



**RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY**

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## **Statement Presented to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**

Your Excellency, Madam Chairperson,  
Members of the ACHPR and distinguish delegates of State Parties,

On behalf of the World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy and the International Coalition for Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), I congratulate you and members of the Commission on this 45th Ordinary Session for the journey so far in your quest for the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa.

You will recall that in September 2005 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, majority of the member states of the United Nations adopted the Responsibility to Protect norm where states expressed their commitment to the protection of civilians; and this distinguished commission, at its 42<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session in Brazzaville, the Republic of Congo, adopted a resolution (Res.117 of 07) on 'Strengthening the Responsibility to Protect in Africa'.

Your Excellency, since the adoption of the resolution, we have, and still taking steps to strengthen institutional framework for operationalising the Responsibility to Protect. We have organized seven international roundtables with three in Africa. We have also facilitated the establishment of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP). Furthermore, the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon has issued a report on "Implementing the Responsibility to Protect" (RtoP). The report is the first comprehensive UN document on the Responsibility to Protect, following Ban's stated commitment to turn the concept into policy. The RtoP norm as you know is derived from Paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document regarding the responsibility of States to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It is expected that the UN General Assembly (GA) will formally take up the report in the second half of 2009. NGOs have begun preparing for the coming GA debate, which is expected to provide an opportunity to advance the implementation of the RtoP. The report is already being circulated among member states and NGOs.

We urge the ACHPR to continue to put institutional framework in place to strengthen international justice and the fight against impunity through the creation of a special mechanism and help to translate this resolution into action. This we also think will strengthen the decision making capacity of the ACHPR in playing its statutory role for the Africa Union.

I thank you.

**A project of the World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy**  
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