

## 2019-2021 UN Human Rights Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

Today the UN General Assembly elected Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Fiji, India, Italy, Philippines, Somalia, Togo and Uruguay to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2019-2021 term. With the elections of Argentina, Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy and Uruguay, 20 of the 47 Council members during 2019 are also members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect in Geneva.

The Human Rights Council and its mechanisms - including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), special procedures and treaty bodies, as well as the technical assistance provided by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – all play an essential role in providing early warning of the risk factors that can lead to crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and genocide. A strong and credible HRC can help uphold the international community's Responsibility to Protect. Mass atrocity crimes are often the culmination of sustained human rights violations and abuses.

Unfortunately, this year's HRC election once again saw 'clean slates' in all of the regional groups. Clean slate elections threaten to undermine the credibility of the HRC as they do not encourage states to demonstrate their commitment to the highest standards of human rights, including their full cooperation with all UN mechanisms. These are conditions set forth in UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251 for all HRC members. Moreover, the fact that potential mass atrocity crimes are occurring in a number of current and newly elected HRC member states is particularly disturbing.

Since 2008, the HRC has referred to states' responsibility to protect their populations in 39 thematic and country resolutions. But more work needs to be done to turn early warning into timely preventive action. In this regard, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect encourages all HRC members to:

- Improve the link between human rights and peace and security:
  - Support the Swiss Appeal of 13 June 2016 to put human rights at the center of conflict prevention, by asking the UN Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Security Council relevant decisions and reports by the Human Rights Council;
  - Encourage the UN General Assembly to ensure information collected by special procedures and international investigative mechanisms is relayed to the Security Council in a timely manner;
  - Promote a thematic dialogue on human rights and the prevention of mass atrocities.
- Make better use of the UPR to detect early signs of potential mass atrocity crimes:
  - In preparation for your national report, consider what action your government has taken to uphold its responsibility to protect nationally.
  - Use the UPR to ask relevant questions regarding the ratification and implementation of core prevention treaties, as well as regarding risk factors such as the use of hate speech and systematic violations and abuses of human rights;
  - Where an imminent risk of mass atrocity crimes is detected, Council members should act in a timely manner, by holding a special session before these violations reach the level of mass atrocity crimes;

- Make use of the Irish Principles, which lay out independent and objective considerations to guide decisions on whether and when the HRC should respond to a country-specific situation.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly-elected Human Rights Council members. These provide a basic overview of their commitment to prevent mass atrocities by protecting and promoting human rights.

## Argentina

**Head of State:** President Mauricio Macri

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Jorge Marcelo Faurie

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Carlos Mario Foradori

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2008-2011, 2013-2015
UN Security Council Membership:	1948-1949, 1959-1960, 1966-1967, 1971-1972, 1987-1988, 1994-1995, 1999-2000, 2005-2006, 2013-2014
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	292
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 4 February 1985 Ratification: 24 September 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Ratification: 14 December 2007
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2022 Previous Reviews: April 2008, October 2012, November 2017
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 8 February 2001
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 5 June 1956
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013 Ratification: 25 September 2014

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Build the HRC's capacity for effective action in emergency situations of grave violations of human rights
- Support the strengthening and independence of special procedures
- Develop new forums to increase participation by members of civil society
- Participate in OAS working groups focusing on elderly persons
- Promote adoption of national action plans on SC resolution 1325
- Implement a gender perspective in various national reviews and plans

**On R2P:** “The Final Outcome of the 2005 Summit embodies a commitment that constitutes no new norm, but is a political concept summarizing all international obligations of States under international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law. Since the beginning, Argentina supports the concept of R2P.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2013)

## Austria

**Head of Government:** Chancellor Sebastian Kurz

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Ms. Karin Kneissl

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Ms. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2011-2014
UN Security Council Membership:	1973-1974, 1991-1992, 2009-2010
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	202
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 14 March 1985 Ratification: 29 July 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 7 June 2012
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2020 Previous Reviews: January 2011, November 2015
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 28 December 2000
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 19 March 1958
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013 Ratification: 3 June 2014

