

Central



THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF AUSTRALIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

27 August 2015

H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nation
United Nations Headquarters

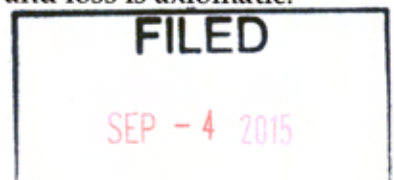
Your Excellency

I am writing to you regarding the proposal to hold a High Level Interactive Event on 19 November 2015 in Geneva to mark the 10th anniversary of the unanimous endorsement of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) by Leaders at the 2005 UN World Summit. The Event has been initiated by the cross-regional Core Group for R2P in the Human Rights Council in Geneva, which comprises Australia, Ghana, Hungary, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uruguay. The attached concept note provides further information on this event.

I would like to invite you to record a video message for the High Level Event. The video message would be played at the commencement of the Event, and would provide you with an opportunity to underline your ongoing and firm commitment to R2P on its 10th anniversary.

Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Mr Michael Møller, strongly supports this initiative, and has proposed that it be part of the program of the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) Peace Week. Your Special Adviser on R2P, Dr Jennifer Welsh, has also confirmed her strong support for the initiative.

The focus will be on prevention which lies at the core of R2P. Indeed, your latest report on R2P emphasises the need to devote more energy and resources to effective prevention, so that prevention becomes "the rule rather than the exception". The logic of investing much more significantly in prevention as a means of saving lives and avoiding humanitarian displacement, serious human rights violations, and other suffering and loss is axiomatic.



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The Event aims to advance implementation of R2P by Geneva-based organisations. The Core Group believes that there is a particular need to connect better deliberations on R2P in New York and Geneva to encourage more consistency across the UN system.

In this regard, the Core Group has extended invitations to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Antonio Guterres, to participate in the Event, as their respective organisations play a particularly important role in leading the UN's implementation of R2P.

Against this background, I would regard your participation via video message in this High Level Event as a significant contribution, and would warmly welcome your commitment and leadership in assisting us to take this initiative forward.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Bird

Concept note

As the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Core Group in Geneva, the Permanent Missions of Australia, Ghana, Hungary, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uruguay, in partnership with the United Nations Office at Geneva and [insert academic institution] have the honour to invite you to mark the

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT (R2P)

At a high-level event during Geneva Peace Week to discuss

IMPLEMENTING R2P IN THE GENEVA CONTEXT – A FOCUS ON PREVENTION

19 November 2015, 11am to 1pm; Room XX, Palais des Nations

2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the unanimous endorsement of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) by world leaders at the 2005 UN World Summit. As outlined in the World Summit Outcome Document, each State has the responsibility to protect its own population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes (Pillar 1). The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility (Pillar 2).

The 10th anniversary of R2P provides a unique opportunity to advance and promote greater cooperation on the implementation of R2P, particularly its preventive aspects, by Geneva-based organisations. The UN Secretary-General's reports on R2P have consistently highlighted the importance of preventing atrocity crimes through capacity building, early warning and strengthening accountable and inclusive national institutions. Geneva-based organisations play a crucial role in this regard. Investing in prevention is particularly relevant given the proliferation of humanitarian crises we face today.

On the occasion of the anniversary, and to highlight further the role of Geneva in R2P implementation, the Core Group is pleased to facilitate a high-level panel discussion to bring together heads of both Geneva and New York-based UN agencies, States, regional organisations and civil society. This interactive discussion will identify ways to strengthen cooperation on existing prevention mechanisms, including the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes. The Panel will also explore ways to mainstream R2P through the work of Geneva-based agencies and organisations and to advance the development and implementation of prevention strategies. Panellists will be invited to discuss how their respective agencies, governments and other bodies contribute to implementing R2P, particularly Pillars 1 and 2, and to provide practical examples of how the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes has been and can be integrated into their work.

Introductory remarks

- Mr Michael Møller, Director-General, United Nations Office in Geneva (confirmed)

Keynote Speakers

- Video message from Mr Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General (TBC)

Panel Discussion moderated by Mr Simon Adams, Executive Director, R2P Global Centre (confirmed)

- Dr Jennifer Welsh, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on R2P (confirmed)
- Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (TBC)
- Mr Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (confirmed)

Other States with relevant R2P experience, civil society and regional organisations (e.g. ECOWAS) to speak from the floor in an interactive dialogue