

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: 16th SESSION EXCERPTED RtoP STATEMENTS

28 February 2011
Human Rights Council, Geneva

Australia
Foreign Minister
Kevin Rudd

(...) We have seen the birth of the International Criminal Court. And we have seen the adoption of the international principle of **responsibility to protect**.

As a community of nations, we have agreed that we will act to prevent and respond to genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

Last week, I wrote to the President of the Security Council, requesting that Libya be referred to the International Criminal Court. Over the weekend we saw UN Security Resolution 1970, which invoked both the **responsibility to protect** and referred to the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court.

While the Security Council has recognized the **responsibility to protect** principle in earlier resolutions, the Security Council's resolution on Libya is the first time the Security Council has taken punitive action against a country based on recognition of that country's **responsibility to protect** its population."

Italy
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Franco Frattini

(...) Should the Libyan authorities fail to ensure the protection of their people, the international community should be ready to assume its "**responsibility to protect**" (...)

(...) With this in mind, we urge the Libyan authorities to keep up to their **responsibility to protect** the population and to facilitate the departure of those foreign citizens wishing to leave the country. (...)

Sweden
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Frank Belfrage

(...) We also strongly support the Security Council's call upon the Government of Libya to meet its **responsibility to protect** its population. It is absolutely rights that those accountable for the greave human rights violations committed in Libya will now be investigated by the International Criminal Court. (...)

Maldives
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
Mr. Ahmed Naseem

(...) It is clear that the Libyan Government has no intention of honoring its primary **responsibility to protect** its own people. It is therefore beholden on the international community to intervene. (...) We, the community of nations, have a clear and unambiguous responsibility—to protect innocent men, women and children in Libya; to remove Muammar Gaddafi and his associates from power and hold them accountable for their crimes; and to help build a new democratic country. (...)

Belgium
Vice Prime-Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs
Steven Vanackere

(...)I recall that in 2005, our Heads of States and Government endorsed, in unanimity and irrevocable, the principle of the **Responsibility to Protect**. A promise of hope was made to humanity: the promise of a future in which the words genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity would become for history books. They promised to take fully their responsibility and to work with solidarity, offering mutual and constructive assistance.

Council members must enact this responsibility and rise up every time grave and systematic violations of human rights are committed. They must lean, in a respective and transparent manner, on all situations and human rights questions, where ever in the world they occur. The credibility of the Human Rights Council is at play. (...)