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Strengthen the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities
- Integrate a human rights-based approach into development cooperation
- Improve the framework conditions created for the integration of refugees and migrants

**On R2P:** “The main aim of the responsibility to protect (R2P) is to protect civilian populations from genocide and other mass atrocities, based on the clear understanding that the sovereignty of States implies important responsibilities. Austria was and is a strong advocate for the inclusion of R2P into the World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) by world leaders in 2005. Based on a broad consensus, this decision sent an important and universal message on the need to protect the populations of the world from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as well as from the incitement to such crimes. This call was an unprecedented step towards ensuring that the atrocities of the past will not be repeated.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2009)

## Bahamas

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Alexander Minnis

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Darren Allan Henfield

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** Mr. Frank Davis (Chargé d'affaires)

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	None
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	---
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	0
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 16 December 2008 Ratification: 31 May 2018
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	---
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: January 2023 Previous Reviews: December 2008, January 2013, January 2018
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signature: 29 December 2000
Genocide Convention:	Succession: 5 August 1975
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013 Ratification: 25 September 2014

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Centralize human rights in the global discourse
- Mainstream human rights issues through the work of the UN system
- Promote increased participation by CARICOM in the work of the HRC
- Work within regional organizations to promote human rights at the regional level
- Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (Paris Principles)

**On R2P:** *Bahamas has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

## Bahrain

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	None
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2008-2011
UN Security Council Membership:	1998-1999
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	0
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 6 March 1998
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	---
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2022 Previous Reviews: April 2008, May 2012, May 2017
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signature: 11 December 2000
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 27 March 1990
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 21 November 2013

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Continue its efforts to promote male and female empowerment and equal opportunities
- Protect and guarantee the rights of children
- Support the UN's efforts to combat trafficking in persons
- Support initiatives to promote religious freedom and eliminate any incitement to sectarianism, violence, anti-nationalism, religious or racial hatred
- Strengthen human rights bodies in their preventive and protective activities
- Take concrete steps to promote the Sustainable Development Goals

**On R2P:** *Bahrain has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

## Bangladesh

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Abdul Mahmood Ali

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Shameen Ahsan

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

### Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012, 2015-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	1979-1980, 2000-2001
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	7,079
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 5 October 1998
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	---
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2023 Previous Reviews: February 2009, April 2013, May 2018
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 23 March 2010
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 5 October 1998
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 26 September 2013

#### **Human Rights Council Priorities:**

- Strengthen cooperation among members of the HRC to make it an effective and efficient body
- Promote the realization of the right to development
- Continue to combat climate change
- Fight against racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia
- Advocate for the well-being of migrant and refugees
- Create awareness of genocide and crimes against humanity and promote collective action to prevent international crimes

**On R2P:** “The interactive dialogue has been indicative of the possible synergies and complementarities among the UN’s humanitarian response, development and sustaining peace initiatives towards atrocity prevention. There is evident scope for better utilizing the various human rights institutional mechanisms for supporting evidence-based risk assessment, early warning and mitigation measures.” (UN General Assembly Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

## Bulgaria

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Boyko Borissov

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Ms. Ekaterina Zaharieva

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Ms. Deyana Kostadinova

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	None
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

### Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Eastern European Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	1966-1967, 1986-1987, 2002-2003
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	4
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 10 June 1986 Ratification: 16 December 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 24 September 2008
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2020 Previous Reviews: November 2010, May 2015
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2018: A/HRC/L.29 (DPRK)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 11 April 2002
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 21 July 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 2 June 2013 Ratification: 2 April 2014

#### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support efforts aimed at strengthening the independence, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the treaty bodies and the special procedures
- Support efforts to bring grave country-specific situations to the attention of the UN, and ensure that these are addressed properly, by demanding accountability and by ending impunity
- Work on, encourage and support initiatives in the following thematic areas: civil society participation; human rights defenders, rights of the child; gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence; and human trafficking

