

Conference for global civil society practitioners on the Responsibility to Protect

Thursday 20 June 2013, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm

Point Hotel Barbaros, Istanbul, Turkey

History has taught us that strong networks of civil society organizations can play a pivotal role in urging governments, regional organizations and the United Nations to honor their commitment to protect populations from human rights violations. Endorsing the Responsibility to Protect norm (RtoP, R2P) was one such commitment, made by all states in the Outcome Document at the 2005 World Summit, to prevent and halt the worst crimes known to humankind: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing. At that time, civil society around the world rallied to ensure RtoP was included in the Outcome Document, and today we face the even greater test of building the political will and capacity of governments to implement the norm and respond rapidly when populations are threatened. There is already a rich and active community of civil society organizations working to advance the Responsibility to Protect (whether they call it such or not), but more needs to be done to ensure that the NGOs, academics and other actors in this community know of one another, communicate about their activities and coordinate across sectors and regions. To this end, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) is convening this community of practitioners to strengthen civil society's impact in advancing RtoP around the world. This day-long conference will immediately follow the three-day convening organized by the Nexus Fund on preventing mass violence against civilians.

Goals:

1. Provide updates to all on recent conceptual developments, relevant cases, and implementation of RtoP at the national, regional, and UN levels;
2. Act as a forum for civil society participants to share their work related to RtoP and the prevention of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing, discuss strategies for how best to incorporate RtoP into programs and mandates, and reflect on lessons learned;
3. Provide opportunities for groups to coordinate activities, discuss how to incorporate RtoP into existing national and regional strategies/initiatives to prevent conflict and protect populations from mass violence, and build key partnerships and plans for specific activities to advance RtoP;
4. Expand and diversify the groups working on RtoP, focusing in particular on civil society from countries, regions and thematic sectors where RtoP activity is limited to date, and increase ICRtoP membership to represent this growing global support for the norm.

Participation: There will be over 80 civil society participants - from both ICRtoP member organizations and other interested groups – in attendance.

Agenda

8:30-9:00 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome remarks**

Don Deya, Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Lawyers Union and Chair of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect

Sapna Considine, Program Director of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect

9:30- 12:00 **Session 1: Surveying the RtoP landscape**

The goal of this session is to provide all participants with a thorough overview of the main conceptual and operational developments on RtoP over the past several years. Time will also be allocated for a Q&A session.

Moderator: Nana Afadzinu, West Africa Institute for Civil Society

Defining the scope of RtoP and identifying tools for prevention

Professor Sheri Rosenberg, Director, Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies and Director, Human Rights and Genocide Clinic, Benjamin Cardozo School of Law

Overview and assessment of recent conceptual developments on RtoP

Dr. Noel Morada, Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Overview of country situations to illustrate RtoP implementation in recent years

Naomi Kikoler, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Key institutional developments to prevent atrocities at the national, regional and UN levels

Sapna Considine, Program Director, International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect

12:00-1:00 **Lunch (provided by organizers)**

1:00-3:30 **Session 2: Concurrent workshops on national implementation of RtoP and increasing civil society activity and support for the norm**

This session will feature two simultaneous workshops, each with two consecutive sections. Each section will be led by a moderator and 3-5 discussants will share their work in roundtable format.

Discussants will expand on their organization's programmatic initiatives, discuss how RtoP relates to their organization's mandate, reflect on the challenges facing their work, provide recommendations for how to improve implementation, and assess lessons-learned. The conversation will then open up for participating NGOs to exchange their own strategies and constructive practices for the section theme. From these discussions, participants will learn more

about the work currently being conducted throughout the world on RtoP and mass atrocity prevention and remaining gaps among sectors and regions, and have the opportunity to strategize on how to move forward (in terms of both future activities/initiatives/campaigns and tactics to increase coordination). This will also be an opportunity to reflect on how RtoP can be incorporated into the work of participating organizations.

