

July 11, 2005

Dear Ambassador,

We write to you on the urgent matter of sustaining the momentum generated by governments and civil society to confront the failures of the international community to halt genocide. The High-level Plenary Meeting in September will be a singular opportunity for heads of state to commit themselves, their governments and the international community to protecting civilians in circumstances of genocide, massive human rights violations and crimes against humanity.

We ask you and your government to ensure that the *Responsibility to Protect* civilians is a key component of the September Declaration.

The *Responsibility to Protect*, like many of the reform proposals before you, should not exist unto itself. We applaud the emergence of a human security framework as a guiding principle of the reform agenda that recognizes the interconnectedness of development, security and human rights. Governments can reinforce this human security agenda by supporting the *Responsibility to Protect*. We believe that the international community should explicitly recognize that sovereignty entails duties as well as rights and must commit to using the range of preventive and reactive tools at the disposal of the United Nations, with an emphasis on prevention and peaceful reaction.

We call on your government to support language for a September UN Reform Declaration that affirms the “emerging norm” of the *Responsibility to Protect* and the many principles that this concept implies. Specifically, we ask your government to:

I. Embrace the emerging norm of the international Responsibility to Protect

We seek an affirmation that the international community has a *Responsibility to Protect* populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and agrees to act on this responsibility when governments are unable or unwilling to act.

II. Recognize that state sovereignty implies responsibility, and the primary responsibility for the protection of its people lies with the state itself

We strongly support the statement of the Secretary-General that “experience has led us to grapple with the fact that no legal principle – not even sovereignty – should ever be allowed to shield genocide, crimes against humanity and mass human suffering.” We further believe, along with the High-level Panel, that “in signing the Charter of the United Nations, States not only benefit from the privileges of sovereignty but also accept its responsibilities.”

Acceptance of the *Responsibility to Protect* will not undermine sovereignty. Rather, state recognition that sovereignty confers responsibility is consistent with the goals of protecting and promoting human rights as set forth in a growing number of international legal and political instruments. These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Covenant on Economic and Social Rights, the Genocide Convention, the Geneva Conventions and additional protocols and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The *Responsibility to Protect* principles, along with these and other

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international obligations, are fostering the transition from a culture of impunity to a culture of national and international accountability.

III. Affirm that the Responsibility to Protect spans a continuum requiring, prevention, reaction, if necessary, and rebuilding of shattered communities

The international community's *Responsibility to Protect* is a commitment to a continuum of actions from development assistance to capacity building to ensure that states are able to meet their responsibility to apply peaceful diplomatic and humanitarian efforts to prevent, and when necessary, halt crises. These measures must be consistent with the stage and degree of the crisis. Prevention must be the priority. As for the use of force, many organizations that support the emerging norm of the *Responsibility to Protect* are not able to call for the use of force in principle or in practice. We recognize, however, that if force is to be considered, it must be as a last resort, in accordance with international law, and after a good faith effort to apply preventive and peaceful reactive measures has proved to be unsuccessful.

Only in this context can the international community expect to respond to crises collectively, swiftly and legitimately.

IV. Endorse reform of the Security Council for greater transparency and accountability

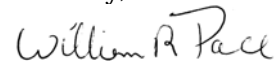
Many of the actions needed to fulfill the *Responsibility to Protect* must be authorized by the Security Council. Unfortunately, the Security Council has historically failed to respond to outbreaking crises in a swift and effective manner, pointing to an urgent need to undertake reforms of procedures and working methods. The Council requires reforms not only to be more effective, but also to be more legitimate. These include transparent voting mechanisms, consultations with non-members and mechanisms for more substantive exchanges with the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

V. Call for a code of conduct by the Security Council to fulfill its responsibility to protect

The special status conferred on the permanent members of the Security Council brings an even greater responsibility to ensure the protection of civilians. Permanent members must be called on to pledge to refrain from the use of veto in cases of genocide and large-scale human rights abuses. It is a misuse of the UN charter for permanent members to exercise the veto to advance extraneous national political interests. According to the UN Charter, the Security Council carries out its duties on behalf of all members of the UN. A commitment to refrain from using the veto in these instances would advance the fundamental purposes of the Council and the UN Charter.

Civil society members, particularly those that serve shattered communities, understand as well as any sector the price that will be paid for failure in September. We stand shoulder to shoulder with those governments that have committed to taking the bold steps necessary to achieve a successful Declaration. We hope that you will join the Secretary-General in pledging "never again" and supporting the tools necessary to make such a promise reality.