**On R2P:** “We appreciate the Secretary-General’s report entitled “Implementation of the Responsibility to Protect” of January 2009 as an important and timely outline and state our firm interest to further discuss and elaborate on the concept. We hope that with the recently adopted GA resolution this concept will be implemented.” (Statement at the Opening of the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, 2009)



## Burkina Faso

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Paul Kaba Thiéba

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Alpha Barry

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Dieudonné W. Désiré Sougouri

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	None
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No

### Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2008-2011, 2011-2014
UN Security Council Membership:	1984-1985, 2008-2009
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	2,114
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 4 January 1999
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 3 December 2009
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2023 Previous Reviews: December 2008, April 2013, May 2018
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 16 April 2004
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 14 September 1965
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013 Ratification: 3 June 2014

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Ensure more effective enjoyment of human rights worldwide, in the service of peace and development
- Take effective action against human rights abuses

**On R2P:** *Burkina Faso has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

## Cameroon

**Head of State:** President Paul Biya

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Lejeune Mbella Mbella

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Anatole Fabien Nkou

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012
UN Security Council Membership:	1974-1975, 2002-2003
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	1,129
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 19 December 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2023 Previous Reviews: February 2009, April 2013, May 2018
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signature: 17 July 1998
Genocide Convention:	---
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 December 2014 Ratification: 18 June 2018

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Ensure peace through respect of fundamental liberties and rights

**On R2P:** “It should be emphasized, first of all, that two lines of opinion were expressed at the time. The first suggested that the title should be "Responsibility to Protect" altogether, implying a concomitant of a new standard. The other trend was towards a practical approach, indicating clearly and restrictively to specific topics of serious concern already well known and not subject to any legal quibble. This is how genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity came to the fore.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2009)

## Czech Republic

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Andrej Babiš

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Jan Hamáček

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Jan Kára

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

### Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Eastern European Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2011-2014
UN Security Council Membership:	1994-1995
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	15
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Succession: 22 February 1993
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 19 July 2016 Ratification: 8 February 2017
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2022 Previous Reviews: April 2008, October 2012, November 2017
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 21 July 2009
Genocide Convention:	Succession: 22 February 1993
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013 Ratification: 25 September 2014

#### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Support an adequate and timely response to human rights violations
- Promote freedom of expression and information
- Cooperate with the OHCHR to advocate for its independence and impartiality
- Support equal participation in political and public affairs
- Support the engagement of non-governmental organizations with the HRC
- Support the protection of human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance

**On R2P and Human Rights Council Mechanisms:** “As a candidate country to the Human Rights Council, the Czech Republic remains committed to R2P. We encourage the preventive role of the Human Rights Council in accordance with its mandate. We stress the important role that Geneva-based institutions and mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review and Special Procedures mandate holders, can play in preventing and responding to mass atrocity crimes, as well as the importance of regular UNSC briefings on mass atrocity situations by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2018)

## Denmark

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Anders Samuelsen

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Morten Jespersen

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes

### Relevant Background Information

Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	1953-1954, 1967-1968, 1985-1986, 2005-2006
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	23
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 4 February 1985 Ratification: 27 May 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 25 September 2007
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: January 2021 Previous Reviews: May 2011, January 2016
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2018: A/HRC/39/L.20 (Syria), A/HRC/39/L.10 (DRC), A/HRC/39/L.9 (CAR) 2012: A/HRC/RES/19/22 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 21 June 2001
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 28 September 1949 Ratification: 15 June 1951
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote the rights of women to achieve equality among women and men
- End the use of torture
- Respect for the right of indigenous people
- Advance the rule of law as the cornerstone of international and national structures of society
- Promote mutual understanding among HRC members and stakeholders
- Support the OHCHR and the HRC's role in providing human rights capacity-building and technical assistance to countries
- Advance new, effective, and innovative ways of working in the HRC and mainstreaming human rights across the UN

**On R2P and HRC Mechanisms:** “Implementation of our responsibility to protect is an important part of the wider prevention agenda, which also includes the vital Human Rights Up Front Initiative. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General’s pledges to bring atrocity risks to the attention of all relevant UN organs and to encourage a more integrated approach to atrocity prevention within the United Nations.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2018)

