

# UN Human Rights Council Elections for 2021-2023 and the Responsibility to Protect

Today, 13 October, the UN General Assembly elected Bolivia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, France, Gabon, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Senegal, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2021-2023 term. With the elections of Côte d'Ivoire, France, Mexico, Senegal and United Kingdom, 16 of the 47 Council members during 2021 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 China and Russia– states that have a history of violating human rights and perpetrating atrocities at home or abroad – 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 being perpetrated by a number of HRC member states, including Cameroon, Eritrea and Venezuela, is deeply disturbing. Saudi Arabia, which is responsible for possible war crimes in Yemen, failed to get elected to the HRC today.

Since 2008, the HRC has referred to states' responsibility to protect their populations in 54 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.

## Bolivia

**Head of State and Government:** President Jeanine Añez Chávez

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Ms. Karen Longaric Rodríguez

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** *Not listed*

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2013, 2014, 2016-2018
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:	2007-2010, 2015-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	1964-1965, 1978-1979, 2017-2018
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	27
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 12 April 1999
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 17 December 2008
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2024 Previous reviews: November 2019, October 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2008: A/HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 27 June 2002
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 14 June 2005
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Combat racism, racial discrimination and intolerance;
- Strengthen measures to guarantee freedom of expression and opinion and freedom of the press and continue to guarantee the independence of the media;
- Strengthen electoral procedures, increase transparency and guarantee the independence of electoral authorities;
- Strengthen capacities to ensure access to justice and the effective and impartial administration of justice;
- Strengthen multilateralism as the most effective diplomatic tool for promoting and defending human rights.

**On R2P:** “It is essential that we work together and in consensus to define the concepts and scope implied by the Responsibility to Protect. This responsibility is not a principle but rather a concept, whose characteristics, rules of implementation and evaluation mechanisms are far from being defined and agreed on. Without a clear definition and with imprecise terms to support it, the Responsibility to Protect has a high risk of becoming a mechanism for interfering in the internal affairs of states or being used selectively as a tool to achieve political gains” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2018).

## China, People's Republic of

**Head of State:** President Xi Jinping

**Head of Government:** Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Wang Yi

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Xu Chen

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009-2015, 2017-2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016, 2017-2019
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent Member
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	2,531
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 4 October 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2023 Previous reviews: November 2018, October 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 18 April 1983
Arms Trade Treaty:	Acceded: 6 July 2020

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Protect economic, social and cultural rights and citizens' civil and political rights in accordance with the law;
- Prioritize the development of ethnic minorities and ethnic minority areas;
- Hold human rights dialogues and consultations with relevant countries and regional organizations and conduct human rights technical cooperation with relevant countries;
- Engage in international anti-COVID-19 cooperation.

**On R2P:** "Pursuant to international law, governments have the primary responsibility to protect their citizens. The international community should abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of concerned countries and uphold the fundamental principles that govern international relations, including non-interference in internal affairs, non-aggression and the peaceful settlement of disputes" (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019).

## Côte d'Ivoire

**Head of State:** President Alassane Ouattara

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Hamed Bakayoko

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Ally Coulibaly

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Kouadio Adjoumani

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2012, 2013, 2014, 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
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2013-2015, 2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1964-1965, 1990-1991, 2018-2019
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	625
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 18 December 1995
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: May 2024 Previous reviews: May 2019, April 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2010: A/HRC/RES/13/21 (Guinea) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-18/1 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria), S-19/1 (Syria), 20/22 (Syria), 21/26 (Syria) 2013: A/HRC/RES/22/24 (Syria), 23/26 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/35 (Guinea) 2015: A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide) 2017: A/HRC/RES/35/33 (DRC), 36/30 (DRC) 2018: A/HRC/RES/39/19 (CAR), 39/20 (DRC) 2019: A/HRC/RES/42/36 (CAR) 2020: A/HRC/RES/45/35 (CAR)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 15 February 2013
Genocide Convention:	Acceded: 18 December 1995
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 26 February 2015

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Share national experience on strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in post-crisis settings;

- Continue national consultations regarding the ratification of key human rights instruments, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances;
- Strengthen national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including human rights training for the security and justice sector and local parliamentarians.

