

# 2025-2026 UN Security Council Elections and the Responsibility to Protect

Today, 6 June 2024, the UN General Assembly elected Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia to the UN Security Council for the period of 2025-2026. With their election, 9 of the 15 members of the Council in 2025 will be “Friends of the Responsibility to Protect” – having appointed an R2P Focal Point and/or joined the Group of Friends of R2P in New York and Geneva.

Despite its role as the UN body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, all too often the Security Council has been unable or unwilling to take timely action on mass atrocity situations due to deep political divisions and/or the veto prerogative of the permanent members. This has had a debilitating effect on the Council’s ability to respond in a comprehensive and consistent manner to atrocities in Myanmar (Burma), Gaza, Sudan, Syria and elsewhere. It is therefore more important than ever for Council members to work in creative ways to ensure that the international community takes timely, practical action to prevent atrocities and protect vulnerable populations wherever and whenever they are threatened.

Since 2005 the Security Council has adopted 93 resolutions and 17 presidential statements that refer to R2P, including with regard to situations in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Syria and eight other country situations, as well as a number of thematic issue areas. It is our hope that the Security Council will consistently uphold their commitment to R2P by taking decisive action to avert emerging crises and halt atrocities.

To this end, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect encourages all Security Council members to:

- Request briefings from the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, as well as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant Special Rapporteurs, Human Rights Council-mandated investigative mechanisms, civil society representatives and affected communities, on situations where populations are at risk of mass atrocities.
- Reinstate monthly “horizon scanning briefings” within the working methods of the Council.
- Host thematic meetings during your presidency on topics related to the prevention of mass atrocities.
- Ensure transparency by encouraging open sessions of the Council when discussing crises where populations are at risk of atrocities.
- Raise awareness and mobilize timely responses to crises, including through convening “Arria-formula meetings” or raising country situations that are not on the Council’s formal agenda under “Any Other Business,” and coordinating Security Council visiting missions to countries where mass atrocity risks are evident.
- Initiate press statements on atrocity situations, including on countries not on the Council’s formal agenda.
- Adhere to the ACT Code of Conduct by which Council members commit to take timely and decisive action to protect civilians and not vote against any credible resolution aimed at preventing mass atrocities.
- Support the International Criminal Court and other international justice mechanisms and ensure all perpetrators of mass atrocities are held to account, regardless of nationality, position or affiliation.
- Ratify or accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Global Centre has compiled profiles on each of the newly elected Security Council members providing an overview of their engagement with R2P and other issues related to the prevention of mass atrocities.

## Denmark

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen

**Minister for Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Ms. Christina Markus Lassen

Summary of R2P Engagement	
	2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022
	Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2019, 2021-2023
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	Also part of the statement by the EU: 2009-2019, 2021-2023
	Also part of the statement by the Nordic countries: 2017, 2019, 2021
	Also part of the statement by the Nordic-Baltic countries: 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Voted yes
Background	
Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1953-1954, 1967-1968, 1985-1986, 2005-2006
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	2019-2021
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	Signatory to the ACT Code of Conduct and France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration. Co-sponsored General Assembly Draft Resolution A/76/L.52 (adopted as A/RES/76/262).
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 21 June 2001
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 15 June 1951
Arms Trade Treaty:	Approval: 2 April 2014

**Security Council Priorities:** Consistently defend international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, across the multiple crises and conflicts that threaten collective security, with a focus on the protection of civilians and advancing accountability for violations; pushing for a more accountable, effective and representative Security Council that delivers on the aspirations of the UN Charter; adapting conflict responses and prevention to new realities, including strengthening peace operations, partnerships and transitions, as well as addressing underlying drivers of conflict; translating the Women, Peace and Security principles into Security Council practice; and addressing the effects of climate change on peace and security.

**On R2P:** “Every day we witness the suffering of innocent civilians who yearn for peace and face atrocities. As members of the UN, we have a shared responsibility to prevent and respond to acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing. It is in times like these that R2P demands our attention, our active contributions, and our unwavering resolve.” (Statement on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries, UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 26 June 2023)

## Greece

**Head of State:** President Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis

**Minister for Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. George Gerapetritis

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. Evangelos Sekeris

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	2022, 2023 Also part of the statement by the EU: 2009-2019, 2021-2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	Yes
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Voted yes
Background	
Regional Group:	Western European and Others Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1952-1953, 2005-2006
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	N/A
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	Signatory to the ACT Code of Conduct and France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration. Co-sponsored General Assembly Draft Resolution A/76/L.52 (adopted as A/RES/76/262).
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 15 May 2002
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 8 December 1954
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 29 February 2016

**Security Council Priorities:** Promoting the Security Council’s central role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding through cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as employing prevention tools that address the root causes and drivers of conflict; bolstering respect for international law, including International Humanitarian Law, and a UN Charter-compliant approach to all international peace and security matters; implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda and enhancing the participation and leadership of women in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and mediation efforts; and prioritizing accountability for grave violations against children in armed conflict.