## Eritrea

**Head of State:** President Isaias Afwerki

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh Mohammed

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Bereket Woldeyohannes (Chargé d'affaires)

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	None
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	---
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	0
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 25 September 2014
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	---
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: January 2019 Previous Reviews: November 2009, January 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Signature: 7 October 1998
Genocide Convention:	---
Arms Trade Treaty:	---

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Protecting and promoting human rights at the national level
- Promoting international partnership and dialogue on human rights
- Advocating an effective and credible HRC

**On R2P:** *Eritrea has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

## Fiji

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2016
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	---
Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:	619
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratification: 14 March 2016
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	---
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2019 Previous Reviews: February 2010, October 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 29 November 1999
Genocide Convention:	Succession: 11 January 1973
Arms Trade Treaty:	---

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Emphasize the importance of prevention in addressing human rights violations
- Champion the global recognition of the universal right to a safe and healthy environment
- Continue to build bridges between the human rights and climate change communities, to better inform the implementation of the Paris Agreement

**On R2P:** “We echo the sentiments in the Secretary-General’s report that the necessity and relevance of the Responsibility to Protect is even stronger now in the face of the growing conflicts and crises in our world today. This need, of course, is to be complemented by political commitments and the framework for action to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This is the opportune moment for us to take steps forward and to build further on articles 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome Document.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2016)

## India

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Ms. Sushma Swaraj

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Rajiv Kumar Chander

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2007-2010, 2011-2014, 2014-2017
UN Security Council Membership:	1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992, 2011-2012
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	6,701
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 14 October 1997
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2022 Previous Reviews: April 2008, May 2012, May 2017
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	---
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 29 November 1949 Ratification: 27 August 1959
Arms Trade Treaty:	---

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Promote the work of the HRC in accordance with the principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect, cooperation and dialogue
- Cooperate with states in the implementation of human rights through capacity-building
- Combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Foster genuine participation of civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights

**On R2P:** “India, like many others, has little disagreement with the rationale of the cardinal features of Pillars I and II of the Responsibility to Protect. However, we are of the view that appropriate ways need to be found to address the legally complex and politically challenging issues which underlie Pillar III. In our view, the ability of the international community to take appropriate collective action is a state manifestly fails to fulfill its responsibility to protect its population is still ridden with serious gaps that need to be reflected upon.” (UN General Assembly Debate on R2P, 2018).

## Italy

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Enzo Moavero Milanesi

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Gian Lorenzo Cornado

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2007-2010, 2011-2014
UN Security Council Membership:	1959-1960, 1971-1972, 1975-1976, 1987-1988, 1995-1996, 2007-2008, 2017
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	1,055
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 4 February 1985 Ratification: 12 January 1989
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 3 July 2007 Ratification: 8 October 2015
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next review: November 2019 Previous Reviews: February 2010, October 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	2018: A/HRC/38/L.20 (Syria), A/HRC/37/L.38 (Syria), A/HRC/39/L.20 (Syria) 2017: A/HRC/RES/36/20 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/35/26 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/34/26 (Syria) 2016: A/HRC/RES/33/23 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/32/25 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/31/17 (Syria) 2015: A/HRC/RES/30/10 (Syria) 2014: A/HRC/RES/26/23 (Syria), A/HRC/RES/25/23 (Syria)
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 26 July 1999
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 4 June 1952
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013 Ratification: 2 April 2014

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Improve the effectiveness of the UPR process
- Support special procedures established by the HRC
- Promote human rights education and awareness campaigns
- Enhance the role of civil society
- Promote the rights of women and girls
- Strengthen efforts to end the death penalty



- Fight against human trafficking

**On R2P:** “There is no longer any doubt that the protection of populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity is at the same time a national and international responsibility. Yet, atrocity crimes continue to take a devastating toll on humanity, while the international community spends far more time and resources responding to crises than on preventing them.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2017)

