

2017-2018 UN Security Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect welcomes the election of Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, and Sweden to the United Nations Security Council for 2017-2018. The Global Centre also welcomes the “show of unity” by the Netherlands and Italy who agreed to a split-term as a means of resolving a voting impasse in the General Assembly. Following approval of the proposal by the Western European and Others Group, the split-term is pending agreement of the General Assembly. With the election of these states, 8 of the 15 Council members are also members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in New York and Geneva.

The global displacement of civilians due to conflict, mass atrocity crimes and persecution is at its highest level since the end of the Second World War. Security Council members have a responsibility to maintain international peace and security and ensure that populations are protected from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, regardless of where these crimes are occurring.

Since 2005 the Security Council has adopted 48 resolutions that refer to R2P. It is our hope that the Security Council will meaningfully uphold their commitment to R2P by taking proximate preventive action to avert emerging crises and halt mass atrocity crimes in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Iraq, Sudan, Syria and elsewhere.

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 UN Secretary-General’s Human Rights Up Front action plan, UN officials must be able to bring to the Security Council’s attention any situation where civilians face the threat of mass atrocities.
- Hold a formal Security Council meeting to discuss the Responsibility to Protect and consider adopting a resolution which reaffirms the Council’s commitment to preventing mass atrocity crimes. Security Council members should also convene “Arria-formula” meetings on country situations which are not on the Council’s formal agenda and make regular use of “Any Other Business” to raise matters of concern.
- Adhere to the ACT Code of Conduct, endorsed by 112 governments, by committing to take timely and decisive action to protect civilians and not vote against any credible resolution aimed at preventing or halting mass atrocities.
- Support international criminal justice mechanisms, especially the International Criminal Court, in ensuring all perpetrators of mass atrocities are held accountable.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly-elected Security Council members. These provide a basic overview of their engagement with R2P, their contribution to UN peacekeeping operations and their status with relevant international legal regimes, including the Genocide Convention, Rome Statute and Arms Trade Treaty.

Bolivia

Head of State: H.E. Mr. Evo Morales Ayma

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H. E. Mr. David Choquehuanca Céspedes

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009 , 2013 , 2014
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1964–1965, 1978–1979
Human Rights Council Membership:	2007–2010, 2014–2017
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	21 personnel (90 th largest contributor)
Signatory Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	No
Signatory Safe Schools Declaration:	No
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	No
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified 27 June 2002
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 14 June 2005
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Security Council Priorities:

- Human rights
- Protection of children, women, refugees and indigenous peoples
- Environmental sustainability
- International peace and security
- Inclusive multilateralism

On R2P: “We encourage the promotion of the responsibility that each state has to protect its own people under the principle of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in the internal affairs of states and the United Nations Charter and international law. The international community has a responsibility to protect the global population from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing, but not at the expense of more deaths, refugees, and displaced.”- Statement by Bolivia at the 2014 UN General Assembly informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P.

Ethiopia

Head of Government: H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Tekeda Alemu

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:	1967–1968, 1989–1990
Human Rights Council Membership:	2015–2018
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	8,321 personnel (1 st 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 1 July 1949
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Security Council Priorities:

- Peacekeeping
- Enhanced cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations
- International development

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

Italy

Head of Government: H.E. Mr. Matteo Renzi

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Paolo Gentiloni

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009 , 2010 , 2011 , 2012 , 2014 , 2015
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group (WEOG)
UN Security Council Membership:	1959–1960, 1971–1972, 1975–1976, 1987–1988, 1995–1996 and 2007–2008
Human Rights Council Membership:	2007–2010, 2011–2014
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	1,310 personnel (22 nd 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 26 July 1999
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 4 June 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 2 April 2014

Security Council Priorities:

- Peace and international security
- Sustainable development
- Energy and the environment
- Human rights
- Women's empowerment for peace and development
- Protection of cultural heritage

On R2P: “Italy supports the integration of R2P and human rights in the activities related to peace and security, in particular by providing effective training of personnel deployed in conflict and post-conflict situations as part of UN, regional organizations or national forces.”— Statement by Italy at the 2015 UN General Assembly informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P.

Kazakhstan

Head of State: H.E. Mr. Nursultan A. Nazarbayev

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Erlan A. Idrissov

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	<u>2009</u>
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
UN Security Council Membership:	No
Human Rights Council Membership:	2012–2015
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	6 personnel (104 th largest contributor)
Signatory Kigali Principles on Protection of Civilians:	No
Signatory Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Signatory ACT Code of Conduct:	Yes
Signatory France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Acceded 26 August 1998
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Security Council Priorities:

- Nuclear security
- Food security
- Water security
- Energy security

On R2P: “The UN Secretary-General's Report ‘Implementing the Responsibility to Protect’ provides a comprehensive conceptual framework that is sufficiently equipped with a set of reasonable practical measures and tools to leverage resources and further promote the global commitment to the R2P concept. Now, four years after the adoption of the 2005 Outcome Document, it is time to advance the R2P agenda and commence with efforts to improve the UN capacity in preventing the four horrendous crimes outlined in paragraphs 138 and 139 thereof, through the early warning system, collection and assessment of reliable information, and capacity-building of all parties involved in the R2P implementation.”- Statement by Kazakhstan at the 2009 UN General Assembly informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P.

Netherlands

Head of Government: H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H. E. Mr. Albert 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](#)

R2P Group of Friends member: Yes (Co-Chair)

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, 2014–2017

Contribution to UN Peacekeeping: 512 personnel (41st 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: Acceded 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.

Sweden

Head of Government: H.E. Mr. Stefan Löfven

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Ms. Margot Wallström

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009 , 2011 , 2015
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group (WEOG)
UN Security Council Membership:	1957–1958, 1975–1976 and 1997–1998
Human Rights Council Membership:	None
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	285 personnel (54 th 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 28 June 2001
Genocide Convention:	Ratified 27 May 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified 16 June 2014

Security Council Priorities:

- Peace and international security
- The relationship between security and development
- The importance of peacebuilding and institution-building for lasting peace
- Climate change-related issues
- Security Council transparency and representation

On R2P: “The Responsibility to Protect elucidates the most important obligations of states in protecting populations from mass atrocities. Ten years after its adoption, there is growing consensus on the content and importance of the principle. And it has been successfully applied in various occasions. We should all share and learn from best practices and react to any misuse of the concept. However, atrocities still occur and we should spare no effort to put the principle into even more effective practice.” — Statement by Sweden at the 2015 UN General Assembly informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P.