**On R2P:** “Even though prevention remains key to the elimination of atrocity crimes, through the promotion of international humanitarian law and human rights, in cases that we do not succeed in preventing atrocities, the promotion of justice and accountability should be the only alternative, in order to make sure that no crime and no perpetrator go unpunished. We also recognize the decisive role the Security Council can play in case populations become victims of atrocity crimes and invite it to act accordingly.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 26 June 2023)

## Pakistan

**Head of State:** President Asif Ali Zardari

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

**Minister for Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. Munir Akram

### Summary of R2P Engagement

Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Abstained

### Background

Regional Group:	Asia-Pacific Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1952-1953, 1968-1969, 1976-1977, 1983-1984, 1993-1994, 2003-2004, 2012-2013
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	2006-2008, 2008-2011, 2013-2015, 2018-2020
Safe Schools Declaration:	No
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	No
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 12 October 1957
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

**Security Council Priorities:** Increasing the Security Council's focus on conflict prevention and addressing the root causes of conflict, including those arising from violations of the UN Charter and emerging threats such as climate change; strengthening women's participation in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peace enforcement; improving commitments to non-proliferation and arms control as important tools for the promotion of peace and security at the global and regional levels; and advancing peaceful resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East, with a particular focus on the situation in Afghanistan.

**On R2P:** "At the 2005 World Summit, the concept of Responsibility to Protect was presented as a noble humanitarian doctrine aimed at preventing mass atrocities and protecting vulnerable populations." (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 26 June 2023)

## Panama

**Head of State:** President Laurentino Cortizo Cohen

**Minister for Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Ms. Janaina Tewaney Mencomo

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Ms. Markova Concepción Jaramillo

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	2009, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 Also part of the statement by the Group of Friends of R2P: 2015-2019, 2021-2023
R2P Group of Friends member:	Yes
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	Voted yes
Background	
Regional Group:	Latin America and Caribbean Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1958-1959, 1972-1973, 1976-1977, 1981-1982, 2007-2008
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	2016-2018
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	Signatory to the ACT Code of Conduct and France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration. Co-sponsored General Assembly Draft Resolution A/76/L.52 (adopted as A/RES/76/262).
Rome Statute of the ICC:	Ratified: 21 March 2002
Genocide Convention:	Ratified: 11 January 1950
Arms Trade Treaty:	Ratified: 11 February 2014

**Security Council Priorities:** Promoting multilateralism, human rights and dialogue as the foundation of international peace and security; building national resilience against conflict, with an emphasis on developing the institutional capacity of fragile states; advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including addressing the specific protection needs of women and girls in conflict and strengthening women’s participation in peace processes; and advocating for Security Council engagement regarding climate change as a threat to peace and security.

**On R2P:** As a member of the Group of Friends of R2P, Panama joined the following statement: “Furthermore, we also renew our call on all Members of the Security Council to respond to and address the risk or commission of mass atrocities, noting in this context initiatives such as the ACT Code of Conduct and the French-Mexican initiative on the use of veto in case of mass atrocities... we look forward to hearing from Member States on best practices to end the current climate of impunity and inaction with regard to the risk of atrocity crimes across the globe. Let this debate be a reminder of the importance to continue this exchange of information and the need to strengthen our individual and collective prevention efforts.” (UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on R2P, 26 June 2023)

## Somalia

**Head of State:** President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre

**Minister for Foreign Affairs:** H.E. Mr. Ahmed Moallim Fiqi Ahmed

**Permanent Representative to the UN:** H.E. Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman

Summary of R2P Engagement	
Participation in UNGA R2P dialogue/debate:	N/A
R2P Group of Friends member:	No
Appointed R2P Focal Point:	No
Support for UNGA Resolution 75/277:	N/A
Background	
Regional Group:	Africa Group
UN Security Council Membership:	1971-1972
UN Human Rights Council Membership:	2019-2021
Safe Schools Declaration:	Yes
Code of Conduct/Veto Initiatives:	Signatory to the ACT Code of Conduct
Rome Statute of the ICC:	No
Genocide Convention:	No
Arms Trade Treaty:	No

**Security Council Priorities:** Emphasizing the importance of conflict prevention, including early warning mechanisms, and international dialogue through mediation; addressing the root causes of conflict with holistic strategies, including through sustainable development and humanitarian assistance; prioritizing the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas, with particular emphasis on civil society participation; ensuring respect for international law and the promotion of human rights; and building more effective partnerships among the UN, African Union and sub-regional organizations.

**On R2P:** Somalia has never spoken publicly on the Responsibility to Protect in a UN forum.

**Alleged role in atrocities crimes documented by UN mechanisms:** Populations in Somalia have suffered widespread human rights abuses that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity due to the federal government's years-long conflict with armed groups, including Al-Shabaab. While most of the violations against civilians are perpetrated by armed groups like Al-Shabaab, civilians have been harmed during offensives by the Somali National Army, in coordination with international forces, with grave violations of human rights, including rape and arbitrary detention, among others. The UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) has continually documented evidence of human rights abuses and violations that may amount to atrocity crimes. In their most recent report covering the period from 6 October 2023 to 24 January 2024, UNSOM recorded 167 civilian casualties (84 killed and 83 injured), with 29 casualties (17 percent) to state security forces.