

Resolution “UEF Support to the Responsibility to Protect Principle” Union of European Federalists 13
November 2011

Adopted by the UEF Federal Committee on 13 November, the following Resolution affirms the principle of Responsibility to Protect and calls on the European Union to more effectively implement RtoP’s preventive elements.

Bearing in mind that in October 2005 the United Nations’ member states unanimously endorsed the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) principle in the World Summit Outcome Document affirming that each state had ‘the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity’ and should any state be found to be ‘manifestly failing to protect their populations’ from these four crimes, the world’s governments committed themselves ‘to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter;

Noting that the UN Charter grants the five permanent members of the Security Council (P5) veto power in areas related to Security Council decision-making, Charter amendments, and the appointment of the Secretary-General;

Acknowledging the success in the application of the principle of RtoP in Libya under which the NATO-led intervention managed to contain a potential carnage by the forces of Muammar al Gaddafi;

Recognising the controversy triggered by the interpretation of the UN mandate by the NATO-led coalition to link protection of civilians to regime change which raised concern by civil society organisations and bodies such as the African Union which expressed “concern at the dangerous precedence being set by one-sided interpretations of resolutions 1970 and 1973, in an attempt to provide a legal authority for military and other actions on the ground that are clearly outside the scope of these resolutions”
;

Bearing in mind that the RtoP principle is about protecting civilians from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing with a range of measures, not just military intervention and also emphasises that, the international community should encourage and help states to exercise this responsibility and prevention is a key element of the concept;

Bearing in mind the financial costs that running such operations have on shrinking national

budgets –of the countries participating in coalitions to implement UNSC resolutions- which might hijack potential necessary interventions in the future;

UEF considers that

- The RtoP is the right framework to operate within the UN;
- Financial implications of activities in the framework of the third pillar of RtoP should increasingly fall on new resources to be raised and pooled by the UN system and not solely be shouldered by those countries volunteering to intervene,

UEF calls the EU to make all efforts to build up its own capacities for more effectively applying the preventive elements of RtoP further pursue and expand the application of the RtoP to the cases of mass atrocities and enhance the EEAS activities in that regard.

Read the
[resolution](#)