

2024-2025 UN Security Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

Today, 6 June 2023, the UN General Assembly elected Algeria, Guyana, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia to the UN Security Council for the period of 2024-2025. With their election, 9 of the 15 members of the Council in 2024 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. The Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia co-sponsored and voted for UN General Assembly Resolution 75/277 on R2P. Guyana also voted in favor of the resolution.

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. In recent years this has had a debilitating effect on the Council’s capacity to respond to atrocities in Myanmar (Burma), Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia 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 90 resolutions and 14 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. It is our hope that the Security Council will consistently uphold their commitment to R2P by 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 UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant Special Rapporteurs, Human Rights Council-mandated investigative mechanisms, civil society representatives and affected communities, on situations where populations are at risk of mass atrocities.
- Reinstate monthly “horizon scanning briefings” within the working methods of the Council.
- Host thematic meetings during your presidency on topics related to the prevention of mass atrocities.
- Ensure transparency by encouraging open sessions of the Council when discussing crises where populations are at risk of 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.
- Initiate press statements on atrocity situations, including on countries not on the Council’s formal agenda.
- 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 nationality, position or affiliation.
- Ratify or accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly elected Security Council members providing an overview of their engagement with R2P and other issues related to the prevention of mass atrocities.

Algeria

Head of State: President Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Head of Government: Prime Minister Aïmene Benabderrahmane

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Ahmed Attaf

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Amar Bendjama

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	2009
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Abstained
Background	
Regional Group:	African States
UN Security Council Membership:	1968-1969; 1988-1989; 2004-2005
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007; 2014-2016
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	2
Action for Peacekeeping Endorsement:	Yes
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signed: 28 December 2000
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 31 October 1963
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

Security Council Priorities: Advocating for the establishment of innovative and appropriate mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts; promoting the role of regional actors in the settlement of conflicts, particularly advancing cooperation between the UN and the African Union; advancing a more comprehensive approach to countering terrorism and transnational organized crime; promoting the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas, as well as promoting the empowerment of women and inclusion of youth in decision-making processes related to peace and security.

On R2P: “Since paragraph 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (resolution 60/1) gave the General Assembly the task of continuing to consider the notion of the responsibility to protect, my delegation is prepared to work constructively and with an open mind to that end, bearing in mind the recognized and undisputed principles of noninterference, non-intervention, respect for the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of States, as well as the principles and standards of international law and international humanitarian law.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 23 July 2009)

Guyana

Head of State: President Mohamed Irfaan Ali

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mark Phillips

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Hugh Hilton Todd

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mrs. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	N/A
	Part of the statement by CARICOM: 2009, 2011
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Voted yes
Background	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean States
UN Security Council Membership:	1975-1976; 1982-1983
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	N/A
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	0
Action for Peacekeeping Endorsement:	Yes
Safe Schools Declaration:	No
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 24 September 2009
Genocide Convention:	No
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 4 July 2013

Security Council Priorities: Addressing the link between sustainable development and sustainable peace, including climate change and food security and conflict; implementing the pillars of the youth, peace and security agenda; promoting the participation of women and youth in addressing peace and security issues and the protection of children in armed conflict; and promoting peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

On R2P: Guyana has not spoken publicly on R2P in a UN forum. However, as a member of CARICOM, Guyana joined the following statement: “As responsible members of the international community, we continue to engage in the global debate on R2P. CARICOM firmly believes that states have a sacred responsibility to protect their populations - a responsibility that comes with sovereignty. We also believe that in a situation of actual or imminent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity, regional and sub-regional organizations are uniquely placed to play a pivotal role. We acknowledge, as the Secretary General himself has done, that we are still far away from achieving universal acceptance of the concept of R2P by the international community. The recent experience in North Africa illustrates the amount of thought and study which implementing the concept still requires, especially in determining the lines to be drawn between protecting civilians on the one hand and intervention and sovereignty issues on the other.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 12 July 2011)

Republic of Korea

Head of State: President Yoon Suk Yeol

Head of Government: Prime Minister Han Duck-soo

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. Park Jin

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Joonkook Hwang

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2022
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Voted yes
Background	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific States
UN Security Council Membership:	1996-1997; 2013-2014
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008; 2008-2011; 2013-2015; 2016-2018; 2020-2022
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	545
Action for Peacekeeping Endorsement:	Yes
Safe Schools Declaration:	No
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	Signatory ACT Code of Conduct and France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration. Co-sponsored General Assembly Draft Resolution A/76/L.52 (adopted as A/RES/76/262).
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 13 November 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 14 October 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 28 November 2016

Security Council Priorities: Increasing the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations by supporting capacity-building and enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers; promoting and strengthening the Women, Peace and Security agenda; advancing an integrated and holistic approach to peacebuilding and conflict prevention that addresses the root causes of conflicts; and integrating climate-related risks into the Security Council's decisions and addressing the nexus of climate change and peace and security.

