

### RtoP in the 2005 World Summit

**Member States embraced the Responsibility to Protect populations in paragraph 138-139 of the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit.**

In an historic gathering of world leaders in New York for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (2005 World Summit), heads of state and government reached consensus on the Responsibility to Protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. [Read the text of their commitment to protect vulnerable populations.](#)

The World Summit was the culmination of a multi-year process to reassess the role of the United Nations in an ever-changing world on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary. Two reports were prepared in advance of the World Summit: one to review the new security landscape prepared by the [High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change](#) and another by the [Millennium Project](#) to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals. The Secretary-General issued his own report, [In Larger Freedom](#), which set the agenda for the World Summit and paved the way for world leaders to embrace the Responsibility to Protect.

#### **More Reforms Needed**

RtoP was one of many reforms considered, and in some cases agreed to, during the World Summit that could improve the international community's ability to protect vulnerable populations. Following the World Summit, the Peacebuilding Commission was created in June 2006, and the Human Rights Council was created on 15 March 2006.

Still more reforms are needed to enable the international community and individual governments to fulfill their Responsibility to Protect. Some of these reforms include: Security Council reform to encourage permanent members of the Security Council to refrain from using the veto in cases of genocide; reform of the Security Council working methods; better cooperation between the U.N. system and regional organizations on the protection of peoples; the development of an international early-warning capability; implementation of the Kofi Annans Plan of Action on the Prevention of Genocide; improved mechanisms for implementing Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security; and further consideration of criteria for the use of force under Chapter VII of the Security-Council.

See [Secretary General Ban ki-Moons report](#) on the RtoP for more recommendations on implementing the norm at the UN.

[R2P CS Press Release](#)

[Letter to UN Ambassadors](#)

[Media Coverage of the World Summit](#)

[UN Fact Sheet on the World Summit Outcomes](#)

Also, view the [key developments on RtoP at the UN since the 2005 World Summit](#)

Track on-going negotiations on many of these issues at our affiliated site [ReformtheUN.org](http://ReformtheUN.org) .  
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