# Excerpts of R2P related comments from UN member states

## General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Security
## 22 May 2008

*Participants*:

*Groups*:
Slovenia (EU), Iraq (Arab Group), Tonga (Pacific SIDS)

*Individual member states*:
Japan (Co-Chair of Friends of Human Security), Mexico (Co-Chair of Friends of Human Security), Greece (Chair of Human Security Network), Mongolia, Turkey, Monaco, Qatar, Egypt, Austria, Portugal, Chile, Colombia, Philippines, Cuba, Switzerland, Thailand, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Canada, Sudan, Republic of Korea, Israel

## Opening Statement by Srgjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly

It is my personal view that we need a new culture of international relations -- with the precept of **human security** at its core. Such a culture, though intrinsically embedded in the UN's ideals, was never truly enacted in practice. In our ever-more interdependent world it's more important than ever before that we embrace and enact principles of human security, international law and multilateral cooperation, human rights, **responsibility to protect** as well as protection of the environment and sustainable development.

## Jordan (Keynote address by HRH El Hasan Bin Talal)

The concept of states having a '**responsibility to protect'** (R2P) citizens of all nations, debated in recent years by the United Nations in response to escalating violence, remains more heightened and ideologically coloured than such issues commonly are. I am of the opinion that the resolution of this debate is overdue.

The question today is whether intervention in the affairs of a state is a moral duty of the international community or a violation of state sovereignty; yet there is no forward reason why sovereignty could not be shared to reflect the realities of an interdependent world.

**Egypt** (Ambassador Abdelaziz)

We should not confuse "**human security**" with attempts to use the "**responsibility to protect**" to justify intervention in domestic affairs, particularly between governments and their peoples. National governments have the primary responsibility to provide security to their citizens. The responsibility of the interventional community is to complement this role and to provide the necessary support, upon the requests and with the consent of national governments, to build their capacities in order to meet the immediate and impending challenges and threats. To enable governments to perform their sovereign role, an effective partnership needs to be established between governments, regional and international organizations and civil society, based on the principle of national ownership. "Human security" needs to be an area that unites efforts, not a cause for conflict of interests or disagreement… an area of convergence not divergence.


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**Japan** (Ambassador Shinyo) – *from Security Council Debate on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts, Tuesday, 27 May 2008*

I would like to say a few words about the meaning of **human security** in the context of the protection of civilians. For one thing, human security is a concept that complements State security and seeks the protection and empowerment of individuals, putting the livelihood and dignity of individuals at the centre of our focus. It is consistent with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and promoted in full respect of national sovereignty. It does not in any way suggest military intervention, even as a last resort, and thus differs from the notion of the **responsibility to protect**.