

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Reviewing preventive measures within the framework of the Responsibility to Protect

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INTRODUCTION

After the horrific events that took place during the 1990s in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, where the United Nations had failed and did not manage to save human innocent lives, it was of the utmost importance that action be taken and the international community is protected from such crimes. Taking into consideration past genocides that occurred the same century such as the Holocaust, a solution had to be found in order to secure that the human rights are not breached again. Hoping to achieve such a solution the United Nations members came together during the 2005 World Summit and endorsed the international political commitment known as the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP). To safeguard the people of the world community, this norm aims to ensure that the four major atrocity crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity are never again committed. The crimes that RtoP seeks to prevent include those that are listed under international law, including the Geneva Conventions and associated protocols, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and other related documents.

All states, nevertheless, are not always able or ready to fulfill their duty; on several occasions, they require assistance, motivation, or even more drastic measures. At this point the third pillar of the Responsibility to Protect comes in question. According to the rule of RtoP, if a state is unable or unwilling to provide protection, the international community should step in and provide that protection. This might be done by utilizing diplomatic, humanitarian, and other nonviolent methods to safeguard populations, such as human rights monitors. If governments are blatantly failing to protect, more drastic measures, such as imposed sanctions or the use of armed action sanctioned by the UN Security Council, can also be utilized.

The Responsibility to Protect has been enforced numerous times in the past, seeking to protect the global community and the country or region under question. However, the norm has been criticized by many who believe that its creation aims to support and strengthen even further the already strong nations, according to the third pillar of the Responsibility to Protect, which indicates the right of a country to intervene in the case when another nation is not able or unwilling to protect its population. Advocates of that opinion claim that the stronger nations do

not have humanitarian intentions in mind, instead they wish to act at their own interests and accomplish a goal of theirs. Basis for that opinion is the fact that the third pillar allows states to transgress state sovereignty and take action in order to protect innocent human lives. There are many contradicting opinions as far as this issue is concerned. On the one hand some believe that the most important aspect of the issue is the success of the military intervention, whereas advocates of the other point of view believe that the concerns about the law, the judicial system, and potential precedent abuse are of bigger importance.



Figure 1: 2008 World Summit

All in all, the responsibility to protect is a relatively new concept that has not been perfected yet and can be improved. Its main goal is to save lives and with the right enforcement this goal will be achieved. The debate between state sovereignty and humanitarian intervention is a very important aspect of the issue and the effectiveness of the concept will only be heightened once this continues debate is settled.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

The Responsibility to Protect

The Responsibility to Protect is an international norm aiming to save human lives, while declaring that each state has a duty to protect its citizens from mass atrocity crimes. The RtoP is

supported by these three pillars: Pillar I emphasizes that it is the responsibility of each state to protect all of its citizens who are inside of its borders; Pillar II emphasizes that it is the wider international community's responsibility to support and encourage individual governments to carry out this duty; and finally, Pillar III elaborates on the responsibility of the global community to step in if a member state fails to protect its citizens.

Crimes against humanity

Crimes against humanity refer to any and all crimes committed as part of a systematic, widespread attack directed against any civilian population or group.¹

Genocide

Genocide refers to acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, including:

- Killing members of the group;
- Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.²

War crimes

Violations of international humanitarian law (treaty or customary law) that incur individual criminal responsibility under international law. As a result, and in contrast to the crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes must always take place in the context of an armed conflict, either international or non-international.³

Ethnic Cleansing

Mass expulsion from or murder of people of a community by members of another ethnic or religious group.

Norm

¹ "United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.shtml>.

² "The Responsibility to Protect: A Background Briefing." Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 14 Jan. 2021, www.globalr2p.org/publications/the-responsibility-to-protect-a-background-briefing/

³ United Nations. "United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect." Welcome to the United Nations, www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/war-crimes.shtml

A norm, sometimes known as a social norm, is a code of conduct that all members of a social group must adhere to.

National sovereignty

The principle that each country has independent sovereignty over its domestic policies and arrangements.⁴

Intervention

Under the term intervention is meant the action of becoming intentionally involved in a difficult situation, in order to improve it or prevent it from getting worse.⁵

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Events leading to the creation of RtoP

The ICISS and the Responsibility to protect

Following the poor response of the United Nations during the genocides in Rwanda or Yugoslavia during the 1990s, the UN needed to act soon, or it would risk losing its credibility. Therefore, the Secretary General at the time, Kofi Annan, urged member states to agree on a framework for collective international action, so as not to repeat the same mistakes and prevent them from ever taking place again. In response to the Secretary General's task the Canadian government established the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), in December 2001. The term "Responsibility to Protect" was firstly used in the report of the ICISS, proposing measures to combat the issue, on which the Secretary General emphasized. Pillars I and II were both mentioned and more emphasis was given on pillar III, which stated that when a State fails to protect its inhabitants due to inability or resistance, the larger international community assumes responsibility.

Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

According to the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change, which Secretary-General Kofi Annan established in 2004, the global community has a global collective responsibility that can be "executed by the Security Council authorizing military involvement as a last resort, in the event of genocide and other vast killing, ethnic cleansing, and gross offenses of humanitarian law which sovereign states are committing". The group agreed that it was of the utmost importance

⁴ "What is National Sovereignty." IGI Global: International Academic Publisher, www.igi-global.com/dictionary/national-sovereignty/69922.

⁵ "Intervention." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/intervention.

that some criteria would be proposed, according to which a state would be granted authorization to intervene according to the third pillar of the RtoP. These criteria would enable the UN Security Council to authorize the use of force, according to the seriousness of the threat, the requirement that it be a last resort, and the appropriateness of the response.

World Summit 2005

The 2005 World Summit was the most recent occurrence of an RtoP review. At the United Nations World Summit in September 2005, it was agreed upon by all participating nations that it is the duty of each State to defend its citizens against the four major atrocity crimes. It was decided that when one State violates this obligation to protect its population, all other States have the right to intervene and protect the ones at risk. The international community should act jointly in "timely and decisive manner" when necessary, in coordination with regional cooperation in accordance with the UN Charter and the UN Security Council.

Reasons leading to the creation of RtoP

Ending civil conflicts

The United Nations (UN) was originally created in 1945 after the Second World War, in order to prevent the horrific crimes of the previous conflicts from taking place again. However, after the conclusion of the Cold War, war and violence inside nations - rather than between them - mainly replaced inter-state aggression. The world was unprepared to respond, when inhumane violence broke out within the borders of nations like Somalia, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s and was immobilized by debate about the parameters of national sovereignty. The UN was bitterly split during the 1990s between those who insisted on other nations intervening on such occasions and others who believed that such a theory constituted an inadmissible invasion of national sovereignty. In order to put an end to these civil conflicts the nations of the world agreed on the Responsibility to Protect framework.

Saving human population

As a natural consequence to these civil conflicts, numerous human rights violations took place, and many more lives were taken. Hoping to fulfill its primary duty of protecting innocent citizens of the world, the UN established the norm of the RtoP. Aim of the RtoP is to ensure that the international community never again allows for the four mass atrocity crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity to cause harm to individuals. The world community had already suffered many losses after the events of previous wars and conflicts and the protection of innocent human population was therefore a priority for the United Nations.

Need for collective action

The international community had been torn and divided for years due to conflicts, like the World War II and the Cold War, and states were forced to choose sides in numerous occasions in the past. Therefore, the United Nations were aiming to create a framework according to which the nations of the international community would put their differences aside and act together providing humanitarian aid to those who needed it and protecting citizens from all around the world. The RtoP framework was established in response to this quest, as well as the challenge made by the at the time Secretary General, who also encouraged nations to agree on a legal and political framework for collective international action.

Case Studies that led to the RtoP

Rwandan genocide

The Rwandan genocide was one of the most prominent events that led to the creation of the Responsibility to Protect. Many residents of Rwanda, a country in east-central Africa, were killed during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, also referred as the genocide of the Tutsi, by members of the Hutu ethnic majority. The genocide was started by Hutu nationalists in the country's capital, Kigali, and it spread horrifyingly quickly, and brutally as local authorities and the Hutu Power government incited common people to take up guns against their neighbors. Millions of refugees, primarily Hutus, had already fled Rwanda by the time the Tutsi-led Rwandese Patriotic Front took control of it through a military onslaught in early July, escalating what was already a severe humanitarian situation.

The international world mainly abstained while the slaughter in Rwanda took place, similar to how it was with human rights abuses committed in the former Yugoslavia at the same time. A UN Security Council resolution caused the majority of a U.N. peacekeeping operation (UNAMIR), which had been established the year before in October to assist with the governmental transition of the Arusha accord, to be dismantled in April 1994. In May, when news of the massacre began to circulate, the Security Council decided to send a larger force. The murders had ceased for many months by the time that regiment arrived as a whole. Many prominent members of the world community lamented the general lack of knowledge of the situation and the lack of action done to stop the killings in the wake of the genocide in Rwanda. According to former U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, "The failure of Rwanda is 10 times greater than the failure of Yugoslavia. Because in Yugoslavia the international community was interested, was involved. In Rwanda nobody was interested"⁶. This case study shows that the United Nations were failing to protect innocent citizens and therefore action needed to be taken, which eventually was expected to come in the form of the Responsibility to Protect.

