

The Responsibility to Protect: Views from South Africa, Brazil, India and Germany Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

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Around 80 participants attended the dialogue meeting on “Responsibility to Protect (R2P)” that took place on 7th June at the Institute for Security Studies’ (ISS) office in Pretoria.

The meeting brought together high-ranking representatives of the Foreign Ministries of South Africa, Germany, India and Brazil, representatives of international think tanks from all participating countries, Members of Parliament, students, and the civil society. (...)

(...) The conference sought to establish a platform for multilateral dialogue between Germany, India, Brazil and South Africa (GIBSA countries) in the area of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). (...)

The conference was opened with a keynote speech on the concept of R2P and its transition from political principle to policy framework. (...) As key challenges, the speaker mentioned the need for a renewed practical focus on prevention including the required capacity building, more accountability mechanisms in resolutions, and functioning partnerships between the UN and regional organisations.

The following two sessions reflected the positions of the four GIBSA countries: Germany, India, Brazil and South Africa. The speaker who presented the South African perspective was of the opinion that South Africa has yet to formulate a comprehensive framework on R2P. (...)

The next speaker presented Germany’s position and stressed the country’s early involvement in the development of R2P. He stated that Germany is in a key position to contribute to the development of the conceptual and strategic dimensions of the norm. (...)

(...) With regard to R2P, the Indian government stresses the need to respect the unity, territorial integrity, and independence of individual states. The speaker is of the opinion that this position is unlikely to change in the near future.

The presenter of the Brazilian perspective referred to the lack of material capacity and the importance of non-material values for Brazil, such as multilateralism and peaceful means of

dispute resolution. (...) The RwP concept was characterised as complementary to R2P with a focus on prevention, more accountability, and responsible use of force. The speaker concluded with an overview of possible strategic global partnerships for the implementation of R2P/RwP, including with South Africa, India and Germany.

The last session of the day included student presentations and a panel discussion. (...)

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