

**References to the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP, R2P) in Security Council Presidential Statements** Note: To see a list of references to RtoP in Security Council resolutions, click [here](#)

2011:

**Maintenance of International Peace and Security:**

[S/PRST/2011/18](#)

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“reaffirms the responsibility of each individual State to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity”

**2013: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict:** [S/PRST/2013/2](#) “The Security Council recognises that States bear the primary responsibility to protect civilians as well as respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, as provided for by relevant international law.”

“The Security Council reaffirms the relevant provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including paragraphs 138 and 139 thereof regarding the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.”

**Peace and Security in Africa:**

[S/PRST/2013/4](#)

“The Security Council reaffirms its strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and emphasizes in this context the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and, to that end, to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of international humanitarian law, also in the context of conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The Council underlines the importance of raising awareness of and ensuring respect of all applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, stresses the importance of the responsibility to protect as outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, including the primary responsibility of Member States to protect their populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Council further underlines the role of the international community in encouraging and helping States, including through

capacity-building, to meet their primary responsibility. The Council looks forward to the 2013 UN Secretary-General report on the Responsibility to Protect. The Council further recalls the important role of the Secretary-General's Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect in matters relating to the prevention and resolution of conflict.

### **Children and Armed Conflict:**

[S/PRST/2013/8](#)

“The Security Council stresses that ending impunity and holding perpetrators accountable is a crucial element in halting and preventing violations and abuses committed against children and recalls the primary responsibility of States in that regard, including to hold accountable those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes perpetrated against children. “

### **The Situation in the Middle East (Syria):**

[S/PRST/2013/15](#)

“...The Council urges all parties to immediately cease and desist from all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and calls on all parties to fully respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and to take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including by desisting from attacks directed against civilian objects, such as medical centres, schools and water stations, and also calls on all parties to avoid establishing military positions in populated areas. The Council recalls in this regard that the Syrian authorities bear the primary responsibility to protect their populations.”

**2014:**

### **Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict:** [\(S/PRST/2014/3\)](#)

“The Security Council recalls that States bear the primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of their citizens, as well as all individuals within their territory as provided for by relevant international law and reaffirms the responsibility of each individual State to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.”

### **Central Africa:** [S/PRST/2014/8\)](#):

“The Security Council underlines the primary responsibility of States in the LRA-affected region to protect civilians.”

### **Women and Peace and Security:** [S/PRST/2014/21:](#)

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\_\_ “The Security Council reaffirms the primary responsibility of Member States in the protection of their populations, including refugee and internally displaced women and girls.”

**2015:**

**Maintenance of international peace and security:** [S/PRST/2015/3](#) :

“The Security Council reiterates the primary responsibility of Member States to protect civilian populations on their territories, in accordance with their obligations under international law.”

**2017:**

**The Situation in the Central African Republic:** [S/PRST/2017/5](#)

“The Security Council deplores all attacks against civilians, abuses and violations of human rights and the looting of humanitarian premises. The Security Council is deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in the country, including the situation of refugees and internally displaced

persons, where nearly half of the estimated 4.6 million Central Africans are in need of humanitarian assistance.

**Peace consolidation in West Africa:** [S/PRST/2017/2](#)

“The Security Council reiterates deep concern over the dire humanitarian situation caused by the activities of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin region. In this regard, the Security Council calls international community to immediately support the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance for the people most affected by the crisis in Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, including by fulfilling the United Nations appeal for the Lake Chad Basin region. It also urges regional governments to facilitate access for humanitarian organizations and to work with the United Nations and international partners to develop viable options for delivering aid

**Reports of the Secretary General on the Sudan and South Sudan:** [S/PRST/2017/4](#)

“The Security Council condemns reported human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, as applicable, and expresses deep alarm at the numerous and ongoing reports of sexual and gender-based violence and recruitment and use of children in violation of international law in South Sudan. The Security Council underscores the pressing need for accountability for any violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law. The Security Council calls for swift implementation of Chapter V of the Agreement, and expects all relevant parties mentioned in the Agreement to take all necessary steps towards the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan. The Security Council also stresses that the Commission of Truth, Reconciliation and S/PRST/2017/4 2/3 17-04756 Healing, as stipulated in the Agreement, is a critical part of the peacebuilding process in South Sudan.

### **The situation in the Central African Republic: [S/PRST/2017/9](#)**

“The Security Council deplores all attacks against civilians, abuses and violations of human rights, including those involving sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, as well as the looting of humanitarian premises and reiterates the urgent and imperative need to hold accountable all perpetrators of such abuses and violations, irrespective of their status or political affiliation “The Security Council reiterates that some of those acts may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and recalls that, following the request of the national authorities, the Prosecutor of the ICC opened in 2014 an investigation into alleged crimes committed since 2012. “The Security Council underlines the importance of the fight against impunity and takes note in this regard the report of the Mapping Project documenting serious violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law committed within the territory of the CAR between January 2003 and December 2015. The Security Council calls for the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court as well as the restoration of the judiciary, criminal justice and penitentiary systems throughout the country”