

UN Human Rights Council Elections for 2024-2026 and the Responsibility to Protect

Today, 10 October, the UN General Assembly elected Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Malawi and the Netherlands to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2024-2026 term. With the elections of Albania, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Ghana, Japan and the Netherlands, 24 of the 47 Council members during 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 HRC and its mechanisms and procedures – including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), HRC-mandated investigative mechanisms, 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, and provide recommendations to prevent their recurrence.

The election of Burundi and China 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 at home or abroad – including Cameroon, Eritrea, United Arab Emirates and Sudan – is also deeply disturbing.

Since 2008, the HRC has referred to states' responsibility to protect their populations in 75 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:

- 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;
 - Mandate the Council's mechanisms and procedures to conduct country-specific atrocity risk assessments, including by utilizing the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes;
 - Where an imminent risk of mass atrocity crimes is detected, hold a special session 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.
- 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 OHCHR and other relevant HRC mechanisms and procedures;
 - Promote continued 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.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly elected HRC members. These provide a basic overview of their commitment to prevent mass atrocities by protecting and promoting human rights.

Albania

Head of State: President Bajram Begaj

Head of Government: Prime Minister Edi Rama

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Igli Hasani

Chargé d'affaires to the UN in Geneva: Ardian Lubonja

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Eastern European States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2015-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	2022-2023
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2024 Previous reviews: May 2019, May 2014, December 2009
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 40/20 (DPRK), 40/19 (South Sudan), 40/17 (Syria), 41/23 (Syria), 42/27 (Syria), 42/17 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), 2020: 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 43/28 (Syria), 43/27 (South Sudan), 43/25 (DPRK), 44/21 (Syria), 44/14 (R2P), 45/21 (Syria) 2021: 46/17 (DPRK), 46/22 (Syria), 46/23 (South Sudan), 47/13 (Ethiopia), 47/18 (Syria), 48/15 (Syria) 2022: 49/2 (South Sudan), 49/9 (Prevention of Genocide), 49/22 (DPRK), 49/27 (Syria), 50/19 (Syria), 51/23 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), 51/26 (Syria), 51/28 (Burundi) 2023: 52/1 (South Sudan), 52/28 (DPRK), 52/30 (Syria), 53/18 (Syria)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 11 May 1994
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 8 November 2007
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 31 January 2003
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 12 May 1955
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 19 March 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote and protect human rights worldwide by enhancing the universality, inalienability, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights, including by safeguarding minority rights as a prerequisite for all people's full enjoyment of human rights, and cooperating with all states in this regard;
- Support the participation of civil society actors and human rights defenders, especially women, in the work of the HRC and on the ground;
- Advocate for greater use of human rights information in common efforts to develop effective early warning mechanisms and early response capabilities for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
- Bridge the gap between the Security Council and the HRC, as well as strengthen the role of OHCHR in the work of the Security Council and the wider UN system;
- Support all efforts aimed at mainstreaming child protection in the HRC agenda, as well as relevant activities of member states, including in the field of conflict mediation and prevention;
- Work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to advance a human rights-based approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Continue to provide contributions to activities aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights, including contributions to relevant funds of the UN.

On R2P: "We are encouraged by efforts to further strengthen and mainstream the R2P across the UN system. The international community and the States need to address the drivers that perpetuate human suffering, including climate change, and invest in prevention, to protect their people from atrocities. We support the application of all three pillars of the R2P as well as all efforts to further strengthen their development, including by implementing the three pillars of the UN – development, human rights, peace and security." (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Brazil

Head of State: President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mauro Luiz Iecker Viera

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Tovar da Silva Nunes

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015, 2017-2019, 2020-2022
UN Security Council Membership:	1946-1947, 1951-1952, 1954-1955, 1963-1964, 1967-1968, 1988-1989, 1993-1994, 1998-1999, 2004-2005, 2010-2011
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: November 2022, May 2017, May 2012, April 2008
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide) 2022: 49/9 (Prevention of Genocide)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 28 September 1989
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 29 November 2010
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 20 June 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Ratified: 15 April 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 14 August 2018

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Strengthen the international human rights system through the effective promotion and protection of human rights, without discrimination, and based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, as well as constructive dialogue and international cooperation;
- Improve the effectiveness of the HRC and strengthen the Council's role in preventing and tackling the structural causes leading to situations of serious human rights violations, making use of all the tools at the body's disposal;
- Maintain high level of dialogue with OHCHR and unrestricted support for the UPR mechanism and Special Procedures mandate holders;
- Prioritize a preventive and cooperative approach among HRC member states by encouraging dialogue and international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building;
- Contribute to increasing the participation of children, young people, women, LGBTQIA+ people, the elderly, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, human rights defenders and victims of human rights violations, among others at relevant events at the HRC and other UN bodies.

