

UN Human Rights Council Elections for 2025-2027 and the Responsibility to Protect

Today, 9 October, the UN General Assembly elected Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Iceland, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Mexico, North Macedonia, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland and Thailand to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2025-2027 term. With the elections of Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Spain and Switzerland, 25 of the 47 Council members during 2025 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 Ethiopia 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 current HRC member states at home or abroad – including Cameroon, China, Eritrea, United Arab Emirates and Sudan – is also deeply disturbing.

Since 2008 the HRC has referred to states’ responsibility to protect their populations in at least 80 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 an overview of their engagement with R2P and other issues related to the prevention of mass atrocities through the protection and promotion of human rights.

Benin

Head of State: President Patrice Athanase Guillaume Talon

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Olushegun Adjadi Bakari

Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Angelo Dan

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2011-2014, 2022-2024
UN Security Council Membership:	1976-1977, 2004-2005
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: January 2028 Previous reviews: January 2023, November 2017, October 2012, May 2008
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 22 January 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 2 November 2017
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 20 September 2006
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 2 November 2017
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 7 November 2016

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges.

On R2P: “The promotion and protection of human rights indeed remain among the essential pillars of the United Nations to preserve peace and ensure sustainable human development. We must continue to work collectively for the protection and effective exercise of all human rights by all persons by removing the obstacles to the full exercise of those rights. It is crucial that the human rights instruments remain at the heart of the prevention of atrocities and heinous offenses.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2016)

Bolivia

Head of State: President Luis Alberto Arce Catacora

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Celinda Sosa Lunda

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Maira Mariela Macdonal Alvarez

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations: 2023-2024
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:	2007-2010, 2015-2017, 2021-2023
UN Security Council Membership:	1964-1965, 1978-1979, 2017-2018
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: January 2025 Previous reviews: November 2019, October 2014, February 2010
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 27 June 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Ratified: 14 June 2005
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 23 May 2006
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 17 December 2008
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support the UPR process and the work of Special Procedures and regional human rights protection mechanisms;
- Promote and support initiatives to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women, Indigenous Peoples, campesinos and other historically excluded groups;
- Advance measures and suggestions aimed at preventing sexual and gender-based harassment and promoting the equal participation of women in the activities of the HRC;
- Strengthen multilateralism and cooperation as tools for the promotion and protection of human rights.

On R2P: “Bolivia, as a State that believes in peace and promotes the culture of peace, has always advocated the resolution of conflict through negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement and preventive diplomacy, in accordance with the established purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. With that as our understanding, and as a country that respects international law and the need to protect human rights, we join the universal pacts, treaties and conventions that establish the responsibility of States to ensure that they are fully exercised and enjoyed. As a reflection of our commitment to the fight against impunity when those rights are violated, we signed the Rome Statute, which sets out mechanisms to punish and prosecute crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. In view of that, Bolivia believes that the responsibility to protect is an exclusive obligation of States to

their populations, and a primary duty that should be reflected by respecting, guaranteeing and promoting fundamental rights.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 2 July 2018)

Colombia

Head of State: President Gustavo Petro Urrego

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Luis Gilberto Murillo Urrutia

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Gustavo Gallón

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2019, 2021
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:	-
UN Security Council Membership:	1947-1948, 1953-1954, 1957-1958, 1969-1970, 1989-1990, 2001-2002, 2011-2012
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: November 2023, May 2018, April 2013, December 2008
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 5 August 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Ratified: 27 October 1959
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	-
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 11 July 2012
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed: 24 September 2013, but not ratified

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Prioritize dialogue and peaceful alternatives for conflict resolution to overcome situations with systematic human rights violations;
- Strengthen constructive dialogue, negotiation and the search for consensus, as pillars of the work of the HRC, to avoid politicization and promote cross-cutting cooperation in human rights related discussions;
- Bolster international mechanisms to further safeguard women’s rights and prioritize gender mainstreaming and implementation efforts by involving women in peacebuilding, guaranteeing their participation in politics, expanding efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and punishing violations of their rights;
- Consistently support language on the recognition of intersectional forms of discrimination and their impacts, and highlight the importance of diversity and the protection of human rights without distinction;
- Promote forums, resolutions and other mechanisms to strengthen and enrich actions aimed at consolidating national transitional justice systems to ensure truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence;
- Support and strengthen policies that safeguard the lives, dignity and work of human rights defenders.