Workshop I: Entrenching RtoP and the prevention of atrocities at the domestic level

1:00 – 2:15 Section 1. Developing a national process for RtoP implementation

Moderator: Byenka Tito Kugonza, East Africa Law Society

Discussants:

- Alexandra Buskie, UN Association of the United Kingdom: Launch of national program on RtoP in the UK
- Ndifuna Muhammed, Human Rights Network of Uganda: Ugandan National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of Mass Atrocities (TBC)
- Dismas Nkunda, International Refugee Rights Initiative: Ugandan National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of Mass Atrocities
- Mary Stata, Prevention and Protection Working Group: Civil society engagement with the United States Atrocities Prevention Board
- Dr. Noel Morada, Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect: Country programs on RtoP in Cambodia, the Philippines and Indonesia

2:15 – 3:30 Section 2. Engaging with policymakers on atrocities prevention

Moderator: Peggy Hicks, Human Rights Watch

Discussants:

- Dr. James Waller, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation: Educating government officials on genocide and mass atrocities prevention through curriculum development and seminars
- Casey Karr, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect: National RtoP Focal Points Initiative
- Cameron Hudson, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Engaging the United States government on atrocities prevention
- Tina Park, Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect: Inter-Parliamentary Union efforts to engage parliamentarians on RtoP
- Jo Henderson, The Aegis Trust: Facilitating the United Kingdom's Genocide Prevention All-Party Parliamentary Group

Workshop II: Building the civil society constituency of support for RtoP

1:00 – 2:15 Section 1. Strategies for mobilizing a constituency of support for RtoP and atrocities prevention

Moderator: Gus Miclat, Initiatives for International Dialogue, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict-South East Asia

Discussants:

- Grace Ghaleb, Permanent Peace Movement: Developing a regional program for civil society in the Middle East/ North Africa to raise awareness of the norm and its regional relevance
- Andrew Hudson, Crisis Action: Mobilizing global action to protect civilians from armed conflict
- Mama Koité, FEMNET-Mali: Convening civil society in Mali to build understanding of RtoP during an emerging crisis
- Daniel Sullivan, United to End Genocide: Building a domestic constituency to mobilize response in crisis situations

2:15 – 3:30 Section 2. Strengthening the capacity of civil society actors to develop RtoP initiatives through workshops and curriculum development

Moderator: Angela Bruce-Raeburn, The Stanley Foundation

Discussants:

- Nana Afadzinu, West Africa Civil Society Institute: Developing a regional training toolkit to facilitate RtoP workshops for NGOs and multi-lateral peace support personnel in West Africa
- George Kegoro, International Commission of Jurists in Kenya: Building capacities of lawyers, civil society, and judges on international law and conflict prevention
- Cissa Wa Numbe, UN Association of the Democratic Republic of Congo: Workshop in Kinshasa, DRC to raise awareness of RtoP as a tool for NGO advocacy on the country's protracted conflict
- Rachel Shapiro, International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect: Introduction of the ICRtoP Toolkit

3:30-4:00 Coffee break

4:00-5:30 Session 3: Engaging regional and sub-regional organizations

Guiding questions for facilitator/discussants: What are civil society organizations (CSOs) doing to engage their regional and sub-regional organizations to increase support for RtoP and strengthen the capacity to prevent and halt atrocities? What are the challenges that CSOs face in building support for the norm in these regions and how can they be overcome? How can CSOs develop strategies for integrating RtoP into their regional/sub-regional activity?

Economic Community of West African States

Moderator: Omolara Balogun, West Africa Civil Society Institute

Naomi Kikoler, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
Mama Koité, FEMNET-Mali

International Conference of the Great Lakes Region

Moderator: Dismas Nkunda, International Refugee Rights Initiative

Hassan Shire Sheikh Ahmed, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

Deirdre Clancy, International Refugee Rights Initiative

Byenkya Tito Kugonza, East Africa Law Society

Ndifuna Muhammed, Human Rights Network of Uganda (TBC)

Dr. Ashad Sentongo, Genocide Prevention Prog, George Mason University

Association of South East Asian Nations

Moderator: Sarah Teitt, Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Gus Miclat, Initiatives for International Dialogue

Debbie Stothard, ALTSEAN-Burma

Dr. Pranee Thiparat, Chulalongkorn University

African Union and the League of Arab States

Moderator: Don Deya, Pan Africa Lawyers Union

Eyob Balcha Gebremariam, Centre for Citizen Participation — African Union

Grace Ghaleb, Permanent Peace Movement

Ziad Abdel Tawab, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Regional Arrangements in Latin America and the Caribbean

Moderator: Andrei Serbin Pont, Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales

Camila Asano, Conectas

Diego Padilla, Instituto de Relaciones Internacionales y de Investigación para la Paz

Dr. James Waller, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

5:30-6:00 **Wrap-Up**

Moderator: William Pace, World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy

- Presentation of interactive map of ICRtoP civil society support