On R2P: “We are proud to have co-sponsored the resolution that included the item on the Responsibility to Protect in the agenda of this General Assembly. Such resolution confirmed that the General Assembly, with its wide and representative composition, is the main locus to discuss R2P. It also reflected the recognition that there is a need to collectively discuss the protection of populations from R2P crimes.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Bulgaria

Head of State: President Rumen Radev

Head of Government: Prime Minister Nikolai Denkov

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mariya Gabriel

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Yuri Sterk

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2021, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern European States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2019-2021
UN Security Council Membership:	1966-1967, 1986-1987, 2002-2003
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: October 2025 Previous reviews: May 2020, May 2015, November 2010
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 40/20 (DPRK), 40/19 (South Sudan), 40/17 (Syria), 41/23 (Syria), 42/27 (Syria), 42/17 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 43/28 (Syria), 43/27 (South Sudan), 43/25 (DPRK), 44/21 (Syria), 44/14 (R2P), 45/35 (CAR), 45/21 (Syria) 2021: 46/17 (DPRK), 46/22 (Syria), 47/13 (Ethiopia), 47/18 (Syria), 48/15 (Syria) 2022: 49/2 (South Sudan), 49/9 (Prevention of Genocide), 49/22 (DPRK), 49/27 (Syria), 50/19 (Syria), 51/23 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), 51/26 (Syria), 51/28 (Burundi) 2023: 52/1 (South Sudan), 52/28 (DPRK), 52/30 (Syria), 53/18 (Syria)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 16 December 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signed: 24 September 2008, but not ratified
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 11 April 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 21 July 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 12 April 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Engage in all activities of the HRC to enhance genuine dialogue and interaction among all member states of the Council and promote non-governmental organization participation at the HRC;

- Promote and protect human rights and utilize a human rights-based approach towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Support initiatives aimed at strengthening the efficiency of the HRC, improving its methods of work and ensuring effectiveness and transparency;
- Address new threats and the increasing challenges to freedom of expression, both online and offline, the independence of the media and the safety of journalists, as well as support regional and international initiatives envisaged to promote good practices and lessons learned, while tackling the negative impact of disinformation and hate speech on freedom of expression and media pluralism;
- Actively participate in HRC initiatives and discussions regarding the impact on human rights of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and support regional and international initiatives aimed at ensuring that the development and use of digital technologies supports democratic institutions and enhances digital resilience.

On R2P: “While the responsibility to protect is the primary responsibility of States and therefore building effective national institutions and mechanisms in identifying and tackling atrocity risks is critical, the commitment to bring the toolbox of this Organization for the operationalization of the R2P to the next level is equally important. Resuming the horizon scanning exercise on atrocities risks by the Security Council and regular conduct of field visits to meet and listen to all stakeholders would be welcome steps in this direction. While we call on the Security Council to regain focus on prevention alongside with its focus on humanitarian and peacekeeping activities, we would also like to touch upon the issue of the engagement of the UN system with governments and mobilizing early warning response within the UN system.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Burundi

Head of State: President Evariste Ndayishimiye

Head of Government: Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Albert Shingiro

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Elisa Nkerabirori

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2012, 2014
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1970-1971
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: May 2023, January 2018, January 2013, December 2008
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 45/35 (CAR) 2021: 46/29 (South Sudan), 48/19 (CAR) 2022: 49/35 (South Sudan), 51/37 (CAR)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 18 February 1993
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signed: 6 February 2007, but not ratified
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 21 September 2004 Withdrawal: 27 October 2017
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 6 January 1997
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed: 3 June 2013, but not ratified

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges

On R2P: “Burundi fully supports the principle of Responsibility to Protect, but this is a principle that must be in line with the sacred principles of the UN Charter to be sure that these principles are not abused. We support this principle at the only condition that the UN Charter be respected as well as international humanitarian law.” (UN General Assembly Thematic Panel Discussion “From commitment to implementation: Ten years of the Responsibility to Protect,” 25 February 2016)