**On R2P:** “By becoming a member of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect in 2012, Côte d’Ivoire reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of R2P and reiterated its willingness to support all actions aimed at its implementation, including through good offices and peacekeeping operations... Prevention is an essential means of averting the commission of the worst kind of atrocities. In this respect, the international community should be proactive and prioritize the fight against hate speech and the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019).

## Cuba

**Head of State:** President Miguel Díaz Canel Bermúdez

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Bruno Eduardo Rodríguez Parrilla

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** *Not listed*

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates and debates:	2009-2019
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:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016, 2017-2019
UN Security Council Membership:	1949-1950, 1956-1957, 1990-1991
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 17 May 1995
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 2 February 2009
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: May 2023 Previous reviews: May 2018, April 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 4 March 1953
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Contribute in a decisive manner to consolidating an approach based on cooperation and constructive dialogue in the work of the UN human rights machinery;
- Continue to promote traditional initiatives on the right to food and the promotion of cultural rights as essential requirements for the enjoyment of all human rights;
- Continue to work on the progressive development of third-generation rights, in particular of international solidarity.

**On R2P:** “The issue of the responsibility to protect continues to present serious concerns for many countries, particularly small and developing states, owing to the lack of consensus on various elements of the concept and their identification, which can be easily manipulated for political purposes” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2018).

## France

**Head of State:** President Emmanuel Macron

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Jean Castex

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. François Rivasseau

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009-2018 Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2009-2019 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2019 Also part of the joint France-Mexico statement: 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:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2014-2016
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent Member
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	706
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 18 February 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 23 September 2008
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: January 2023 Previous reviews: January 2018, January 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2008: A/HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide) 2010: A/HRC/RES/13/21 (Guinea) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya), 17/17 (Libya), S-18/1 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria), S-19/1 (Syria), 20/22 (Syria), 21/26 (Syria) 2013: A/HRC/RES/22/22 (Prevention of Genocide), 22/24 (Syria), 23/1 (Syria), 23/26 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/23 (Syria), 26/23 (Syria), 27/16 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide), 30/10 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/31/17 (Syria), 32/25 (Syria), 33/19 (Transitional Justice), 33/23 (Syria) 2017: A/HRC/RES/34/24 (North Korea), 34/25 (South Sudan), 34/26 (Syria), 35/26 (Syria), 35/33 (DRC), 36/20 (Syria) 2018: A/HRC/RES/37/1 (Syria), 37/26 (Prevention of Genocide), 37/28 (DPRK), 37/29 (Syria), 37/31 (South Sudan), 38/16 (Syria), 39/15 (Syria), 39/19 (CAR)



	2019: A/HRC/RES/40/17 (Syria), 40/19 (South Sudan), 40/20 (North Korea), 41/23 (Syria), 42/17 (Transitional Justice), 42/27 (Syria), 42/36 (CAR) 2020: A/HRC/RES/43/25 (DPRK), 43/27 (South Sudan), 43/28 (Syria), 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 44/21 (Syria), 44/14 (R2P), 45/21 (Syria), 45/35 (CAR)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 9 June 2000
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 14 October 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 2 April 2014

**Human Rights Council Priorities:**

- Combat all forms of inequality, including violence and discrimination against women and racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and hate speech;
- Raise awareness on the effects of climate change on human rights and address corporate social responsibility and relations between human rights and the environment;
- Pursue its work for the rights of the child and combatting the use of children in armed conflict;
- Defend fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and support HRC initiatives to ensure the protection of journalists and the fight against impunity for crimes perpetrated against them;
- Support HRC action on the fight against enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and support the universal abolition of the death penalty;
- Fight against impunity to ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations are brought to justice, including by supporting the right to the truth and the right of victims of human rights violations to receive reparation, promoting the universality of the Rome Statute and supporting the work of the Commissions of Inquiry and independent mechanisms set up by the HRC.