## Philippines

**Head of State:** President Rodrigo Duterte

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Alan Peter S. Cayetano

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Evan P. Garcia

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2007, 2007-2010, 2011-2014, 2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1957, 1963, 1980-1981, 2004-2005
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	26
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 18 June 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	---
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: May 2022 Previous Reviews: April 2008, May 2012, May 2017
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 30 August 2011
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 11 December 1948 Ratification: 7 July 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 25 September 2013

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Foster dialogue and cooperation to make the HRC efficient and effective
- Be a voice for vulnerable groups
- Be sensitive to current and emerging challenges that impact on human rights
- Uphold the universality of the UPR
- Interact and cooperate with civil society stakeholders on human right issues

**On R2P and HRC Mechanisms:** “The Philippines support the Human Rights Council and its mechanism for accountability. In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 16, all relevant actors should focus on cooperation in employing the full range of diplomatic, humanitarian, and developmental measures to build the resilience of all countries in discharging their responsibility to protect their populations” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on the R2P, 2017)

## Somalia

**Head of State:** Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Ahmed Awad Isse

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Ms. Faduma Abdullahi Mohamud

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	No
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	---
UN Security Council Membership:	1971-1972
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	0
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Accession: 24 January 1990
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	---
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: January 2021 Previous Reviews: May 2011, January 2016
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	---
Genocide Convention:	---
Arms Trade Treaty:	---

**Human Rights Council Priorities:** No Information Available

**On R2P and HRC Mechanisms:** *Somalia has yet to formally comment on the Responsibility to Protect.*

## Togo

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Komi Sélom Klassou

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Robert Dussey

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Yackoley Kokou Johnson

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2013
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	African Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2016-2018
UN Security Council Membership:	1982-1983, 2012-2013
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	1,440
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Signature: 25 March 1987 Ratification: 18 November 1987
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 27 October 2010 Ratification: 21 July 2014
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: November 2021 Previous Reviews: October 2011, November 2016
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	---
Genocide Convention:	Accession: 24 May 1984
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013 Ratification: 8 October 2015

**Human Rights Council Priorities:** No Information Available

**On R2P:** “My country understands the Responsibility to Protect primarily as the act of taking all necessary measures underlying in national laws and international law to prevent any tension which could potentially be the source of atrocities.” (UN General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 2013)

## Uruguay

**Head of State:** President Tabaré Vázquez

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa

**Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva:** H.E. Mr. Ricardo González Arenas

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue:	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Relevant Background Information	
Regional Group:	Latin American and Caribbean Group
Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2009, 2009-2012
UN Security Council Membership:	1965-1966, 2016-2017
Contributions to UN Peacekeeping:	951
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:	Ratification: 24 October 1986
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance:	Signature: 6 February 2007 Ratification: 4 March 2009
Universal Periodic Review (UPR):	Next Review: January 2019 Previous Reviews: May 2009, January 2014
HRC R2P Resolutions co-sponsorship:	None
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratification: 28 June 2002
Genocide Convention:	Signature: 11 December 1948 Ratification: 11 July 1967
Arms Trade Treaty:	Signature: 3 June 2013 Ratification: 25 September 2014

### Human Rights Council Priorities:

- Deepen the measures aimed at: achieving gender equality, and preventing and eradicating gender-based violence; approving a bill on trafficking in persons; and combating racial discrimination
- Adopt a protocol of action for complaints related to situations of racism, xenophobia or any other forms of discrimination
- Continue to cooperate with the special procedures and treaty bodies

**On R2P:** “Our world today is shaken by atrocity crimes where daily violence is carried out against millions of civilians who are innocent. This is perpetrated by armed groups or by states in blatant breach of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Given this dark international context, Uruguay considers that the Responsibility to Protect does take on its true dimension. There is now no doubt that its proper and effective implementation is necessary. We welcome the proposal of the Secretary-General to prioritize the prevention agenda in order to put an end to atrocity crimes.” (UN General Assembly Interactive Informal Dialogue R2P, 2017)