Alleged role in atrocities crimes documented by Human Rights Council mechanisms: The Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (CoI) – which investigated serious human rights violations and abuses and possible international crimes between 2016 and 2021 – found that potential crimes against humanity had been committed since April 2015, including extrajudicial killings and summary executions, disappearances, sexual violence, arbitrary detention and torture under the leadership of late President Pierre Nkurunziza. The CoI also warned that despite the change in

president in 2020, all structural risk factors of atrocity crimes remain, including the governance system under the ruling party, the appointment of individuals under international sanctions for serious human rights violations to senior government positions, the continued operations of the Imbonerakure – the ruling party's youth wing, and the refusal to release all detained human rights defenders. The CoI reiterated this warning in September 2021, noting that the National Intelligence Service, police and Imbonerakure continue to arbitrarily arrest, disappear, torture and kill perceived political opponents, as well as individuals accused of collaborating with armed opposition groups, some of whom operate in exile.

China

Head of State: President Xi Jinping

Head of Government: Premier Li Qiang

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Wang Yi

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

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016, 2017-2019
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: January 2024 Previous reviews: November 2018, October 2013, February 2009
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 4 October 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	Acceded: 6 July 2020

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges

On R2P: “The Responsibility to Protect is a concept from the 2005 World Summit outcome document of the UN, applying only to the four situations of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This represents a compromise from difficult negotiations by all countries which serves as a basis for all related discussions. It must be emphasized that member states have not reached agreement on the definition and criteria of Responsibility to Protect. In recent years, some countries have been broadening the interpretation of this concept, even distorting and abusing it. This will only be detrimental to the dialogue and cooperation amongst all parties and undermine the common interests of member states.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 17 May 2021).

Alleged role in atrocities crimes documented by Human Rights Council mechanisms: Since the expansion of policies and practices that systematically persecute the ethnic Uyghur community, as well as Kazakhs, Kyrgyz and other majority-Muslim ethnic groups in 2017, numerous UN experts have documented the role of the Chinese government in committing human rights violations and abuses in the so-called Xinjiang Autonomous Region (XUAR), some of which may amount to crimes against humanity and genocide. In a landmark report released on 31 August 2022,

under the leadership of former UN High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet, OHCHR determined that the extent of arbitrary and discriminatory detention of Uyghurs and other majority-Muslim ethnic groups in XUAR may constitute crimes against humanity, and that conditions remain in place for serious human rights violations to continue. Prior to the release of the report, in July 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery warned that some instances of forced labor of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities may amount to enslavement as a crime against humanity, meriting a further independent analysis. In light of ongoing atrocity crimes in XUAR, in November 2022 the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted a decision under its “early warning and urgent action procedure” and referred the situation to the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.

Côte d'Ivoire

Head of State: President Alassane Ouattara

Interim Head of Government: Prime Minister Patrick Jérôme Achi

Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Kandia Kamissoko Camara

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

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2012, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2022, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2013-2015, 2016-2018, 2021-2023
UN Security Council Membership:	1964-1965, 1990-1991, 2018-2019
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2024 Previous reviews: May 2019, April 2014, December 2009
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 45/35 (CAR) 2021: 46/29 (South Sudan), 48/19 (CAR) 2022: 49/35 (South Sudan), 51/37 (CAR)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 18 December 1995
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 15 February 2013
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 18 December 1995
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 26 February 2015

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promoting a culture of human rights by raising awareness of respect for the fundamental and universal values of life and human dignity;
- Strengthening the capacity of public and private, governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the field of human rights;
- Strengthening human rights teaching modules in the education system;
- Organizing training seminars in the field of human rights for members of the justice system and security forces;
- Supporting human rights education and awareness-raising activities, including the development and dissemination of outreach materials in the main national languages;
- Strengthening the operational capacities of the ministry responsible for the promotion of human rights;
- Supporting human rights training for local elected officials and parliamentarians responsible for drafting laws.