**On R2P and Geneva-based mechanisms:** “In order to avoid the recurrence of atrocities, accountability for the perpetrators and justice for the victims must be ensured. We continue to call on all states to support and cooperate with Fact-Finding Missions and Commissions of Inquiry that address mass atrocity crimes, as well as instruments of international criminal justice... No responsibility is higher than the Responsibility to Protect the peoples of the world. We owe it to ourselves, our populations and our United Nations to live up to our responsibilities” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019).

## Gabon

**Head of State:** President Ali Bongo Ondimba

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Pacôme Moubelet Boubeya

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Ms. Mireille Sarah Nzenze

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015
UN Security Council Membership:	1978-1979, 1998-1999, 2010-2011
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	447
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 8 September 2000
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 19 January 2011
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2022 Previous reviews: November 2017, October 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2010: A/HRC/RES/13/21 (Guinea) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/35 (Guinea) 2017: A/HRC/RES/35/33 (DRC), 36/30 (DRC) 2018: A/HRC/RES/39/19 (CAR), 39/20 (DRC) 2019: A/HRC/RES/42/36 (CAR) 2020: A/HRC/RES/45/35 (CAR)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 20 September 2000
Genocide Convention:	Acceded: 21 January 1983
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed 25 September 2013, but not ratified

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges

**On R2P:** “The Responsibility to Protect populations and prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity lies primarily with states, both in times of peace and during war... My country affirms its commitment to the standards set by the Responsibility to Protect, particularly the implementation of the three pillars – prevention, encouraging the international community to assist and collective action in the case of a state’s failure... Above all the considerations and profound differences affecting our world, the General Assembly has the responsibility to promote the effective implementation of the Responsibility to Protect so as to better preserve the human dignity that we share” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2018).

## Malawi

**Head of State and Government:** President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Eisenhower Nduwa Mkaka

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Robert Dufter Salama

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	-
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:	-
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	887
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 11 June 1996
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Acceded: 14 July 2017
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2020 Previous reviews: May 2015, November 2010
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2010: A/HRC/RES/13/21 (Guinea) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/35 (Guinea) 2017: A/HRC/RES/35/33 (DRC), 36/30 (DRC) 2018: A/HRC/RES/39/19 (CAR), 39/20 (DRC) 2019: A/HRC/RES/42/36 (CAR) 2020: A/HRC/RES/45/35 (CAR)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 19 September 2002
Genocide Convention:	Acceded: 14 July 2017
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed 9 January 2014, but not ratified

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Consolidate the protection of economic, social, political, civil and cultural rights;
- Protect media freedom and freedom to access to information, assembly, expression or opinion, religion or belief, and ensure the protection of civic space;
- Continue to provide capacity-building, training programs and education related to human rights to parliamentarians, law enforcement officials, judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, civil servants, and the media;
- Develop policies and programs in line with the SDG's;
- Strengthen its participation in UN institutions, particularly related to Human Rights.

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

## Mexico

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

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

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Ms. Socorro Flores Liera

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009-2019 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2019 Also part of the joint France-Mexico statement: 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

### Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Latin America and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016, 2018-2020
UN Security Council Membership:	1946, 1980-1981, 2002-2003, 2009-2010
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	13
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 23 January 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 18 March 2008
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2023 Previous reviews: November 2018, October 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2008: A/HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya), 17/17 (Libya) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria), S-19/1 (Syria), 20/22 (Syria), 21/26 (Syria) 2013: A/HRC/RES/22/22 (Prevention of Genocide), 22/24 (Syria), 23/26 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/23 (Syria), 26/23 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/19 (Transitional Justice) 2017: A/HRC/RES/34/24 (DPRK), 34/25 (South Sudan) 2018: A/HRC/RES/37/26 (Prevention of Genocide), 37/28 (DPRK) 2019: A/HRC/RES/42/17 (Transitional Justice) 2020: A/HRC/RES/43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 44/14 (R2P)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 28 October 2005
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 22 July 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 25 September 2013

### **Human Rights Council Priorities:**

- Protect the human rights of migrants;
- Strengthen international standards for gender equality and the protection and promotion of human rights for women and girls to eradicate all forms of gender discrimination and violence;
- Promote actions aimed at generalizing the moratorium on executions;
- Promote respect for human rights of vulnerable groups, including indigenous and afro-descendent peoples, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, migrants and LGBTI people;
- Promote the principles of equality and non-discrimination, including the eradication of hate speech, racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance;
- Ensure the UN human rights pillar operates in coordination with the peace and security and sustainable development pillars;
- Provide a more vigorous approach to prevention and action in the light of early warning signs to prevent serious human rights violations and abuses.