On R2P: "Our responsibility to respond, the third pillar of the R2P, should be spearheaded by the Security Council, which bears the primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security. However, the Council has frequently fallen short of fulfilling its expected role of taking a timely and effective action against atrocity crimes. The fact that the General Assembly resolution on the veto initiative 76/262 was unanimously adopted clearly demonstrates Member States' support for voluntary restraint on the use of the veto power, as well as communicates their hope for a more accountable and transparent Council. In this regard, we encourage the Members of the Council to more actively support the ACT group's code of conduct and the French-Mexican initiative. More fundamentally, my delegation would like to urge the Security Council to strengthen its efforts to deal with the risk or commission of mass atrocities." (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 23 June 2022)

Sierra Leone

Head of State: President Julius Maada Bio

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mr. David J. Francis

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Alhaji Fanday Turay

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	2009, 2014, 2015, 2016 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2022
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Voted yes
Background	
Regional Group:	African States
UN Security Council Membership:	1970-1971
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	2013-2015
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	63
Action for Peacekeeping Endorsement:	Yes
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 15 September 2000
Genocide Convention:	No
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 12 August 2014

Security Council Priorities: Promoting partnerships to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular by strengthening the regional peace and security architecture in Africa; strengthening the Peacebuilding Commission’s efforts in conflict prevention and peacebuilding; improving cooperation between the UN Security Council and Human Rights Council; incorporating human rights and accountability, including transitional justice, in the Security Council’s work; promoting the active involvement of women and youth in peace processes, mediation and peacekeeping operations; and advocating for Security Council engagement regarding climate change as a threat to peace and security.

On R2P: “My delegation acknowledges the fact that prevention of violent conflict remains the most critical ambit of the Principle of R2P. Where there is peace and harmony in a state, there will not only be development, progress and quality life for the people but also there will be no need for those in authority to commit crimes that will shock the conscience of mankind such as war crimes, ethnic cleansing, genocide and crimes against humanity. Ensuring a perpetual and sustainable peace at the national and global level is therefore essential to the success of R2P.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2016)

Slovenia

Head of State: President Nataša Pirc Musar

Head of Government: Prime Minister Robert Golob

Minister for Foreign Affairs: H.E. Ms. Tanja Fajon

Permanent Representative to the UN: H.E. Mr. Boštjan Malovrh

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 Also part of the statement by the EU: 2009-2022 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2022
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Voted yes
Background	
Regional Group:	Eastern European States
UN Security Council Membership:	1998-1999
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	2007-2010; 2016-2018
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	5
Action for Peacekeeping Endorsement:	Yes
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	Signatory ACT Code of Conduct and France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration. Co-sponsored Draft General Assembly Resolution A/76/L.52 (adopted as A/RES/76/262).
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 31 December 2001
Genocide Convention:	Succession: 6 July 1992
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 2 April 2014

Security Council Priorities: Building trust as a reliable partner in international affairs, focusing on international law, accountability, conflict prevention, transparency and the Women, Peace and Security agenda; supporting the UN Security Council's engagement on climate and security, water diplomacy, food security and children and armed conflict; promoting peaceful settlement of disputes and mechanisms for conflict prevention, including mediation, arbitration and international judiciary bodies; addressing issues affecting human dignity and a better future for all, including mitigating the effects of poverty and promoting sustainable development and human rights; and fighting impunity and achieving support for victims of atrocities as an integral part of conflict prevention and reconciliation.

On R2P: "Prevention remains the key in protecting populations from situations that may lead to mass atrocity crimes. Enhanced preventive efforts and early warning followed by early action are essential for more effective atrocity prevention. We should spare no effort to systematically invest in preventing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity." (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 23 June 2022)