On R2P: “My country remains convinced that conflict prevention is the best way to implement the Responsibility to Protect. To this end, the United Nations must rely on early warning mechanisms at the regional, sub-regional and national levels as well as on civil society, making sure to provide them with the necessary financial and technical assistance. For its part, my country has adopted legislative and institutional measures and set up monitoring and awareness-raising bodies to counter the risk of committing crimes.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Alleged role in atrocities crimes documented by Human Rights Council mechanisms: A report published on 6 June 2011 by the HRC-mandated Independent, International Commission of Inquiry on Côte d’Ivoire determined that following the presidential election on 28 November 2010, several parties, including the defense and security forces and their allies (militias and mercenaries), perpetrated grave violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law, some of which may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Cuba

Head of State: President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez

Head of Government: Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz

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

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Juan Antonio Quintanilla Román

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016, 2017-2019
UN Security Council Membership:	1949-1950, 1956-1957, 1990-1991
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2023 Previous reviews: May 2018, May 2013, February 2009
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 17 May 1995
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 2 February 2009
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Ratified: 4 March 1953
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges

On R2P: “Preventing the international community from remaining impassive in the face of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is a noble effort that Cuba supports. However, in many cases the promotion and attempts to implement the responsibility to protect only hide the objective of having one more tool to facilitate interference in internal affairs, regime change agendas and subversion in third countries, usually small and developing ones.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Dominican Republic

Head of State: President Luis Rodolfo Abinader Corona

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Roberto Álvarez Gil

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Héctor Virgilio Alcántara

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: Latin American and Caribbean States

Human Rights Council Membership: N/A

UN Security Council Membership: 2019-2020

Universal Periodic Review: Next review: January 2024
Previous reviews: January 2019, January 2014, December 2009

Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship: 2020: 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 44/14 (R2P)
2022: 49/9 (Prevention of Genocide), 49/27 (Syria), 51/23 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice)
2023: 52/28 (DPRK)

Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Ratified: 24 January 2012

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance: Signed: 26 September 2018, but not ratified

Rome Statute of the ICC: Ratified: 12 May 2005

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: -

Arms Trade Treaty: Ratified: 7 August 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges

On R2P: *The Dominican Republic has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

France

Head of State: President Emmanuel Macron

Head of Government: Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Catherine Colonna

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Jérôme Bonnafont

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Western European and other States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2014-2016, 2021-2023
UN Security Council Membership:	Permanent Member
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: May 2023, January 2018, January 2013, May 2008
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 40/20 (DPRK), 40/19 (South Sudan), 40/17 (Syria), 41/23 (Syria), 42/27 (Syria), 42/17 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 43/28 (Syria), 43/27 (South Sudan), 43/25 (DPRK), 44/21 (Syria), 44/14 (R2P), 45/35 (CAR), 45/21 (Syria) 2021: 46/17 (DPRK), 46/22 (Syria), 47/13 (Ethiopia), 47/18 (Syria), 48/15 (Syria) 2022: 49/2 (South Sudan), 49/9 (Prevention of Genocide), 49/22 (DPRK), 49/27 (Syria), 50/19 (Syria), 51/23 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), 51/26 (Syria), 51/28 (Burundi), 51/37 (CAR) 2023: 52/1 (South Sudan), 52/28 (DPRK), 52/30 (Syria), 53/18 (Syria)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 18 February 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 23 September 2008
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 9 June 2000
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Ratified: 14 October 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 2 April 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote a human rights-based approach to development cooperation;

- Protect the rights of those affected by climate change, including by consulting with young people, scientists and businesses on how best to protect all human rights;
- Work to foster the equal participation of women in all public and private decision-making processes to ensure fairer and more resilient societies, including by supporting the UN Secretary-General's call in the Common Agenda to place women and girls at the center;
- Support human rights defenders, including through providing tangible support, and enable civil society to safely act to help prevent violations of the rule of law and violence;
- Support international criminal justice and the fight against impunity for perpetrators of atrocities, as well as stand with victims, particularly survivors of sexual violence, through funding for UN Population Fund projects, and step up its action to foster reconciliation and transitional justice, particularly through bolstering support for the universal ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

On R2P: "Our collective priority remains the operationalization of the political commitments upon which the responsibility to protect is based, with full respect of international law, in particular the UN Charter. The prevention of mass atrocities must remain an utmost priority of the UN system." (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Ghana

Head of State: President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Emmanuel Kwame Asiedu Antwi

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	African States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2015-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	1962-1963, 1986-1987, 2006-2007
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: January 2023, November 2017, October 2012, May 2008
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 41/23 (Syria), 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 45/35 (CAR) 2021: 46/29 (South Sudan) 2022: 51/37 (CAR)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 7 September 2000
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signed: 6 February 2007, but not ratified
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 20 December 1999
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 24 December 1958
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 22 December 2015

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Strengthen policies for the advancement of women and for the protection of the rights and welfare of children;
- Maintain a high level of cooperation with the UN human rights system through a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures and a close cooperation with treaty bodies.

