



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 August, 2014

Excellency,

You will recall that pursuant to the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/308, the General Assembly continues its consideration of the responsibility to protect. The 2014 report of the Secretary-General, which focuses on Pillar II, examines the ways in which national, regional and international actors can best assist States in fulfilling their responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity

To this end, I have the pleasure to inform you that I will convene an informal, interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on the responsibility of States to protect their populations by preventing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity through appropriate and necessary means. The informal dialogue will take place on Monday, 8 September 2014 from 10:00am to 6:00pm in the Trusteeship Council, United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The informal interactive dialogue will serve several purposes. First, it will provide a forum for Member States to consider how international assistance can help national authorities fulfil their primary responsibility to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. Second, it will provide an opportunity to exchange views on how Member States can best fulfil their collective responsibility to protect by improving the support currently provided to States seeking to protect their populations. Third, the interactive nature of the dialogue will serve to continue clarifying and deepening the shared understanding of the responsibility to protect with a view to promote its effective implementation.

I am pleased to share with you an information note and the tentative programme of the informal interactive dialogue. Updated information about the event sent to you subsequently and will also be available on the website of the President of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Ashe". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John W. Ashe

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Information Note and Tentative Meeting Programme

General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on the Report of the Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect

Fulfilling our collective responsibility: International assistance and the responsibility to protect

United Nations General Assembly
08 September 2014 – New York

Background

The General Assembly committed at the 2005 World Summit¹ to continue consideration of the responsibility to protect and reaffirmed this role during its Sixty-third session.² In keeping with these decisions, the General Assembly will hold its annual informal interactive dialogue on the responsibility to protect on 08 September 2014.

The Secretary-General has prepared annual reports on the responsibility to protect for the past five years. The Secretary-General's 2009 report on "Implementing the responsibility to protect" (A/63/677) presented a comprehensive strategy to operationalise the principle based on three equal, mutually-reinforcing, and non-sequential pillars. The General Assembly considered this strategy in an informal interactive dialogue on 23 July 2009 and in a formal debate on 23, 24, and 28 July 2009. Subsequent reports focused on early warning and assessment in 2010 (A/64/864), the role of regional and sub-regional arrangements in 2011 (A/65/877), timely and decisive response in 2012 (A/66/874), and State responsibility and prevention in 2013 (A/67/929). Each of these reports has been

¹ A/RES/60/1, paragraph 139.

² A/RES/63/308.

discussed by the General Assembly during an annual interactive informal dialogue on the responsibility to protect.

The 2014 report of the Secretary-General, which focuses on Pillar II, examines the ways in which national, regional and international actors can best assist States in fulfilling their responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. The report begins by recalling the nature and dynamics of the atrocity crimes outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It identifies the approach and principles that should guide efforts to assist States in the fulfillment of their protection responsibilities, and the various actors that could contribute to the responsibility to assist. The core section of the report elaborates on three main forms of Pillar II support – encouragement, capacity-building, and protection assistance – and provides examples of good national, regional, and international practice. The report concludes by identifying challenges to the implementation of Pillar II, and provides concrete recommendations for how this important agenda may be advanced. It also sets out possible next steps for Member States to continue considering the responsibility to protect, in particular given the upcoming ten-year anniversary of the 2005 World Summit.

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Expected outcomes

The continued subjection of populations to atrocity crimes is a stark reminder of the urgent need for the General Assembly to continue consideration of how to prevent and respond. It is expected that Member States will discuss how to best support national authorities fulfil their primary responsibility to protect, exchange lessons learned and best practices with respect to international assistance, and consider the full and balanced implementation of the principle. In light of the upcoming ten year anniversary of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, Member States may also wish to begin consideration of crafting a new vision for the next decade of the responsibility to protect.

The dialogue is intended to facilitate discussions among the United Nations, Member States, regional and sub-regional organisations and civil society and to emphasize the value of a collective approach to protecting populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as well as their incitement.

Documents

- Draft programme for the informal, interactive dialogue in the General Assembly
- Advanced copy of the Secretary-General's report on the responsibility to protect

Tentative Programme

The informal, interactive dialogue will take place on 08 September 2014 in the Trusteeship Council at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It will consist of opening and closing sessions as well as a brief panel discussion.

Following presentations by panellists, delegates and other participants will have an opportunity to pose questions and deliver brief interventions. Delegations are encouraged to engage in an open and interactive discussion. Delegations are kindly asked to limit their interventions to a maximum of three minutes. Information about submitting requests to speak will be provided a few weeks before the debate.

Time	Programme
10:00 am – 10:20 am	Opening remarks
10:20 am – 10:50 am	<p><u>Panel discussion and interactive dialogue on State responsibility and prevention</u></p> <p><i>Panellists will address:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The principles and approaches that should guide international assistance under Pillar II ▪ The range and types of support that can best enable national authorities to meet their responsibility to protect ▪ The way forward for improving international assistance for the responsibility to protect
10:50 am – 1:00 p.m.	<p><i>After a first round of remarks by the panel, Member States will be invited to address the issues listed above and to share their perspectives and experiences. Some civil society organisations may be invited to speak.</i></p>
3:00pm – 5:50 pm	<u>Interactive dialogue:</u> Continuation of interventions from the floor, further reflections from panellists.
5:50 pm – 6:00pm	Concluding remarks