

ICRtoP

General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect

1. Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to convey my gratitude for the opportunity to speak today, and thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights for moderating and the panelists for their interventions.
2. My name is Gus Miclat and I am the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Initiatives for International Dialogue, a regional advocacy and peace-building organization based in the Philippines. I am also a Steering Committee member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect, which is the only global civil society network working to protect populations through the implementation of RtoP.
3. My full statement is being distributed.
4. I would like to start by welcoming the Secretary-General's latest report. Like the Secretary-General, I believe that informed and coordinated collective action is one of the most powerful tools for prevention. For example, this can be seen in the strides that the Mindanao Peaceweavers and the All-Out Peace movement, two of the broadest civil society peace networks in my country that my organization anchors, have made towards the peace process there.
5. While the efforts of these networks have found success in linking the perspectives and aspirations of those affected by conflict to the peace process, I have also seen the disastrous outcomes that arise when there is a failure to prevent. In my region we have witnessed such horrible events as the commission of mass atrocities in Cambodia, Indonesia, and East Timor, along with the current and increasingly dire plight and statelessness of the Rohingya in Burma.
6. As these situations all too clearly show, one of the most perplexing obstacles that RtoP faces is the failure to invest in prevention. Central to moving words to deeds is the development of coordinated and inclusive prevention initiatives and policies that are in sustained partnership with or informed by civil society. The ICRtoP encourages Member States to invest in building and institutionalizing relationships with civil society so that collectively we can work to prevent future crimes.
7. An additional measure that will support the development and implementation of preventive policies and action is the mainstreaming of RtoP. By better understanding sectors with similar peace and security objectives and exploring existing efforts that can address atrocity risks, we can develop more informed and effective approaches to prevention.
8. Furthermore, Mr. President, as the UN body tasked with making the greatest international peace and security decisions, the Security Council bears responsibility to take leadership in upholding the international community's RtoP. The ICRtoP strongly encourages all Member States to demonstrate their support for strengthening unity in the Council when it faces imminent or ongoing atrocities through expressing or reaffirming their support for the ACT Group's Code of Conduct, as well as for the French and Mexican led political declaration.
9. The ICRtoP also urges Member States to develop and adopt a new General Assembly resolution that reaffirms their commitment to RtoP, recalls the primacy of preventing these crimes, expresses support for the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and RtoP, and formalizes the annual dialogue process.
10. Finally, Mr. President, the ICRtoP continues to stand steadfast in its commitment to serve as a partner for actors at all levels as we work to prevent atrocity crimes and advance RtoP into its next decade. Thank you.