On R2P: “Ghana continues fervently in the efforts to implement the Responsibility to Protect through regulations, policies and institutional arrangements. Believing that the establishment of infrastructures for peace is a veritable mechanism for building peaceful and resilient communities and to prevent atrocities, our national peace architecture is designed to deepen national cohesion, tolerance and peaceful coexistence among the people of Ghana.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 23 June 2022)

Indonesia

Head of State: President Joko Widodo

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Retno Lestari Priansari

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Febrian Ruddyard

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2022
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2007-2010, 2011-2014, 2015-2017, 2020-2022
UN Security Council Membership:	1973-1974, 1995-1996, 2007-2008, 2019-2020
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: November 2022, May 2017, May 2012, April 2008
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 42/36 (CAR)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 28 October 1998
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signed: 27 September 2010, but not ratified
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support the work and mandate of the HRC and other UN human rights mechanisms, including Special Procedures, through constructive dialogue, engagement and a non-selective approach;
- Promote the instrumental role of the UPR that allows member states to engage with one another constructively in supporting the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Support the work of OHCHR, including through voluntary contributions and concrete programs;
- Promote the strengthened capacity of the HRC to provide technical assistance and capacity building to government officials, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in promoting and protecting human rights;
- Ensure the effective implementation of its human rights laws and regulations, as well as continue to assess the possibility of ratifying additional international human rights instruments;
- Strengthen cooperation with UN agencies and the OHCHR regional office to promote technical cooperation and capacity building in the field of human rights in the region, particularly on the rights of the child, women and persons with disabilities.

On R2P: “Indonesia believes that the discussion on R2P is not and should not be intended to derail the thresholds or criteria prescribed on the resolution 60-1, adopted in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document. It is time for countries to focus on its implementation, including by strengthening prevention frameworks at the national level.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 23 June 2022)

Japan

Head of Government: Prime Minister Kishida Fumio

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Hayashi Yoshimasa

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Yamazaki Kazuyuki

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015, 2017-2019, 2020-2022
UN Security Council Membership:	1958-1959, 1966-1967, 1971-1972, 1975-1976, 1981-1982, 1987-1988, 1992-1993, 1997-1998, 2005-2006, 2009-2010, 2016-2017
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: January 2023, November 2017, October 2012, May 2008
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 40/17 (Syria), 41/23 (Syria), 42/27 (Syria), 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 43/28 (Syria), 43/25 (DPRK), 44/21 (Syria), 44/14 (R2P), 45/35 (CAR), 45/21 (Syria) 2021: 46/17 (DPRK), 46/22 (Syria), 47/18 (Syria), 48/15 (Syria), 48/19 (CAR) 2022: 49/22 (DPRK), 49/27 (Syria), 50/19 (Syria), 51/26 (Syria) 2023: 52/1 (South Sudan), 52/28 (DPRK), 52/30 (Syria), 53/18 (Syria)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 29 June 1999
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 23 July 2009
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Acceded: 17 July 2007
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	Acceded: 9 May 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Fulfill the obligations stipulated in the international human rights instruments to which it is a party and ensure the appropriate implementation of such instruments, including through the submission of periodical reports and dialogue with each treaty body;
- Continue to actively contribute to HRC discussions and activities, including the UPR, as well as the adoption of key resolutions to shape the opinion of the international community pertaining to human rights issues;
- Ensure ongoing meaningful cooperation and constructive dialogue with OHCHR and Special Procedures;

- Advance efforts in various fields, such as women's empowerment, the Women, Peace and Security agenda, child protection and global health to realize the concept of human security.