⁶ ---. "Rwandan Genocide." HISTORY, 14 Oct. 2009, www.history.com/topics/africa/rwandan-genocide.

Kosovo Air Campaign (March-June 1999)

The Socialist Republic of Serbia unilaterally abolished the 1974 Yugoslav Constitution in September 1990, which had a negative impact on Kosovo's autonomy and exposed the area to state-sponsored persecution. When the Kosovo Liberation Army was established in 1996, Kosovar Albanians later launched an insurgency against Belgrade. Early in 1998, armed confrontations between the two groups erupted. On October 15, both sides agreed to a cease-fire that was mediated by NATO, but two months later, combat started out again. Following more than a year of combat and the failure of international efforts to use diplomacy to end the crisis, it was decided by NATO to intervene and launch an air campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The airstrikes took place between 24 March and 10 June 1999 .

The NATO bombing campaign is still under discussion. The operation was not approved by the UN Security Council, and it resulted in numerous fatalities in Yugoslavia, including a sizable number of Kosovar refugees. Yugoslavia's ethnic cleansing and slaughter against Albanians, which pushed the Albanian population into neighboring nations and posed a threat to regional stability, served as the impetus for NATO's intervention. NATO claimed that its campaign was a humanitarian action and hence began it without the UN's consent. This severely split the international community, putting those who criticized the intervention as being unlawful against others who insisted that the moral need to preserve lives should take precedence over legality. This case study exhibits a case in which the international community intervened for the sake of saving human lives but still was criticized by many for its motives. This is another incident that paved the way for the creation of the Responsibility to Protect.

The ethics behind the intervention dilemma

In cases where external military intervention for the goal of human protection has taken place, as in Somalia, Bosnia, and Kosovo, and in cases when it has not, as in Rwanda, the intervention has been controversial. Some people view this action as the long overdue globalization of human conscience, while others see it as a grave violation of the international state system that depends on state sovereignty and the inviolability of national borders. Again, for some, ensuring that forceful interventions are successful is the sole important concern; for others, concerns about the law, the judicial process, and potential abuse of precedent loom far bigger. On the one hand, in the case of the Rwandan genocide where the United Nations were not involved, since the Security Council decided not to take any action, the genocide was in no manner prohibited from taking place and leading to the loss of many lives. The event became the subject of criticism, when citizens accused the United Nations for not protecting the people of the international community. Kosovo, on the other hand where an intervention did occur in 1999, gained the attention of advocates of the other viewpoint. Major concerns regarding the morality

of military involvement in a sovereign state were raised and the legitimacy of the operation was put into question.

The international community either intervenes too seldom or too often, depending from the perspective. The dispute has exposed fundamental differences among the global society. It is imperative that these differences be reconciled for the sake of all the victims who endure suffering and pass away when institutions and leadership fail.

Misuse of the Responsibility to Protect

The Responsibility to Protect was originally created, in order to protect the human population from mass atrocities taking place in the world. However, the norm has been abused, misused, and overused various times in the past leading to it losing its importance and its effectiveness. To give context, more than 80 UN Security Council resolutions have referenced RtoP in relation to crises in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, in addition to thematic resolutions on the prevention of genocide, armed conflict, and restricting the trade in small arms and light weapons. In addition, the Responsibility to Protect has been recognized in more than 50 Human Rights Council decisions and 13 General Assembly resolutions. These examples shown the overuse and possible misuse of the term, given the overwhelming number of resolutions it has been included in since the beginning of the 21st century.

An example illustrating the problem found above is the Russian invasion of Georgia in August of 2008. Russia invaded Georgia on August 8th and began a full-scale land, air, and sea invasion of Georgia, including its uncontested territory, under the pretense of "peace enforcement", while having made false accusations of "genocide" and "aggression against South Ossetia" against Georgia. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov claimed that Russia's use of force was an exercise of its Responsibility to Protect. The invasion was unlawful for the following two reasons: Firstly, the distinction between a state's obligations to safeguard the people living inside its boundaries and its obligations to the people living outside of its borders is blurred by Foreign Minister Lavrov's comments. The RtoP norm refers to a state's obligation to safeguard the people living within its borders, the steps that the global community must take to support that state in doing so, and the obligation of the international community to intervene — through the United Nations — when the state whose borders the people are found blatantly fails to do so. The 2005 Outcome Document does not provide any government the power to act directly to defend its citizens who are living outside of its boundaries. Secondly only if it is designed to secure the physical security of that people would a military operation used to defend populations from mass atrocity crimes be justified. Russia's engagement went well beyond what would be required to ensure the physical safety of the South Ossetian inhabitants against mass atrocity crimes, both strategically and geographically. Although it wasn't stated specifically in the 2005 Outcome Document, the

need that an operation be proportional to the purpose of human protection is in line with international humanitarian law. Taking the abovementioned reasons into consideration the Russian invasion was indeed not carried out in accordance to the Responsibility to Protect norm and portrays an example for the misuse of the concept that could be enforced by stronger nations.