On R2P: “Our commitment to the principle of the responsibility to protect is indeclinable. Colombia is a country that respects international law and is a firm defender of human rights, multilateralism and dialogue to resolve differences. It is a State with a long and recognized democratic history in the region, in which it protects and defends the rights of its population. We have a clear independence of public authorities and citizens can trust that their institutions guarantee their rights. That is why we firmly believe in the values that underlie the need to protect.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 18 May 2021)

Cyprus

Head of State: President Nikos Christodoulides

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Constantinos Kombos

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Olympia Neocleous

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2015 Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2009-2019, 2021-2024
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific States
Human Rights Council Membership:	-
UN Security Council Membership:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: April 2024, January 2019, January 2014, November 2009
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 7 March 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 29 March 1982
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 29 April 2009
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signed: 6 February 2007, but not ratified
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 10 May 2016

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Cooperate with UN Special Procedures mandate holders, treaty bodies and the UPR;
- Uphold a standing invitation to all Special Procedure mandate holders and facilitate country visits;
- Enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system by creating conditions conducive to result-oriented dialogues;
- Actively participate in the UPR and offer constructive recommendations with the aim of promoting human rights at the national level;
- Closely cooperate with civil society, human rights defenders and national human rights institutions;
- Promote a human rights-based approach in addressing technological advancements, as well as towards climate change.

On R2P: “Today we are haunted by the news of people fleeing their countries to escape war and terrorism, forced to seek safety elsewhere. Crimes against humanity have increased exponentially and so have a number of humanitarian crises with migration reaching new unprecedented levels. When we are faced with such challenges, we have the responsibility to act. Mister President, the Security Council, the International Criminal Court and the UN and its agencies need to reaffirm their genuine commitment to help all member States maintain internal peace and security and combat decriminalization of atrocity crimes through impunity. Individual States also need to adhere to the Rome Statute and its provisions as one of the core elements for the implementation of the responsibility to protect.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 8 September 2015)

Czechia

Head of State: President Petr Pavel

Head of Government: Prime Minister Petr Fiala

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Jan Lipavský

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Václav Bálek

Summary of R2P Engagement	
	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2019, 2021-2024 Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2009-2019, 2021-2024
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern European States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2011-2014, 2019-2021, 10 May 2022-2023 *joined late to fill a vacancy
UN Security Council Membership:	1964, 1978-1979, 1994-1995
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: January 2028 Previous reviews: January 2023, November 2017, October 2012, April 2008
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 21 July 2009
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Succeeded: 22 February 1993
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 10 July 2006
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 8 February 2017
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 25 September 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support the preventive role of the HRC in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Advocate for adequate and timely responses by the HRC to human rights violations and abuses wherever they occur, pursue accountability and continue to address country-specific and thematic issues while promoting universality, transparency and objectivity;
- Actively participate in international human rights mechanisms, including the UPR, offering recommendations and extending support to states for the implementation of recommendations;
- Consistently defend women's rights and take an active stance against violence inflicted on women and girls, including the use of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts, which may amount to war crimes;
- Support institution-building in the area of the rule of law, including through activities aimed at combating torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment;

- Strongly uphold HRC-mandated investigative mechanisms to contribute to ending impunity and advancing justice for victims and survivors, such as the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.

On R2P: “As we approach the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit, delivering on that global political commitment, both in terms of prevention and response, remains a shared challenge. However, the persistence of horrific atrocities around the world is a stark reminder that implementing the responsibility to protect must stand at the forefront of the efforts of the international community as a whole... The emphasis on prevention requires holistic approaches, and the international community can pursue those through a range of tools at its disposal. Member States should implement their human rights obligations and build their capacities in that respect. The Universal Periodic Review, the special procedures and other mechanisms play a crucial role in prevention and early warning.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Head of State: President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo

Head of Government: Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Paul Empole Losoko Efambe

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	-
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2018-2020
UN Security Council Membership:	1982-1983, 1990-1991
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2024 Previous reviews: May 2019, April 2014, December 2009
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 11 April 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 31 May 1962
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Acceded: 23 September 2010
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges.

