

PAPER OF CLAIMS AND SOLUTIONS

Aurora MSC Side Event „Neglect 2 Protect: R2P Revisited“
Munich, 15th February 2019

SUMMARY

Impediments of the implementation of protection need to be overcome to find solutions to the world's most pressing humanitarian crises, stated experts at the Munich Security Conference (MSC). Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger outlined at the Aurora Dialogues in Berlin, that different parties are also guilty, if they can do something, but don't act. This topic was further discussed with UN representatives, statesmen and prosecutors, NGOs and local heroes at the MSC side event "Neglect 2 Protect: R2P revisited": How to implement the principle of *responsibility to protect* (R2P) in preventing and reacting to genocides, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. In light of increasing nationalism and isolationism, the role of civil society as well as potentially new, transnational partnerships and the improvement of existing structures posed major topics in the discussion.

SPEAKERS

Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor, International Criminal Court, The Hague

Thomas Catena, Chairman, Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, Yerevan

Christoph Heusgen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, New York

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under Secretary General for Peace Operations, United Nations, New York

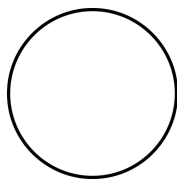
David Miliband, President and CEO, International Rescue Committee; former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom

PROBLEM ANALYSIS

The disconnect between the R2P on paper and the reality is immense. Moreover, we face a serious, concerted, front attack on the principle itself, as arguments of state sovereignty are being made more publicly than ever before. The divisions within the international community hinder the achievement of political solutions and the protection of civilians. At the same time conflicts have become more complex and protracted crisis evoked through the involvement of multiple actors, as well as transnational challenges such as terrorisms, illegal activities and climate change. The Security Council is deadlocked and countries believe it is not their business to intervene.

Furthermore, we face a lack of prosecution as the ICC's juridical competence is limited, impunity is the antithesis of the idea of the responsibility to protect and people have lost the confidence that the existing systems can make a difference.

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Strengthening Multilateralism!

The only solution to face these global challenges is multilateralism. Credible and legitimate institutions of shared political power as well as a greater sense of common interests need to be strengthened and developed. Structures and treaties in place need to work better to reach accountability.

New and stronger Partnerships!

Ignorance comes from isolation, integration of different stakeholders is essential.

An active protection and strong cooperation with the AU are significant determinants for an effective crisis prevention in Africa.

Inclusive Approach!

The processes must be a multi-stakeholder collaboration between politics, NGOs, media, businesses and citizens. Voices of actors on the ground, survivors, and people receiving aid must systematically be included into the global debate. Building peace has to involve the civil society, especially women and youth.

Naming, Shaming, and Blaming!

Increasing the levels of shame that are associated with violations of human rights through pressure and PR, can increase the costs for committing human rights violations. A state loses its sovereignty if it is not willing or able to protect its citizens. States, media and civil society that are committed to those values and rights need to speak up.

Stop Impunity!

Impunity is a fundamental impediment for sustainable peace, we have to look for ways in which peace and justice can work together. The SC and states have to support the ICC in doing its work, enforcing arrest and allowing the ICC to act on cases of states which have not signed the Rome statute.

Taking Action by the Civil Society!

When governments and multilateral systems retreat, NGOs and private corporations need to step up. In democracies people can demand humanitarian interventions, harass local governors, pressure them to represent their interests and values. In non-democratic states, an appeal to common values and the establishment mechanisms of collecting data transferring data immediately when it comes to an official investigation, can support the protection of human rights.

Financial Support for Advocacy!

NGOs work hard on targeting the violations against humanity. To improve their reach out to political players as well as civilians, they need to invest much more into advocacy and communication work and need the financial support of the international community.

In case of queries, please feel free to contact: Judith Ramadan (j.ramadan@globalperspectives.org)

Global Perspectives Initiative

Global Perspectives Initiative gUG (haftungsbeschränkt), Schönhauser Allee 10/11, 10119 Berlin
0049 (0)30 726 26 75 30, office@globalperspectives.org, globalperspectives.org
Amtsgericht Charlottenburg, HRB 180995 B, Geschäftsführer: Dr. Ingrid Hamm, Stephan Balzer