**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 Debate on R2P, 2019).

## Nepal

**Head of State:** President Bidhya Devi Bhandar

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawal

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2010
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2018-2020
UN Security Council Membership:	1969-1970, 1988-1989
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	5,682
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 14 May 1991
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2020 Previous reviews: November 2015, January 2011
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Genocide Convention:	Acceded: 17 January 1969
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Strengthen national capacities to implement international and regional human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Conduct human rights-related capacity-building and training for law enforcement officials and public prosecutors on a national level;
- Address, through transitional justice mechanisms, cases related to the violation of human rights during the conflict period in Nepal;
- Participate actively in the global initiatives on the implementation of the SDGs;
- Continue to promote the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness and mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and promote inclusive, transparent, rules-based and equitable multilateralism.

**On R2P:** “The fundamental responsibility to protect its population remains with the individual state. However, it is our view that the United Nations, as universal and legitimate organization created by the member states, responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion and advancement of human

rights and fundamental freedoms, should not remain as a silent spectator while the individual state manifestly fails to protect its people from the four specified crimes... It is clear that the success of the implementation of responsibility to protect depends on the effectiveness of early warning and assessment systems as well as preventive measures that the United Nations would apply together with regional and sub-regional organizations. Prevention is always a better option. Early warning systems are fundamental for any preventive action to be taken 'in a timely and decisive manner'" (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2010).

## Pakistan

**Head of State:** President Arif Alvi

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Imran Khan

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009- 2014, 2017-2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015, 2018-2020
UN Security Council Membership:	1952-1953, 1968-1969, 1976-1977, 1983-1984, 1993-1994, 2003-2004, 2012-2013
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	4,440
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 23 June 2010
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:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 12 October 1957
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Develop national policies for countering hate speech, protecting the rights of minorities and promoting further interfaith harmony;
- Take collective measures against racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia and protect victims from such crimes;
- Participate in discourse towards better implementation of global compacts on migration and refugees in order to develop a just and equitable global regime on human mobility;
- Build bridges and overcome divergences in the work of the HRC as the Coordinator for Human Rights of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

**On R2P:** “Paragraphs 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome Document of 2005 provide the cornerstone of our collective commitment to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The Responsibility to Protect does not entail a new legal norm; it is merely a political expression of what is already obligated on states, as their sovereign responsibility towards their citizens” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017).



## Russian Federation

**Head of State:** President Vladimir V. Putin

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Sergey V. Lavrov

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Gennady Gatilov

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2011-2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

### Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Eastern Europe Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent Member
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	70
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 3 March 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: May 2023 Previous reviews: May 2018, April 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2015: A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signed 13 September 2000, but not ratified
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 3 May 1954
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Transform the HRC into an efficient tool for promoting and protecting human rights throughout the world, based on the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity, equal treatment of all categories of human rights and respect for cultural and civilizational diversity;
- Ensure protection of human rights and freedoms under international law and in strict compliance by States with their international human rights obligations;
- Oppose any manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, neo-Nazism, aggressive nationalism, anti-Semitism, religious and ethnic intolerance and contribute to the depoliticization of historical discussions;
- Enhance cooperation with international and non-governmental human rights organizations in order to strengthen universally recognized human rights standards and link them with the responsibility of individuals for their actions, especially in terms of preventing insult to the religious feelings of believers.