On R2P: *The Democratic Republic of the Congo has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect at a UN forum.*

Alleged role in atrocity crimes documented by Human Rights Council mechanisms: The Team of International Experts on the situation in Kasai was mandated to collect and preserve information and determine the facts and circumstances concerning alleged human rights violations and abuses, as well as violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Kasai region. In 2018 the Team of International Experts determined that several of the violations perpetrated by the Congolese defense and security forces since 2016 constituted crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Ethiopia

Head of State: President Sahle-Work Zewde

Head of Government: Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Taye Atske-Selassie Amde

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Tsegab Kebebew Daka

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly 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:	2013-2015, 2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1967-1968, 1989-1990, 2017-2018
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2024 Previous reviews: May 2019, May 2014, December 2009
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Ratified: 1 July 1949
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	-
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges.

On R2P: *Ethiopia has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect at a UN forum.*

Alleged role in atrocity crimes documented by Human Rights Council mechanisms: The International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) found reasonable grounds to believe that during the country's 2020-2022 conflict in Tigray, members of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) committed war crimes, including violence against life and person, in particular murder; outrages on human dignity, in particular humiliating or degrading treatment; intentionally directed attacks against civilians and civilian objects; pillage; rape; sexual slavery; sexual violence; and intentional use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. The ICHREE determined that the Federal Government also committed the crimes against humanity of murder, torture, rape and sexual violence and asserted that the Federal Government and allied regional state governments committed the crimes against humanity of persecution on ethnic grounds and other inhumane acts intentionally causing great suffering or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health based on the denial and obstruction of humanitarian assistance to Tigray.

Gambia

Head of State: President Adama Barrow

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Mamadou Tangara

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Muhammadou M.O. Kah

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2022-2024
UN Security Council Membership:	1998-1999
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: January 2025 Previous reviews: November 2019, October 2014, February 2010
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 28 June 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 29 December 1978
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	-
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 28 September 2018
Arms Trade Treaty:	Acceded: 13 June 2024

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- No voluntary pledges.

On R2P: “The Government of the Gambia champions the promotion and protection of human rights as one of the central pillars of our domestic and foreign policies concerning the well-being of our own people and peoples elsewhere in the world. The Gambia’s policies and approach continue to be guided by our awareness of the difficult history that we traveled as a country to usher in democracy. The Gambia continues to seek national reconciliation, entrench our democracy, and consolidate the rule of law.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Iceland

Head of State: President Halla Tómasdóttir

Head of Government: Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Thórdís Kolbrún Reykjörd Gylfadóttir

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Einar Gunnarsson

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009 Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2016 Also part of the statement by the Nordic countries: 2017, 2019, 2021 Also part of the statement by the Nordic-Baltic countries: 2023-2024
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western European and other States
Human Rights Council Membership:	13 July 2018-2019 *joined late to fill a vacancy
UN Security Council Membership:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: January 2027 Previous reviews: January 2022, November 2016, October 2011
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 25 May 2000
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Ratified: 29 August 1949
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 20 February 2019
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signed: 1 October 2008, but not ratified
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 2 July 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote the engagement of and collaboration with civil society, human rights defenders, youth and other stakeholders in the work of the Human Rights Council, and emphasize the protection against reprisals;
- Support the UPR process through specific and actionable recommendations in all sessions, as well as through predictable contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the UPR;
- Bolster meaningful coordination and mainstreaming of human rights across the UN system and cooperate fully with Special Procedures and human rights treaty bodies;
- Remain steadfast to advancing the human rights of women and girls, recognizing the structural inequalities and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination women and girls face;

- Support the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

On R2P: “Let us at all times bear in mind that the concept of RtoP is essentially about saving human lives. It should not become a license for illegitimate or arbitrary interference and aggression. Quite the opposite, RtoP must be seen as a means of reinforcing legality in international affairs and a way of shoring up respect for the international system embodied in the United Nations. For this reason my delegation fully supports giving the General Assembly a leading role in fashioning an effective international response to crimes and atrocities relevant to RtoP.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 27 July 2009)

Kenya

Head of State: President William Samoei Ruto

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Musalia Mudavadi

Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. James Ndirangu Waweru

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2011
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2013-2015, 2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1973-1974, 1997-1998, 2021-2022
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: May 2025 Previous reviews: January 2020, January 2015, May 2010
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 15 March 2005
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	-
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signed: 6 February 2007, but not ratified
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Foster a collaborative partnership with civil society organizations and ensure that these organizations are included and have a voice within the Council;
- Remain a steadfast champion for the independence of OHCHR, including the High Commissioner, and fully cooperate and engage with the HRC and its mechanisms, as well as the UN human rights treaty body system;
- Sponsor and support human rights issues and connected themes at the UN General Assembly and HRC, including advocating for resolutions that address challenges such as the fight against impunity;
- Strongly support the UPR and actively participate in all review sessions to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in Kenya.

