

Government statements on the Responsibility to Protect Africa Region 2005-2008

Country	Speaker	Excerpt
Benin	Ambassador Jean-Marie Ehouzou	<p>Conflict prevention is an essential aspect of the Security Council's mandate emanating from Chapter VI of the Charter and, more specifically, its Article 34. The Council has made considerable efforts to meet the challenges identified. Its various initiatives are based on the 10 principles of conflict prevention set out in the Secretary-General's first report on the subject (S/2001/574), dated 7 June 2001, to which are added the recently defined criteria for the exercise by the international community of the responsibility to protect.</p> <p>(...) It is clear that the United Nations system in conducting peacekeeping operations has, until recently, operated with marginal involvement by regional organizations. The time has come to make the necessary changes in order to make it possible for the organizations to fully play their role in the collective security system established by the Charter - both in terms of the doctrine of peace operations and in the allocation of related resources.</p> <p><i>(Security Council Open Debate on Maintenance of Peace and Security in Africa, UN Security Council, 28 August 2007)</i></p>
Botswana	President Festus G. Mogae	<p>Guaranteeing the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one aspect of the UN's broader mandate to protect our populations. We can no longer afford to stand back if a country fails to protect its citizens against grave human [r]ight abuses. In this respect, we embrace to concept of "responsibility to protect."</p> <p><i>(World Summit General Assembly, 60th Session, 14-16 September 2005)</i></p>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ambassador Itoua Apoyolo	<p>I cannot conclude without recalling the idea of the responsibility to protect, which was set out at the September 2005 World Summit. We strongly support that idea, for it is up to the parties to a conflict to guarantee access for humanitarian personnel to populations in need. My delegation also believes that the creation of a safe environment for people and groups at risk must continue to be a fundamental objective of peacekeeping operations. We also remain convinced that the best protection is to be found in strict respect for international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions and international human rights and criminal law.</p> <p><i>(Security Council First Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, UN Security Council, 28 June 2006)</i></p>

Zimbabwe	President R.G. Mugabe	<p>The vision that we must present for a future United Nations should not be one filled with vague concepts that provide an opportunity for those states that seek to interfere in the internal affairs of other states. Concepts such as “humanitarian intervention” and the “responsibility to protect” need careful scrutiny in order to test the motives of their proponents.</p> <p><i>(World Summit General Assembly, 60th Session, September 2005)</i></p>
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