



## Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

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No. 368

JUN - 3 2014

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to note verbale No. DPA/OSAPG/2014/1001 dated 6 May 2014, has the honor to enclose, herewith, the Comments and responses of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Questionnaire about the 2014 Report of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 3 June 2014

The Executive Office of Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York



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**Comments and responses of The Islamic Republic of Iran  
on the Questionair about  
the 2014 Report of the Secretary General  
on the Responsibility to Protect**

1. It seems encouraging that the upcoming report of the Secretary General would be addressing the prevention aspect of the Responsibility to Protect. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been emphasizing the vitality of addressing the root causes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against populations in different situations across the world.
2. It has been evident that the previous five reports by the Secretary General on Responsibility to protect were more or less preoccupied with the current conflicts or situations of the time, depriving the report from being comprehensive, inclusive and universal in its approach towards the Responsibility to Protect.
3. Although the Responsibility to Protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity was mentioned in the 2005 World Summit outcome document (paragraphs 137 A/Res/60/1) by the leaders of the world, there is no binding legal terms of reference in the international law documents for the ethnic cleansing. It can, in fact, be identifies as within parts of the other three most serious crimes as mentioned in paragraph 137 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.
4. In addressing the question (1.b) on what kinds of approaches should be avoided, we would like to emphasize on the importance of avoiding introduction of any language that undermines any principles as enshrined in the UN Charter including the principle of national sovereignty. Moreover, ensuring the full respect for the principle of national sovereignty would strengthen the state responsibility as the core of the first pillar of the Responsibility to Protect.
5. In addressing question number 2, it should be noted that using terms and phrases that do not enjoy clear and common definition among states would not help strengthen the Secretary General's report on Responsibility to Protect. For instance, using the term, *atrocitiy crimes*, in the report; even if it is intended to make reference to the most serious crimes as mentioned in the Paragraph 137 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, can be substituted with mentioning the very crimes as precisely mentioned in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.
6. In reaction to questions number 3 to 5, we once again, would like to encourage the approach in addressing the root causes of the situations that leads to the most serious crimes, as mentioned the Paragraph 137 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome while emphasizing that the report should not utilize a prescriptive language and/or literature, in providing the states with relevant



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assurances in order to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

7. In reaction to question number 6, we would like to draw attention to the fact that at this stage, there seems to be no added value in the inclusion of the provisions of military assistance to states under stress, with the consent of the state, as stipulated in the upcoming report. The sensitivity of the issue, in Iran's view, may create disintegration, rather than integration, among the states.

8. In addressing the questions number 7 to 9, we would like to emphasize that the next step towards further advancing implementation of the Responsibility to Protect should be creating cognitive consistency among states on the exemplifications of the R to P moments to be seized long before the above mentioned crimes take place. Thus, by creating the cognitive consistency we can then advance towards a better understanding with common sense among the states on R to P situations which, in turn, can be realistically helpful in preventing the most serious crimes to happen to populations around the world.