On R2P: “The limited experience that we have so far had with the concept of responsibility to protect has been at best worrisome, and at worst, deeply disconcerting. The cause for concern has been primarily in its application. The poor application of the concept as witnessed in some recent events is driven more by a lack of global understanding and agreement on the definition, application, limits and scope of the responsibility to protect, particularly at an international level.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 12 July 2011)

Marshall Islands

Head of State: President Hilda Heine

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Kalani Kaneko

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Doreen Debrum

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2019, 2024 Also part of the statement by the Pacific Small Island Developing States: 2018-2019 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2019-2024
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2021-2022
UN Security Council Membership:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2025 Previous reviews: November 2020, May 2015, November 2010
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 7 December 2000
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	-
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Cooperate with Special Procedures and extend standing invitations to such mandate holders, including all Special Rapporteurs and particularly the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence;
- Raise awareness of critical and emerging specific human rights situations and giving credence to the relevance and the importance of the HRC as a forum for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Enhance contributions to deliberations at international human rights forums, including co-sponsoring relevant HRC and UN General Assembly resolutions on human rights defenders, civil society space and reprisals;
- Improve coherent and effective international reporting by working with other HRC members and stakeholders to help the UPR better identify and address unique issues and challenges, and build stronger bridges between the UPR and the pressing human rights challenges facing local communities;
- Strengthen meaningful engagement of non-governmental organizations with the HRC, including through enhanced informal dialogue, and amplify the voices of vulnerable communities.

On R2P: “The UN remains the most uniquely placed multilateral organization to establish norms, as well as to assist and enforce the protection of civilians. The outcome of the 2005 World Summit on R2P empowers the UN to play a leading world in preventing mass atrocities. The mandate is clear, but the willingness to successfully advance this remains an open question. We acknowledge the link between the UN Human Rights Council and Security Council and encourage the further strengthening of these links. Our UN institutions and mechanisms based in Geneva can play an important role in preventing mass atrocity crimes, including by assisting and better analyzing early patterns.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 1 July 2024)

Mexico

Head of State: President Andrés Manuel López Obrador

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Alicia Bárcena Ibarra

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Francisca E. Méndez Escobar

Summary of R2P Engagement	
	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2024 Also part of the joint France-Mexico statement: 2019, 2022-2024
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2014-2016, 2018-2020, 2021-2023
UN Security Council Membership:	1946, 1980-1981, 2002-2003, 2009-2010, 2021-2022
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: January 2024, November 2018, October 2013, February 2009
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 28 October 2005
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Ratified: 22 July 1952
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 11 April 2005
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 18 March 2008
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 25 September 2013

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support the HRC in expanding its capacity to promote technical cooperation and identify good practices that help strengthen states' capacity to comply with international obligations and human rights standards;
- Strengthen the international human rights system, taking into account the HRC's specialized activities and procedures, as well as its relationship with the rest of the UN system, to better address management challenges faced by human rights treaty bodies, monitoring mechanisms and specialized agencies, and ensuring that the work is intersectional;
- Promote a cross-cutting gender perspective and intersectionality in the Council's organization and composition, including during meetings and interactive dialogues and in resolutions and positions to be filled;
- Ensure that Special Procedures, in addition to making human rights violations visible, contribute to the implementation of joint actions, including technical assistance;
- Promote recommendations from the UPR that are action-oriented to help create societies that respect human rights, particularly for groups in vulnerable situations and victims of historical discrimination;
- Foster, within the mandate of the Council and its mechanisms, spaces for dialogue, with the active participation of civil society.

