



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY**

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE, WAR CRIMES, ETHNIC  
CLEANSING AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

**STATEMENT BY CLAUDIO NARDI**

CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF  
LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

Over two decades ago, our leaders committed to protect civilian populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing at the World Summit. Yet over those same two decades, we have witnessed over and over again populations in all parts of the world who have not been protected; instead, they have been subjected to precisely the atrocities this commitment was intended to prevent. While the R2P concept enjoys broad political support, all too often its implementation remains elusive. The challenge we face today is not a lack of legal norms but a lack of political will to implement them. We must therefore focus not only reaffirming our commitment but strengthening its implementation.

The commitment this Assembly made in 2005 was not only a recognition of the responsibility of States to protect their own populations from atrocity crimes, but also of our collective responsibility to act when authorities are unable or unwilling to do so. One important way to give effect to this shared responsibility is through timely and decisive Security Council action. For such

action to be effective, Council Members must translate their commitment to R2P into practice, including by acting collectively when populations are at risk of atrocity crimes. Too often, however, Council action is blocked because of political divisions and the threat or use of the veto, leaving the Council unable to protect anyone or anything, least of all its own credibility. We therefore urge all Member States who have not done so, including present and incoming Council members, to sign the ACT Code of Conduct, which involves committing to take measures to end and prevent atrocity crimes and not to vote against credible draft resolutions put forward to that effect.

Liechtenstein also supports a strong and more proactive role of the General Assembly, in particular when the Security Council fails to address atrocity crimes in line with its Charter mandate. We believe that the veto initiative has been an important step in realigning the relationship between the Security Council and General Assembly in this regard and hope that this Assembly will be able to act on this basis as and when appropriate.

Madam President,

As noted in the report on the implementation of R2P by the Secretary-General, a sustained approach to R2P is relevant well before atrocities are imminent or occurring. Greater focus should be placed on prevention, early warning and addressing the underlying conditions that increase the risk of atrocity crimes.

Early warning alone, however, is not enough. It must be supported by national legal frameworks, effective institutions and accountability mechanisms capable of acting on warning signs before they escalate into atrocities. We therefore encourage Member States to strengthen national prevention capacities, including through dedicated national mechanisms and focal points for atrocity prevention.

We also echo the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report to encourage all Member States to become parties to relevant international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law instruments, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and to implement their obligations at the national level. Where national accountability falls short, the Security Council should refer relevant situations to the ICC, such as in the case of Myanmar. Finally, we also call for the universal ratification and full implementation of the Genocide Convention.

I thank you.