

*This past 11-13 July 2008, Wilton Park hosted a conference on implementing the **Responsibility to Protect***

: The Role of Regional and Subregional Partners. The full conference report, which can be found here, includes the following findings:

As a general rule, the operationalisation of **RtoP** will rely on how successfully political will is mobilised;

Although the third pillar (response) should not be neglected, it is important to achieve the right balance between the three pillars (response, protect and assistance);

Maybe there is an over-emphasis on the state-centric approach - civil society organisations and the private sector may become more important actors;

Involvement, coherence and identity: it is important to mainstream **RtoP** within international and regional organisations so it becomes part of standard operating procedures;

There is a need to work on defining and expanding preventive activities;

There is some general iscomfort with the concept within the humanitarian community and how it may impinge or impact on humanitarian work;

Political leadership that mobilises action, allied to civil society organisations to generate interest and create pressure, collectively serves to energise capabilities and capacity;

There is a need to find better ways of coping with inconsistent application of the principle of **RtoP** taking into account what is politically feasible and materially achievable in any given situation;

The international community should retain the present three-pillar definition used in paragraphs 138/139 of the World Summit Outcome Document (and then elaborated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a speech in Berlin on 15 July 2008, following the Wilton Park meeting).

Full Report: www.wiltonpark.org.uk/documents/conferences/WP922/pdfs/WP922.pdf