

BITSMUN Hyderabad '14



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Study guide

From the Executive Board

Welcome Delegates, to the United Nations Security Council of BITS MUN Hyderabad '14. This year we promise you a bigger, better and bolder version of the BITS MUN experience. The conference will be held from 3rd to 5th October, 2014, in BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus.

This council shall function as a Continuous Crisis Committee with special emphasis on the 'Responsibility to Protect'. There will be continuous updates given in council and the delegates are expected to discuss, deliberate and resolve any issues at hand through mutual cooperation. The working of the committee and the Rules of Procedure are given in the Delegate Handbook.

At this point, it should be noted that sources such as United Nations reports, news reports from Reuters are considered credible, and so are the facts from sources like the CIA Fact book. However, unverified sources like Wikipedia will not hold well in council and cannot be cited as sources.

Delegates, do remember that this guide is merely to introduce the theme and aims to give a basic idea about R2P. The delegates are expected to look at, but in no way limit themselves to, the readings suggested in this guide. This being a Continuous Crisis Committee, delegates are advised to be well versed with their country's standpoint on the various diplomatic issues surrounding R2P. We expect you to come to the council well researched and look forward to three days of exciting and intense debate.

Ashesh Das
Co-Chairperson

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Co-Chairperson

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Director

United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council needs no introduction. It is arguably the most powerful body of the United Nations, responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, taking actions to prevent or stop aggression, and the authorization of military action. This is where decisions are made. The UNSC may meet whenever peace is threatened. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

Maintaining Peace and Security

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. If a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures ranging from economic sanctions to collective military action.

A chief concern for the UNSC is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

Functions and Powers

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";

- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

Membership and Voting

The UNSC has fifteen members, with five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. The permanent members have an exclusive and controversial power called the right to veto. If any one of the five permanent members cast a negative vote in the 15-member Security Council, the resolution or decision would not be approved.

Responsibility to Protect

What is R2P?

The “Responsibility to protect” or R2P Doctrine is a UN initiative officially introduced in 2005 with the adoption of a dedicated UN Security Council resolution, which establishes that state sovereignty is not a given right of a country but, rather, implies a duty to protect one’s population and ensure their safety and protection.

The **three pillars** of the R2P doctrine can be summarized as:

- A state has the duty of protecting its citizens from Mass Atrocity Crimes;
- The international community has the duty to assist states in the implementation of their duty to protect citizens;
- When a state fails to fulfill their responsibility to protect citizens, the international community may consider military intervention to restore order, but only as a last resort and once all other options have been explored.

The **scope** of R2P has been defined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document as:

- The Responsibility to Protect is derived from the positive notion of “sovereignty as responsibility.” The concept does not undermine sovereignty, but reinforces it.
- R2P is applied specifically and only to four crimes and violations, namely genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
- The “appropriate and necessary” response to such a situation includes a wide range of prevention and protection measures available to Member States, the UN, regional and sub- regional organizations, and civil society.

- The 2005 Summit recognized that early warning was a crucial element to prevent and protect, with the need for the UN to access and analyze information in a timely, reliable fashion. The report warns against failing to react to situations, or worse, to show patterns of selective reporting.

The **enforcement** of the R2P Doctrine through military intervention should also be devised upon the following three guiding principles:

1. *Responsibility to Prevent* – Intervention should address the causes of Mass Atrocity Crimes so that these may be halted as rapidly as possible;
2. *Responsibility to Reach* – The international community has the responsibility to react when the mass atrocity crimes are occurring even, if necessary, with military action;
3. *Responsibility to Rebuild* – The international community has the responsibility to provide aid in the aftermath of mass atrocity crimes, including reconstruction, providing humanitarian relief, etc.

The following **guidelines** are to be kept in mind for military intervention:

1. *Right Authority* – Military intervention is usually authorized by the UN Security Council but, should the Council not authorize it, alternative means such as an emergency session of the UN General Assembly under the “Uniting for Peace” procedure could also be described as “Right Cause”. An agreement between regional bodies within their jurisdictional ability could also be seen as “right authority”. Should this not be sufficient to justify intervention, further alternatives could also be explored;
2. *Just Cause* – This includes occurring or apprehended episodes of MACs or equally grave acts. Widespread extermination, forced deportation or apartheid, use of chemical weapons, threatened use of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction could all justify intervention;
3. *Right Intention* – The motifs behind intervention should always be to provide humanitarian relief and restore peace and order;
4. *Proportional Means* – The scale of the attack should be proportional to the conflict which needs to be averted.
5. *Reasonable Prospect* – There must be a good possibility that intervention will successfully avert the conflict

Despite the R2P Doctrine having been officially adopted by the Council, it has sparked numerous criticisms and its implementation has not always been as straightforward as one may imagine. Indeed, national and regional interests of countries have at times

played an important role in determining the extent of military intervention or, as a matter of fact, whether military intervention was considered at all. Various examples include Syria, Libya etc. There exists a huge debate over whether the situation of civilians in Libya had become better or worse after NATO's intervention in 2011.

R2P being such a vast debatable theme, a lot of literature and material is available online. Delegates are advised to use their discretion while researching and stick to credible sources. As this is a continuous crisis committee, not much about the crisis can be revealed at this point of time.

We look forward to seeing you in action on the 3rd of October. All the Best.

References and related links

<http://www.un.org/en/sc>

2005 World Summit Outcome Document and UNSC Resolution S/RES/1674

www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/files/R2PSummary.pdf

<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/files/ICRtoP%20Summary%20of%20SG%20report.pdf>

<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/component/content/article/35-r2pcs-topics/5616-icrtop-statement-on-regulating-the-use-of-the-veto-in-mass-atrocity-situations>

<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/about-rtop>

<http://www.offiziere.ch/wp-content/uploads/Lillich-19951.pdf>