Therefore, as shown through the example above, a new framework needs to be proposed and worked on, according to which the concept regains its original purpose of protecting innocent population and does not allow nations to use the norm for any other purpose which may entertain their interests.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

China

China has historically had a rigid view of sovereignty and has been reluctant to advance the liberal order. However, its stance on the Responsibility to Protect has continued to evolve. China today vehemently supports the development of state capacity for the prevention of mass crimes commensurate with RtoP pillars one and two, in contrast to its earlier outspoken rejection to the idea and forecasts that it would at most take a cautious approach. China has argued that the international community should assist nations and regions in acquiring efficient early warning systems since demonstrating its support. China has also argued that giving regional organizations more clout at the UNSC would help ensure that local knowledge, regional sensitivities, and resource capacity are taken into account, as well as many other suggestions aiming to enhance the effectiveness of the concept.

Canada

Canada supported an international commission, the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) to develop a better approach to prevent and end major atrocity crimes during the later decades of the 20th century, when the globe was reeling from genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. Canada was the first nation to come up with the concept of the Responsibility to protect which later was adopted by the United Nations.

Ukraine

The Russo-Ukrainian War, which started in 2014, significantly escalated on February 24, 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine. Widespread violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law have been committed by Russian forces, some of which may qualify as war crimes and crimes against humanity. One of Moscow's arguments for launching an unprovoked attack on its western neighbor Ukraine is that it has a legal obligation to defend

ethnic Russians against prejudice abroad. The Kremlin has attempted to support this claim with references to preventing genocide and the "Responsibility to Protect" concept of the UN (RtoP). These concepts have been misrepresented by Russia, who has used them to defend its interference in other countries' domestic affairs.

Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P) was founded in 2008, prominent human rights activists - including former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson - and five of the most prestigious international non-governmental organizations - Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group, Oxfam International, Refugees International and the World Federalist Movement. The Global Centre works closely with Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), governments, and regional organizations in an attempt to effectively operationalize the Responsibility to Protect. It engages in advocacy around particular crises, conducts research to improve understanding of RtoP, suggests tactics to help states build capacity, and recommends strategies to help states do so. The Global Center has locations in Geneva and New York.

International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect

The International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) was founded in order to advance human rights, stop atrocities, and effectively and consistently put the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) principle into practice. The Coalition was established in 2009 and currently has members from every continent. The Coalition's members collaborate with local human rights advocates, international activists, and advocates for international justice to increase our power to prevent and halt genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| DATE | DESCRIPTION OF EVENT |
|------------------------|--|
| 7 April - 15 July 1994 | The Rwandan Genocide takes place during the Rwandan Civil War, an event that inspired the creation of the RtoP |
| 1991 - nowadays | The start of the Somali Civil war, an ongoing civil war the events of which provoked the |

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|---------------------------|---|
| | decision makers to take action and establish the Responsibility to Protect. |
| 24 March and 10 June 1999 | The Kosovo air campaign portrays an example for a military intervention for humanitarian reasons. |
| 20 September 1999 | Challenge by the Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the member states of the UN to “find common ground in upholding the principles of the Charter, and acting in defense of our common humanity.” |
| September 2000 | The creation of this independent International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) by the Government of Canada in response to the Secretary General’s challenge. |
| 2004 | Kofi Annan, secretary-general, expresses his support to the newly established standard of the Responsibility to protect. |
| 24 October 2005 | 2005 World Summit; establishment of the responsibility to protect. |
| January 2008 | French Foreign and European Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner pleads with the UN Security Council in January 2008 to act "in the interest of the responsibility to protect.", in order to give an end to the genocide in Kenya. |
| 12 January 2009 | UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a study with the title “Implementing the Responsibility to Protect” at the Wayback Machine. The study was the UN Secretariat's first in-depth examination of the RtoP. |
| September 14, 2009, | The General Assembly adopted its first |

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|------------------|--|
| | Resolution on the responsibility to protect by consensus |
| 2011 | In the first Libyan civil war, the Security Council was the first to approve a military intervention under the RtoP. |
| 24 February 2022 | Russian forces invade Ukraine claiming that they act in accordance with the RtoP norm. |

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

[A/HRC/RES/33/19⁷](#)

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 30 September 2016 with the title “Human rights and transitional justice”. The given resolution stresses the importance of the enforcement of the Responsibility to Protect and reminds the states of their obligation to the concept, as mentioned in clause 1. All in all, the resolution promotes the basic human rights and condemns any action that could in any way cause harm to them.

