



9 September 2009

By Fax: 212-963-4879

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
Room S-3800, 38th Floor,
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We write subsequent to the recent General Assembly debate on your important report, *Implementing the Responsibility to Protect*, to urge you to continue your outspoken leadership on meeting the commitment to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Your words and those of your Special Adviser ahead of the General Assembly debate were a powerful clarion call to Member States to focus on effective and timely action to protect populations from the worst crimes committed by humans against each other. The importance of this leadership was made clear in the debate when a vast number of Member States embraced your conceptual framework and pledged their commitment to finding the will, capacity and imagination to meet their responsibilities.

In the months ahead, it will be essential to build on current momentum, and to respond to those Member States that requested further clarity on how the UN will fulfill its role in the implementation of the responsibility to protect. We believe it is essential that there is now a clear commitment across *all* UN departments and agencies to forge a common vision and action plan on how to strengthen the UN Secretariat's role in preventing and halting mass atrocity crimes.

Specifically, we urge you to:

- Deliver a public statement recognizing the success of the General Assembly debate in affirming Member States' commitment to the responsibility to protect, declaring the Secretariat's readiness to play its role, and challenging Member States to follow through on their statements in the debate;
- Task a high-level group of relevant departments and agencies to agree to a common approach to early warning and improving recommendations to Member States on the appropriate and timely action necessary to prevent and halt mass atrocity crimes where they threaten to occur;
- Undertake an internal review of the UN Secretariat's experience in order to refine existing proposals to enhance early warning and response capacities. Such a review should take into account the lessons of past failures to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as well as positive experiences of successful UN action to thwart mass atrocities, and relationships with regional organizations and civil society in this regard;

- Communicate your expectation that the UN tell Member States what they need to know, not what they want to hear, whether in public or private. This is core to the UN Secretariat's role in mobilizing Member States' political will to take timely action.

We judge that these are the necessary actions in light of the important debate in the General Assembly, signaling broad international commitment to make a reality of the 2005 commitment to prevent mass atrocity crimes.

We support your leadership and stand ready to contribute to your efforts to implement the responsibility to protect. We look forward to following up with your office and colleagues in the Secretariat to discuss specific ideas and recommendations in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



William R. Pace
Executive Director
World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy



Dr. Monica Serrano
Executive Director
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Cc: Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator for the United Nations Development Programme
Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Under-Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
Mr. Francis Deng, Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
Mr. Antonio Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees
Mr. John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations
Mr. Edward Luck, Special Adviser
Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Vijay K. Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet, Under-Secretary-General
Ms. Patricia O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
Mr. Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Planning
Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs
Ms. Navanethem Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mr. Kim Won-soo, Deputy Chef de Cabinet, Assistant Secretary-General