



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Canada

### **Accountability Series**

Co-hosted by

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations  
The Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

Accountability for violations of IHL and international human rights law is critical not only to ensure justice for the victims, but also to contribute to building sustainable peace and preventing recurrence. Domestic and international civil society continue to call on States for accountability by making use of all available mechanisms and by preparing the ground for future accountability efforts in post-conflict transitions. Yet the gap between calls for accountability and the capacity and/or political will for States to take active steps to operationalize such calls is widening. It is becoming increasingly challenging to bridge the gap at the multinational level.

At the national level, some States have started the process of investigating and prosecuting individuals alleged to have committed grave crimes such as torture, war crimes and crimes against humanity under the principle of universal jurisdiction. The individuals under investigations are usually low to mid-level perpetrators and few in numbers. This begs the question: what can States concretely do, individually and collectively, to end impunity, enhance accountability and work to prevent recurrence of such violations?

In an effort to address this question, the Permanent Mission of Canada and the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein will cosponsor a three-part Series on Accountability (to be held March to June 2017) to provide a multi-stakeholder space to discuss these issues in the context of several conflicts, including, for example, Yemen, Syria, and South Sudan. The series will explore several themes to both underscore the importance of accountability, and spur action at the national and Geneva levels. The series will explore:

- international and national options for accountability;
  - what States can do nationally to support accountability for gross violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. What actions, resources, infrastructure are required to be effective?
  - key challenges and opportunities for States; provide a venue to share good practices and lessons learned
  - how human rights mechanisms can be leveraged to support States in this area;

- the role of accountability in the prevention of mass atrocities and protection of civilians;
- the role of monitoring, investigation and reporting to support accountability mechanisms.

### **Session 1 – Using Universal Jurisdiction for Accountability**

**Date - March 15 2017, 13:00-14:30 Room XXIII Palais des Nations**

Moderator Ms. Catherine Godin, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

Opening statements: H.E. Mr. Peter C. Matt, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein

#### Panellists

- 1) Ms. Victoria Gobbi, Permanent Mission of Argentina
- 2) Mr. Husam Alkatlaby, Executive Director, Violations Documentation Centre in Syria
- 3) Ms. Alison A. Smith, Director of International Criminal Justice Program - No Peace Without Justice
- 4) Mr. Henrik Attorps, Swedish Prosecution Authority

### **Session 2 –Accountability and Prevention of Mass Atrocities – The Link to R2P**

Date – April 2017 (date and venue TBD)

### **Session 3 – Supporting Accountability – investigations, monitoring and report**

Date – May 2017 (date and venue TBD)