

16 August 2012

Excellency,

On behalf of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), we are writing to you in advance of the 5 September 2012 General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP). The dialogue will provide an opportunity for Member States, regional organizations, and civil society to reflect on the Report of the Secretary-General which examines the various dimensions of the third pillar of the Responsibility to Protect, timely and decisive response, and the role of local, national, regional and international actors in the protection of populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. Please find enclosed an overview of the Secretary-General's Report, which we hope will be of use as you prepare remarks for the dialogue.

We respectfully call on your government to speak in support of the Responsibility to Protect, to relate your experiences of the importance of responding in a timely and decisive manner, and convey the need for the UN to strengthen the mechanisms available to protect populations from mass atrocities. We also encourage your government reflect on the importance of how to protect responsibly at every stage of the implementation of RtoP. As you prepare for your government's participation in the General Assembly informal interactive dialogue, we encourage you to consider the following points in your intervention:

- The third pillar of the Responsibility to Protect includes a broad range of non-coercive and coercive measures that actors at the national, regional, and international level can utilize for the protection of populations.
- In the initial articulation of the three pillar framework, the Secretary-General did not call for the chronological sequencing of the pillars but rather established them together as representative of the full range of measures necessary to protect. The relationship between the three pillars is interactive and mutually supportive.
- The risk and occurrence of RtoP crimes are in their very nature threats to international peace and security. There are never situations in which states do not have a responsibility to protect their populations from these crimes. Therefore, the question is not whether RtoP applies to a situation, but rather how best to operationalize the norm.
- Governments, sub-regional and regional organizations, and UN bodies should continue to engage in dialogue as well as collaborative efforts, including with civil society organizations, to more fully establish and deepen their mutual commitments and to agree upon viable strategies to protect populations from RtoP crimes.

The ICRtoP thanks you for your consideration as the General Assembly continues to make critically important contributions to progress in the pursuit of international peace and security.

Please accept the assurances of our highest regards,



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