**On R2P:** “We share the general view on the need to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. That is the right idea. It was first proposed by States in the 2005 World Summit Outcome

document. However, over time the idea has been interpreted in too many different ways. Today the substance of the concept of R2P has been degraded.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019)

**Alleged role in atrocities crimes documented by Human Rights Council mechanisms:** In a report issued on 2 March 2020 the Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on Syria explicitly named the Russian Federation as responsible for potential war crimes in Syria, after finding that Russian aircraft were directly involved in indiscriminate airstrikes on civilian areas in Ma'aret al-Numan during 2019. On 7 July 2020 the CoI released a special report on 52 “emblematic attacks” in northwest Syria, finding that the Syrian government’s offensive was carried out in an unlawful indiscriminate way, amounting to a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population. The report detailed that Russian aircraft were directly involved in strikes on civilian areas, including medical facilities and densely populated areas, amounting to war crimes. The report also found that during the widespread and indiscriminate bombardment in Idlib governorate and western Aleppo beginning in December 2019 may amount to crimes against humanity perpetrated by Syrian government and Russian forces.

## Senegal

**Head of State and Government:** President Macky Sall

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Amadou Ba

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Coly Seck

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2010 Also part of the statements by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2018-2020
UN Security Council Membership:	1968-1969, 1988-1989, 2016-2017
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	2,086
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 21 August 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 11 December 2008
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2023 Previous reviews: November 2018, October 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2010: A/HRC/RES/13/21 (Guinea) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya), 17/17 (Libya), S-18/1 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria), 21/26 (Syria) 2013: A/HRC/RES/22/22 (Prevention of Genocide), 22/24 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/23 (Syria), 25/35 (Guinea), 26/23 (Syria), 27/16 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/19 (Transitional Justice) 2017: A/HRC/RES/35/33 (DRC), 36/30 (DRC), 39/19 (CAR), 39/20 (DRC), 42/36 (CAR) 2020: A/HRC/RES/45/35 (CAR)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 2 February 1999
Genocide Convention:	Acceded: 4 August 1983
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 25 September 2014

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Contribute to the deepening of discussions of the “Dakar Retreat,” including environment, climate change and human rights, mass migration and human rights, human rights in the face of growing inequality and corporate social responsibility, and human rights in the digital age.

**On R2P:** “Questions relating to the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect populations can only be resolved through a genuine, frank and constructive dialogue involving all actors of the international community. It is when we are united in the same momentum that we are better able to prevent atrocity crimes and react quickly and effectively when they are committed... It seems judicious to us to explore the ways and means of setting up an effective early warning system involving all the relevant actors because prevention is better than reaction” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2010).

## Ukraine

**Head of State:** President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Denys Shmygal

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Dmytro Kuleba

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Yurii Klymenko

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2014, 2015, 2017, 2019 Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2015, 2016, 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:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2018-2020
UN Security Council Membership:	1948-1949, 1984-1985, 2000-2001, 2016-2017
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	301
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 24 February 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Acceded: 14 August 2015
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2022 Previous reviews: November 2017, October 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2008: A/HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide) 2013: A/HRC/RES/22/22 (Prevention of Genocide) 2015: A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide), 30/10 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/31/17 (Syria), 32/25 (Syria), 33/19 (Transitional Justice), 33/23 (Syria) 2017: A/HRC/RES/34/24 (DPRK), 34/25 (South Sudan), 34/26 (Syria), 35/26 (Syria), 36/20 (Syria) 2018: A/HRC/RES/37/1 (Syria), 37/26 (Prevention of Genocide), 37/28 (DPRK), 37/29 (Syria), 37/31 (South Sudan), 38/16 (Syria), 39/15 (Syria) 2019: A/HRC/RES/40/17 (Syria), 40/19 (South Sudan), 40/20 (DPRK), 41/23 (Syria), 42/17 (Transitional Justice), 42/36 (CAR) 2020: A/HRC/RES/43/25 (DPRK), 43/27 (South Sudan), 43/28 (Syria), 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 44/21 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signed 20 January 2000, but not ratified
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 15 November 1954
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed 23 September 2014, but not ratified

**Human Rights Council Priorities:**

- Promote the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Ensure effective protection and promotion of human rights in armed conflict situations;
- Promote gender equality, combat violence against women and international trafficking in human beings, and strengthen activities that protect children's rights;
- Ensure effective promotion and protection of the rights of national minorities and indigenous peoples;
- On a national level, establish an efficient mechanism of protecting human rights and freedoms and settling systemic issues in this realm, including through drafting the National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS) for the period of 2021-2023 and the Action Plan to implement the NHRS.