Sincerely,



William Pace
Executive Director
World Federalist Movement

**This letter is endorsed by the following organizations and networks:*

Acción Andina Bolivia: Bolivia
ACCORD: South Africa
African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET): Kenya
AJUDE- Associacao Juvenil Para o Desenvolvimento do Voluntariado em Mocambique (Mozambique's National Youth Volunteer Organization): Mozambique
Al-Khoei Foundation: United Kingdom
Alliance for Arab Women: Egypt
American Jewish World Service: United States
Arab Partnership Democracy Center: Tunisia
Association of War affected Women: Sri Lanka
BASIC: United Kingdom
Canadem- Canadian Civil Reserve: Canada
Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation: Canada
Center for Development and Democracy: Nigeria
Centre for Human for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy (CHRAPA): Cameroon
Center for Peace and Disarmament Education (CPDE): Albania
Center for Security and Peace Studies (CSPS), UGM: Indonesia
Center for the Development of International Law: United States
Centre for International Justice and Reconciliation, Youth with a Mission:
United Kingdom
Centre for Peace and Human Rights Culture (CEPAHRC): Sri Lanka
Centro Para El Desarrollo - Urbano Y Rural (CEPDUR): Peru
CHF-Partners in Rural Development: Canada
Citizens for Global Solutions: United States
Civil Liberties Committee: Malawi
Commune Council Support Project and Cambodia Millennium Campaign:
Cambodia
Crisis Management Initiative: Finland
Dalit Social Forum: India
Droits de l'Homme, Paix et Développement (Human Rights, Peace and Développement): Benin
European Centre for Conflict Prevention: The Netherlands
Federal National-cultural Autonomy Adigheans (Circassians) of Russia: The Russian Federation
Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA): Kenya
Forum Crisis Prevention and Pro UNCOPAC: Germany
Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue: Lebanon
Fund for Peace: United States
Foundation for Co-Existence: Sri Lanka
Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI): Kyrgyzstan
Fundacion Andes Chinchasuyo: Ecuador
Group of Analysis and Prevention of International Conflicts (GAPCon) at Candido Mendes University: Brazil
Heritiers De La Justice A.S.B.L.: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies (ICDS): Egypt
Indigenous Information Network: Kenya
Institut pour la Démocratie et l'Education et l'Education aux Médias au Mali (IDEM): Mali

Institute for Development Cooperation: Kazakhstan
Instituto Venezolano de Estudios Sociales y Políticos (INVESP): Venezuela
Interfaith Mediation Centre of Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum, Kaduna: Nigeria
International Alert: United Kingdom
International Crisis Group: United States
International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE): Nigeria
International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies: United States
Iraqi Network for Human Rights Culture and Development: Iraq
Irish Peace Institute: Ireland
Joint Committee for Democratization and Conciliation (JCDC): Republic of Moldova
Kontakt der Kontinenten: The Netherlands
Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency: Papua New Guinea
Mercy Corps: United States
Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy: Palestine
Minority Rights Group International: United Kingdom
Nansen Dialogue Centre Osijek: Croatia
Nansen Dialogue Network in the Balkans: Serbia and Montenegro
Network of African Peacebuilders (NAPS): Zambia (network is continent-wide)
Network of Asia Pacific Youth: India
New Sudan Council of Churches: Sudan
New Sudanese Indigenous NGOs Network (NESI Network): Sudan
One World Trust: United Kingdom
Panagtagbo Mindanao (United Indigenous Nations of Mindanao): Philippines
Peace & Community Action: Sri Lanka
Peacebuilding, Healing and Reconciliation Programme: Rwanda
Peace Tree Network: Kenya (network covers East Africa, Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa)
People's Decade for Human Rights Education: United States
Peoples' Peace Parliament: Pakistan
Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy: Ukraine
Refugees International: United States
Rural Women Peace Link: Kenya
Saferworld: United Kingdom
Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC): Somalia
Save the Children UK: United Kingdom
Social Development Foundation: India
Southern Africa Conflict Prevention Network: Zambia
UBUNTU Ad Hoc Secretariat: World Forum of Civil Society Networks: Spain
ULAC (United Lao Action Center): United States
UMAC (U Managing Conflict): South Africa
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations: United States
United Nations Association - Bulgaria: Bulgaria
United Nations Association - DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo
West Africa Network for Peacebuilding: Ghana
WI'AM, Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center: Palestine
Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD): Trinidad and Tobago
World Federalist Movement-Canada: Canada
World Vision Rwanda: Rwanda