Responsibility to Protect ("RtoP" or "R2P")

The **responsibility to protect** embodies a political commitment to end the worst forms of violence and persecution. Following the ground breaking adoption by all Heads of State and Government of the responsibility to protect principle, as articulated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (A/RES/60/1), in 2007 the Secretary-General addressed a letter (S/2007/721) to the President of the Security Council in which he recognized the need to further operationalize the Responsibility to Protect principle and designated a Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect with the main task of conceptual development and consensus-building. The first Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect was appointed by the Secretary-General in 2008. It seeks to narrow the gap between Member States' pre-existing obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and the reality faced by populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Source: https://www.un.org/en/genocide-prevention/responsibility-protect/about

UN Entities

- **United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect:** https://www.un.org/en/genocide-prevention/

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- General Assembly plenary meeting on "The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity - Item 129: Report of the Secretary-General (A/78/901)", 1 July 2024
  - Press release: https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12612.doc.htm
  - Webcasts: https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1o/k1or4ouq40, https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1cvkho0uz
- General Assembly plenary meetings on "The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity [item 132]: Report of the Secretary-General (A/77/910)", 26 June 2023
  - Press release: https://press.un.org/en/2023/ga12513.doc.htm
  - Meeting records: https://docs.un.org/A/77/PV.83, https://docs.un.org/A/77/PV.84
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- General Assembly plenary meetings on "The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity - Item 134: report of the Secretary-General (A/76/844)", 23-24 June 2022
  - Press Releases: https://press.un.org/en/2022/ga12429.doc.htm, https://press.un.org/en/2022/ga12430.doc.htm
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  - A/HRC/48/39 (13 July 2021): Summary of the intersessional panel discussion on the 15th anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as enshrined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: https://docs.un.org/A/HRC/48/39

- High-level virtual panel discussion "Fifteen years of the responsibility to protect - a collective commitment to humanity", 7 October 2020:
  - Concept Note: https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/Concept%20note%20-%20R2P@15%20event.pdf
  - Statement by H.E. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (Delivered by H.E. Ms. Tegan Brink, Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly), 7 October 2020: https://bit.ly/2GSOwxQ

- General Assembly Plenary Meeting on agenda item 168 "The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity" (27-28 June 2019)
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- High-level event on "Upholding the Responsibility to Protect: The Indispensable Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing Atrocity Crimes" (at the ministerial level) (co-organized by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect) (20 September 2016)
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31 December 2024
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