On R2P: "We strongly believe that the international community's collective action in linking development assistance with R2P will help advance the implementation of prevention and early action. ... Japan also believes that the Security Council not only has the primary responsibility to deal with actual conflicts, but it should also play a more active role in preventing conflicts." (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 25 June 2018)

Kuwait

Head of Government: Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Naser Abdullah H. M. Alhayen

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 States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2011-2014
UN Security Council Membership:	1978-1979, 2018-2019
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: April 2025 Previous reviews: January 2020, January 2015, May 2010
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 40/17 (Syria), 41/23 (Syria), 42/27 (Syria) 2020: 43/28 (Syria), 44/21 (Syria), 45/21 (Syria) 2021: 46/22 (Syria), 46/29 (South Sudan), 47/18 (Syria), 48/15 (Syria) 2022: 49/27 (Syria), 50/19 (Syria), 51/26 (Syria)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 8 March 1996
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signed: 8 September 2000, but not ratified
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 7 March 1995
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges

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

Malawi

Head of State: President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Nancy Tembo

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Caroline Cyrenia Sakina Bwanali Mussa

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:	African States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2021-2023
UN Security Council Membership:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next Review: October 2025 Previous reviews: May 2020, May 2015, November 2010
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 45/35 (CAR) 2021: 46/29 (South Sudan), 48/19 (CAR) 2022: 49/9 (Prevention of Genocide), 49/35 (South Sudan), 51/37 (CAR)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 11 June 1996
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Acceded: 14 July 2017
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 19 September 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 14 July 2017
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed: 9 January 2014, but not ratified

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote the universal values of human rights through credible institutions and international cooperation;
- Enhance cooperation with Special Procedures through a standing invitation and bolster engagement with treaty bodies;
- Review the legal and policy frameworks for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and eliminate sexual and gender based violence;
- Continue working toward the development of policies and programs for countering hate speech.

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

The Netherlands

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mark Rutte

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Hanke Gerdina Johannette Bruins Slot

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Paul Bekkers

Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Western European and other States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2007-2010, 2015-2017, 2020-2022
UN Security Council Membership:	1946, 1951-1952, 1965-1966, 1983-1984, 1999-2000, 2018
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: November 2022, May 2017, May 2012, April 2008
Past Five Years of HRC R2P Resolution Co-sponsorship:	2019: 40/20 (DPRK), 40/19 (South Sudan), 40/17 (Syria), 41/23 (Syria), 42/27 (Syria), 42/17 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), 42/36 (CAR) 2020: 43/29 (Prevention of Genocide), 43/28 (Syria), 43/27 (South Sudan), 43/25 (DPRK), 44/21 (Syria), 44/14 (R2P), 45/35 (CAR), 45/21 (Syria) 2021: 46/17 (DPRK), 46/22 (Syria), 46/23 (South Sudan), 47/13 (Ethiopia), 47/18 (Syria), 48/15 (Syria) 2022: 49/2 (South Sudan), 49/9 (Prevention of Genocide), 49/22 (DPRK), 49/27 (Syria), 50/19 (Syria), 51/23 (Human Rights and Transitional Justice), 51/26 (Syria), 51/28 (Burundi) 2023: 52/1 (South Sudan), 52/28 (DPRK), 52/30 (Syria), 53/18 (Syria)
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 21 December 1988
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 23 March 2011
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 17 July 2001
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 20 June 1966
Arms Trade Treaty:	Acceded: 18 December 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Invest in a responsive, effective, efficient and inclusive HRC through cooperation with all stakeholders through equal partnerships and constructive dialogue to uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination;

- Respect, promote and defend the independence of the High Commissioner and cooperate fully with OHCHR, the HRC and its mechanisms, as well as continue to provide its annual voluntary contribution to OHCHR and to the OHCHR trust fund for small island developing states;
- Support the meaningful participation of youth at the HRC through cooperation and consultation with youth organizations and representatives;
- Support the UPR mechanism and continue to actively participate in all UPR sessions, including by making at least two measurable and implementable recommendations to each state under review.

On R2P: “Preventing atrocity crimes is a key task for the UN and for this body – it is, in fact, its very reason of existence. Atrocity crimes affect all three pillars of the UN’s work, and their cost go far beyond the monetary: these crimes affect the very fabric of societies. As a staunch supporter of R2P, the Netherlands reiterates that if we want to ensure a continuous, constructive and sustainable dialogue on prevention and protection, R2P should be made a standing agenda item in the General Assembly.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 17 May 2021)