HOW CIVIL SOCIETY CAN SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT PRINCIPLES

...within their networks and communities:

Identify NGOs, academics and others in your region or network with interest in bringing R2P into their work.

Publicly endorse the R2P principles by signing on to the R2PCS network at **www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/signup** or by making statements in support of R2P principles in your communications.

Raise awareness that governments have committed to the responsibility to protect principles.

Consider the following questions on how to put R2P into practice:

- What are the main questions or concerns for your NGO and community about R2P?
- Can you identify the types of crises where your NGO would consider that the international community should take measures for the protection of populations?
- What measures short of force should NGOs ask the UN, governments and regional organizations to apply?
- If measures short of force are not sufficient to prevent genocide, ethnic cleansing or similarly large scale human rights violations, would your organization consider calling for military action through the UN? Through regional organizations?
- Does your organization support the adoption by governments of formal criteria to guide the question of military intervention (that
 is, should governments be required to satisfy an analysis that the intervention is for the right intention, last resort, will use
 proportional means and carry a reasonable prospect of success)?
- Is there a crisis going on now where the responsibility to protect should apply?

...in relation to governments and parliaments:

When possible, engage government officials working on issues of human rights, protection of civilians in armed conflict, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping through letters, panel discussions, briefings and dialogues.

Visit our website to see government statements on R2P: http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/statements

Consider raising the following questions:

- Are officials aware of the commitment to R2P made at the UN Summit?
- Does the official/parliamentarian hold reservations about the R2P doctrine?
- Is your government taking steps to incorporate the responsibility to protect into its doctrines and strategies?
- What strategies and mechanisms are in place within your government for the prevention of armed conflict?
- Does your government have a mechanism to interact with civil society on these issues?

In conflict-specific situations, consider the range of possible actions that your government can take to protect vulnerable populations and call on governments to take action. Ask parliamentarians to support resolutions in favor of early and effective responses by governments to situations of genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and war crimes. Activities can include writing letters to governments and media and working in coordination with other NGOs.

(continued on reverse)



...in relation to regional and sub-regional organizations and parliaments:

When possible, engage with officials from regional or sub-regional organizations working on issues of human rights, protection of civilians in armed conflict, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping through writing letters, panel discussions, briefings and engaging in dialogues.

Consider raising the following questions:

- Are officials aware of the commitment to R2P made at the UN Summit?
- Does the organization or official hold reservations about the R2P doctrine?
- What steps is the organization taking to build capacity to take early and effective action when a crisis is looming so that the organization can fulfill the R2P?
- What strategies and mechanisms are in place within the regional or sub-regional organization for the prevention of armed conflict?
- Does the organization have a mechanism for interaction with civil society on these issues?
- How does the organization cooperate with the UN and/or other regional organizations regarding these issues?

In conflict-specific situations, consider the range of possible actions that your regional or sub-regional organization can take to protect vulnerable populations.

If you are represented by a regional parliament, reach out to parliamentarians to raise awareness and to seek resolutions endorsing R2P. Where a crisis is looming, ask parliamentarians to support resolutions in favor of early and effective responses to situations of genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and war crimes including through regional and sub-regional organizations when relevant.

...at the United Nations:

Engage with UN missions and staff on what measures should take be taken to respond at different stages of a crisis and the needs and capacities of the UN to undertake these measures.

Incorporate R2P language into your advocacy to the UN; seek inclusion of R2P language in relevant UN debates and resolutions.

Bring discussion of R2P to related agenda items, including women's rights, children's rights, protection of civilians, prevention of armed conflict and international justice.

In conflict-specific situations, call on UN missions to take action to protect vulnerable populations, with an emphasis on early diplomatic and humanitarian and other peaceful measures.

For more information, please visit the Responsibility to Protect-Engaging Civil Society website at www.responsibilitytoprotect.org or contact us at info@responsibilitytoprotect.org