**On R2P:** “The discussion on the Responsibility to Protect serves as further confirmation of its importance for the international community... It is difficult to overestimate its significance in the light of the persistent, and sometimes widening gap between the commitment and actions of some UN member states.... In that regard, strengthened and improved awareness on the part of member states regarding the risk of atrocity crimes, recommendations on the prevention of such crimes and mechanisms to support such steps could greatly enhance the General Assembly's ability to take fair, just, efficient and results-oriented decisions towards the proper implementation of R2P” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019).

## United Kingdom

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Boris Johnson

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Dominic Raab

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Julian Braithwaite

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009-2019 Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2009-2019 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

### Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Western European and others Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2014-2016, 2017-2019
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent Member
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	279
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 8 December 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: May 2022 Previous reviews: May 2017, May 2012
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2008: A/HRC/RES/7/25 (Prevention of Genocide) 2010: A/HRC/RES/13/21 (Guinea) 2011: A/HRC/RES/S-15/1 (Libya), 17/17 (Libya), S-18/1 (Syria) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria), S-19/1 (Syria), 20/22 (Syria), 21/26 (Syria) 2013: A/HRC/RES/22/22 (Prevention of Genocide), 22/24 (Syria), 23/1 (Syria), 23/26 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/25/23 (Syria), 26/23 (Syria), 27/16 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/28/34 (Prevention of Genocide), 30/10 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/31/17 (Syria), 32/25 (Syria), 33/23 (Syria) 2017: A/HRC/RES/34/24 (North Korea), 34/25 (South Sudan), 34/26 (Syria), 35/26 (Syria), 35/33 (DRC), 36/20 (Syria) 2018: A/HRC/RES/37/1 (Syria), 37/26 (Prevention of Genocide), 37/28 (DPRK), 37/29 (Syria), 37/31 (South Sudan), 38/16 (Syria), 39/15 (Syria), 39/19 (CAR) 2019: A/HRC/RES/40/17 (Syria), 40/19 (South Sudan), 40/20 (DPRK), 41/23 (Syria), 42/27 (Syria), 42/36 (CAR)

	2020: A/HRC/RES/43/25 (DPRK), 43/27 (South Sudan), 43/28 (Syria), 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 44/21 (Syria), 44/14 (R2P), 45/21 (Syria), 45/35 (CAR)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 4 October 2001
Genocide Convention:	Acceded: 30 January 1970
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 2 April 2014

**Human Rights Council Priorities:**

- End violence against women and girls, including Female Genital Mutilation, Child, Early and Forced Marriage, and conflict-related sexual violence through the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI), and ensure a survivor-centered approach to conflict-related sexual violence;
- Raise awareness of the scale and severity of violations of freedom of religion and belief and call out states which target and persecute people on the grounds of their religion or belief;
- Support the participation of Human Rights Defenders and civil society in UN business wherever appropriate, and work to counter instances of reprisals as part of a wider effort to create a safe environment for Human Rights Defenders and civil society representatives;
- Continue to work with other governments to promote a free media and create a safe and enabling environment that protects journalists and media workers.

**On R2P:** “Our adherence to R2P has never been more important. We must continue to assert that states should protect, not harm, their people. We should anticipate and defuse conflicts before they begin. And, where atrocities occur, we should investigate and hold those responsible accountable... We agree with the Secretary-General that there should be greater use of the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review process to highlight human rights violations and abuses and to help States respond to them.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2019)



## Uzbekistan

**Head of State:** President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Ulugbek Lapasov

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	-
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	-
UN Security Council Membership:	-
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 28 September 1995
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: May 2023 Previous reviews: May 2018, April 2013
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signed 29 December 2000, but not ratified
Genocide Convention:	Acceded: 9 September 1999
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support all efforts aimed at ensuring an effective response by the international community to global human rights violations, by taking measures to prevent and early response;
- Promote the cooperation of the HRC with national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society, parliaments, the private sector and other international organizations;
- Participate actively in global initiatives and discussions on the implementation of the SDGs;
- Promote constructive engagement, dialogue and cooperation with concerned States in addressing “situations of concern” at the HRC.

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