “Violence has taken a new dimension of terror and horror, with hundreds of thousands of deaths in Libya, Syria and Iraq. Violations of human rights and crimes against humanity are a permanent reality in these countries. [...] Global governance has not been inspired by rights but rather by interests. People pay for these particular interests with their life, with the human rights violations they suffer.” – H.E. Mr. Luis Almagro, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, at the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, 29 September 2014.

List of Abbreviations

APEC – Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

AU – African Union

BSEC – Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

G20 – Group of 20

G77 – Group of 77

ICC – International Criminal Court

LAS – League of Arab States

MERCOSUR – Southern Common Market

NAM – Non-Aligned Movement

OAS – Organization of American State

OIC – Organization of Islamic Cooperation

OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OSCE – Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

R2P – Responsibility to Protect

UNASUR – Union of South American Nations

UNGA – UN General Assembly

WAEMU – Western African Economic and Monetary Union