On R2P: “The sovereignty of States entails the responsibility to take the necessary measures for the well-being of our populations. The international community, as a whole, has the responsibility to react when a State, which is clearly unwilling, or unable to fulfill its primary responsibility to protect civilian populations, or when it is the perpetrator of atrocity crimes.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 1 July 2024)

North Macedonia

Head of State: President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova

Head of Government: Prime Minister Hristijan Mickoski

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Timcho Mucunski

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Teuta Agai-Demjaha

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009 Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2015-2016, 2018-2019, 2023-2024
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Eastern European States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2014-2016
UN Security Council Membership:	-
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: April 2024, January 2019, January 2014, May 2009
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 6 March 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Succeeded: 18 January 1994
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 13 February 2009
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signed: 6 February 2007, but not ratified
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 6 March 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Engage and support all efforts aimed at strengthening the independence, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the UN human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures;
- Effectively involve civil society representatives and organizations and other stakeholders in all human rights-related policy and decision-making processes, at all levels;
- Strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation, including through the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights;
- Bolster the role of the UPR as an effective and unique peer review tool, as well as encourage the sharing of good practices, offer recommendations to states and support their efforts to implement recommendations during the UPR.

On R2P: “We consider prevention to be a critical component of R2P. In that regard, capacity-building should be a key element. However, in cases in which prevention efforts fail, the international community should ensure an early and flexible response, not through graduated measures, but through collective action to be taken by the Security Council in accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 23 July 2009)

Qatar

Head of State: Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

Head of Government: Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Hend Abdalrahman Al-Muftah

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2024
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2007-2010, 2010-2013, 2015-2017, 2018-2020, 2022-2024
UN Security Council Membership:	2006-2007
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2024 Previous reviews: May 2019, April 2014, February 2010
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	-
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	-
Arms Trade Treaty:	-

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Maintain active, constructive and positive engagement on human rights with states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, UN human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures mandate holders;
- Continue playing constructive, impartial and sincere roles, especially through mediation, to resolve crises in the region from a human rights and humanitarian perspective with a view to protecting human rights;
- Contribute to developing UPR modalities and empowering institutions of the HRC;
- Cooperate with and provide support to international organizations and UN bodies that promote and protect human rights.

On R2P: “Qatar’s commitment to this principle stems from our deep-rooted belief in the importance of international cooperation to strengthen collective security, and also our respect for international law, the UN Charter and relevant resolutions. On the basis of this unwavering commitment, the State of Qatar is continuing its efforts to strengthen the concept of the Responsibility to Protect at all levels.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Republic of Korea

Head of State: President Yoon Suk Yeol

Head of Government: Prime Minister Han Duck-soo

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Cho Tae-yul

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Seong Deok Yun

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2024
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, 2016-2018, 2020-2022
UN Security Council Membership:	1996-1997, 2013-2014, 2024-2025
Universal Periodic Review:	Previous reviews: January 2023, November 2017, October 2012, May 2008
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 13 November 2002
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 14 October 1950
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	-
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Acceded: 4 January 2023
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 28 November 2016

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Engage with UN human rights mechanisms in an active and constructive manner, including having candid and sincere dialogue and extending a standing invitation to Special Procedures;
- Address the human rights implications of new and emerging digital technologies, including through spearheading efforts to strengthen the capacity of OHCHR in providing technical assistance in the field of digital technologies and human rights, as well as identify opportunities and challenges and explore ways to respond to emerging threats;
- Participate in the UPR process in a constructive manner, including actively engaging with civic groups and reviewing and incorporating the recommendations made by other member states;
- Highlight the role of local governments in promoting and protecting human rights and place local governments more firmly in the international human rights framework and promote a whole-of government and whole-of-society approach in the promotion and protection of human rights.

On R2P: “We must enhance and coordinate early warning mechanisms. It is these systems that signal early warning of food insecurity, discrimination, human rights violations and impunity, which should be monitored and closely analyzed through the R2P lens to provide timely and effective responses. Mr. President, before closing, I wish to

reaffirm the Republic of Korea's unwavering commitment to R2P. As we have consistently restated, sovereignty encompasses the responsibility to protect the one's population. It is incumbent upon each state and the international community to translate R2P into tangible actions and meaningful change." (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 1 July 2024)

Spain

Head of Government: President Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. José Manuel Albares Bueno

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Marcos Gómez Martínez

Summary of R2P Engagement	
	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	Also part of the statement by the European Union: 2009-2024 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2024
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:	2011-2013, 2018-2020
UN Security Council Membership:	1969-1970, 1981-1982, 1993-1994, 2003-2004, 2015-2016
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: May 2025 Previous reviews: January 2020, January 2015, May 2010
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 24 October 2000
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 13 September 1968
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 4 April 2006
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 24 September 2009
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 2 April 2014

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Substantively contribute to the consolidation of the human rights normative framework, including through the promotion of the ratification of conventions through the recommendations it makes to countries that participate in the UPR;
- Highlight the importance of prevention and the fight against impunity in cases of human rights violations and promote human rights-sensitive language in the negotiation of UN mission mandates;
- Play an active role in finding common ground in consultations and negotiations, including through permanent contact with member and non-member countries of the HRC, build bridges, promote dialogue and establish trust;
- Advocate for the protection and promotion of the work of human rights defenders and encourage countries to step up their efforts to protect human rights defenders.

