

23 March 2012

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
Office of the United Nations Secretary-General

CC: H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly;  
Dr. Edward C. Luck, Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect

Excellency,

We, the undersigned civil society organizations, welcome the opportunity for Member States to discuss the third pillar of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP, R2P) during the General Assembly dialogue this summer. We respectfully request your leadership to ensure that this year's report on third pillar measures is published at least two months ahead of the dialogue following a consultative process with civil society to gain additional perspective on preventive and reactive tools. Furthermore, we trust that you will work with the President of the General Assembly to finalize and release the date of the dialogue as soon as possible.

Only if published well in advance, can your report be a crucial resource for Member States, regional organizations, and UN offices and departments to prepare for a constructive dialogue. Regional meetings of NGOs and diplomats ahead of the dialogue are an opportunity for these actors to reflect on the report. This will result in increased participation from Member States and regional organizations, as in past years they have lacked adequate time to prepare remarks for the General Assembly.

Civil society plays a critical role in the implementation of RtoP at the local, national, regional and international levels by raising alarm of at-risk situations and monitoring efforts to prevent and respond to the threat of mass atrocity crimes. A confirmed date for the meeting will strengthen the platform for engagement between all actors by allowing civil society from every region to engage directly with their governments and participate in the dialogue. We hope to work with you and continue our engagement with your Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect as you finalize your report. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with Special Adviser Dr. Luck on this issue as he continues to prepare for the dialogue.

Excellency, given the theme of the dialogue and seeing that third pillar response measures have been debated by Member States, regional organizations and civil society, the timely distribution of your report is necessary for constructive participation. This year's dialogue can act as a forum to further the commitment of all actors to protect populations from mass atrocities, fostering discussion on how we can all work towards the effective use of the full spectrum tools under the third pillar of RtoP. We urge you to ensure this early and inclusive preparation to guide the international community as we work to prevent genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

Sincerely,

A Billion Little Stones (Australia)  
Act for Peace (Australia)  
Aegis Trust (United Kingdom)  
Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (Australia)  
Asia-Pacific Solidarity Coalition  
Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights (Canada)  
Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (Liberia)  
Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (Australia)

Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (Colombia)  
Citizens for Global Solutions (United States)  
Coalition for Justice and Accountability (Sierra Leone)  
Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (Argentina)  
Droits Humains Sans Frontières (Democratic Republic of the Congo)  
East Africa Law Society (Tanzania)  
Genocide Alert (Germany)  
Global Action to Prevent War (United States)  
Global Justice Center (United States)  
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (The Netherlands)  
Human Rights Watch (United States)  
Initiatives for International Dialogue (The Philippines)  
Madariaga-College of Europe Foundation (Belgium)  
Mindanao Peaceweavers (The Philippines)  
Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (Canada)  
Pan African Lawyers Union (Tanzania)  
Permanent Peace Movement (Lebanon)  
R2P Student Coalition (Australia)  
Réseau de Développement et de Communications de la Femme Africaine (Mali)  
Semillas para la Democracia (Paraguay)  
STAND Canada (Canada)  
United Nations Association – Denmark (Denmark)  
United Nations Association – Sweden (Sweden)  
United Nations Association – UK (United Kingdom)  
United to End Genocide (United States)  
West Africa Civil Society Forum (Nigeria)  
West Africa Civil Society Institute (Ghana)  
World Federalist Movement – Canada (Canada)  
World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy (United States, The Netherlands)  
World Federation of United Nations Associations (United States and Switzerland)