

Rwanda's proposed new language for the
Responsibility to Protect

We agree that the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity lies first and foremost with each individual State. We also agree that the responsibility to protect entails a responsibility to prevent such crimes, including by preventing incitement. We accept that responsibility and agree to act in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support the efforts of the United Nations to establish an early-warning capability. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, including under Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter to help protect civilian populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In this context, we recognize our shared responsibility to take collective action in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council and, as appropriate, in cooperation with relevant regional organizations, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, should peaceful means prove insufficient and national authorities are unwilling or unable to protect their populations.