On R2P: “The report also recalls how the stages prior to the commission of atrocities are often characterized by certain patterns of human rights violations. It is essential that we protect and strengthen the early warning role of the Human Rights Council and that we fight against impunity, another factor that increases the risk... Spain will continue to

prioritize a preventive, anticipatory and dissuasive approach to conflicts, focused on diplomacy and mediation, but also on development cooperation, in line with our commitment to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 26 June 2023)

Switzerland

Head of State: President Viola Amherd

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Ignazio Cassis

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Jürg Lauber

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2024
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:	2006-2009, 2010-2013, 2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	2023-2024
Universal Periodic Review	Previous reviews: January 2023, November 2017, October 2012, May 2008
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	Yes
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 12 October 2001
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	Acceded: 7 September 2000
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratified: 24 September 2009
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 2 December 2016
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 30 January 2015

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Strengthen the space, diverse participation and voices of civil society representatives, including human rights defenders, paying particular attention to the meaningful participation of women and girls;
- Raise awareness of the role of human rights in the prevention of conflict and supporting the efforts of OHCHR to strengthen its work on prevention and early warning capabilities;
- Support global monitoring and investigations of gross human rights violations while reinforcing accountability and the fight against impunity;
- Contribute to the protection of linguistic, religious, ethnic, national or other minorities and vulnerable groups;
- Implement the accepted UPR recommendations in good faith and draft its fifth UPR report in an inclusive manner, involving all levels of government and encouraging active contributions from civil society.

On R2P: “Switzerland is committed at the international level to dialogue and the exchange of best practices on atrocity prevention. As such, the report mentions several initiatives and measures to develop a more comprehensive and effective approach to prevention that the Secretary General calls for in the ‘New Agenda for Peace.’ An example is the international network “Global Action against Mass Atrocities,” which provides a platform between States and civil society, and thereby contributes to the second R2P pillar. Switzerland invites all States to join it. Third, let me emphasize the importance of the United Nations Office for the prevention of genocide and the responsibility to protect. It is important that the commitment of the two Special Advisers is part of the more global agenda of the United Nations in prevention. Switzerland calls on the two Advisors to share their recommendations in the face of crisis situations with

Member States, so that the UN and its various organs can respond collectively.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 1 July 2024)

Thailand

Head of Government: Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin

Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E. Maris Sangiampongsa

Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva: H.E. Usana Berananda

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UN General Assembly R2P dialogues and debates:	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific States
Human Rights Council Membership:	2010-2013
UN Security Council Membership:	1985-1986
Universal Periodic Review:	Next review: November 2026 Previous reviews: November 2021, May 2016, October 2011
Sponsorship of Resolution 44/14 on R2P:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	-
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:	-
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	-
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratified: 14 May 2024
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signed: 25 November 2014, but not ratified

Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support the work of UN human rights mechanisms and engage constructively with and further promote the effective work of Special Procedures mandate holders, taking into account their recommendations to improve human rights situations around the world;
- Provide technical cooperation and capacity-building, as one of the tools to help countries to strengthen human rights implementation;
- Advocate for the non-politicization of human rights and work to uphold the role of the HRC as a forum for constructive dialogue and promote the progressive role of the Council in preventing human rights violations and abuses on the ground;
- Advance discussions and efforts to promote the effectiveness and strengthen the work of the HRC, including through building more synergies across different entities of the UN, as well as its relevant mechanisms, particularly the UPR.

On R2P: “Thailand reaffirms its support on the general concept of the responsibility to protect, that each and every state has the primary responsibility to protect its own population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. The wider international community also has a responsibility to assist individual states in ensuring that this norm and its true purpose, which aims to safeguard humanity, is upheld.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2017)