[A/RES/75/277⁸](#)

The given resolution decides to include in its annual agenda the item entitled “The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity” as stated in clause 1. This resolution is of great importance since it establishes the Responsibility to protect as a norm and suggest the further examination of it seeking for its improvement. The goal of the improvement will be achieved through the annual reports by the Secretary General on the issue, as mentioned in clause 2, in order to solve any issues that may arise.

[S/PRST/2014/21⁹](#)

In this presidential message, the president addressed the specific needs of dislocated women, emphasized the harm that violent extremism does to women, and urged the Secretary-General for ordering worldwide research. The President makes reference to the Responsibility to Protect in paragraph 7 of the resolution, which specifically states:

⁷ "A/HRC/RES/33/19." ESubscription to United Nations Documents, undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/33/19.

⁸ "A/RES/75/277." ESubscription to United Nations Documents, undocs.org/A/RES/75/277.

⁹ July 2022 Monthly Forecast : Security Council Report, www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_prst_2014_21.pdf.

“The Security Council reaffirms the primary responsibility of Member States in the protection of their populations, including refugee and internally displaced women and girls.”

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Actions taken by the Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect

The Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect has played a major role in trying to promote the Responsibility to Protect as a concept as well as increasing its effectiveness. In order to explore ways for enhancing global knowledge of R2P and assuring its successful implementation, the Global Centre organizes live and recorded policy conversations in New York, Geneva, and other cities. Apart from that aiming to close the knowledge gap on R2P implementation on a national, regional, and worldwide level and to increase global capacity to prevent and stop mass atrocity crimes, the Global Centre policy forums on R2P and cross-cutting matters play a significant role. The Global Centre has also organized conferences and other events throughout the globe to promote South-South collaboration in R2P implementation. Lastly the Global Centre has sponsored 13 annual ministerial conferences on the Responsibility to Protect since its founding in 2008, in addition to these theme events, each September at the start of the UN General Assembly.

Strategic modifications to a mission’s mandate

Furthermore, the Security Council has itself acted in accordance with the norm of the Responsibility to Protect numerous times in the past years. An example for a Security Council operation that has followed the RtoP principles is mentioned in resolution S/RES/2100 of the Security Council on the Mali War, which is an ongoing armed confrontation since January 2012 between the northern and southern regions of Mali in Africa. In the given resolution and specifically in clause 18, the Security Council grants French troops permission to intervene in the conflict, acting in accordance with the principle of the Responsibility to Protect and aid the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), an organization aiming to stop the ongoing conflict¹⁰.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Measures to make the RtoP more efficient

The United Nations’ capacity for implementing R2P should be strengthened and in order to achieve some fundamental changes as far as the structure of the RtoP is considered need to be

¹⁰ "S/RES/2100(2013)." ESubscription to United Nations Documents, undocs.org/S/RES/2100(2013).

made . Namely, the function of the special advisors on genocide prevention and RtoP should be reorganized, the joint office should be reinforced, and the special adviser on RtoP should be promoted to a full-time position in order to improve the ability of the United Nations to execute RtoP. The special advisers must be outspoken international supporters of early warning systems and atrocity prevention. A thorough plan for preventing atrocity crimes should be presented by the secretary-general, who should then command the UN system to put it into action. This may entail adapting the Secretary General's plan from Implementing the Responsibility to Protect (2009) into a series of measures meant to integrate RtoP and atrocity prevention into the organization's regular operations in a way that supports other projects.

Measures to prevent atrocity crimes

Atrocity crime prevention must be a priority for each country. To ensure that this is achieved, different governmental agencies must collaborate with organizations from the commercial sector and civil society to develop targeted policies and a strong preventative culture. Each society must examine its own risk factors and sources of resilience in order to respond in the ways that are most appropriate for each situation. Furthermore, the international community's strong support is frequently required for prevention to be successful and, in many instances, may be essential. Various sorts of help may be provided. It could take the form of development assistance and other initiatives to help address the underlying causes of potential conflict, or it could take the shape of local initiatives to support the advancement of effective governance, human rights, or the rule of law, or it could take the shape of good offices missions, mediation efforts, or other initiatives to encourage communication or reconciliation. Apart from that a thorough plan for preventing atrocity crimes should be presented by the secretary-general, who should then command the UN system to put it into action.

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