

Concluding Statement by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, Ms. Mò Bleeker at the Ministerial Meeting Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Responsibility to Protect

Tuesday, 23 September 2025

15:00 – 17:00

Conference Room 7, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Colleagues and Friends,

As we conclude this significant ministerial meeting commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Responsibility to Protect, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the insightful and constructive contributions shared throughout our deliberations.

Over the past two decades, the international community has achieved important progress in strengthening prevention and response to genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing. We have seen enhanced early warning capacities, stronger national and regional mechanisms, and greater political commitment to collective action.

However, as many delegations have emphasized, challenges remain -particularly in ensuring that early warnings translate into timely and effective responses, overcoming political obstacles, and improving coordination on the ground. Strengthening cooperation between international and regional actors remains imperative, with regional organizations such as the African Union and ASEAN playing crucial roles that must be fully supported and integrated into the global prevention architecture.

Our discussions have also underscored the indispensable role of civil society, human rights defenders, and local actors, whose meaningful inclusion is essential for credible early warning and prevention efforts.

In this context, the Secretary-General's 2025 report provides a critical roadmap. The organization of regional consultations will be key to fostering dialogue and tailored prevention strategies. Moreover, the preparation of a comprehensive guidance note will assist Member States and regional bodies in translating policy into effective practice.

Looking ahead, our priorities must be clear: we must enhance mechanisms for rapid, credible response and accountability; invest substantially in capacity-building for national and regional

institutions; and develop an integrated, collaborative global prevention framework grounded in shared responsibility.

Regarding the UN 80 proposals, it is essential that each of the three streams -efficiencies within current arrangements, mandate implementation review, and structural changes with programme realignments- result in a framework that delivers focused and adequate prevention and protection capacity. This capacity must support the Secretary-General, the Secretariat, the wider UN system, and Member States.

Such a framework should enable timely early warning, robust analysis, and advanced data capabilities to inform high-level decision-making and foster coordinated action.

These priorities were underscored in the address by Mr. Chaloka Beyani, the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. His presence here today -on just his second day in office- demonstrates his strong commitment to the effective functioning of the Joint Office as a unified entity, bringing together its distinct but interrelated and mutually reinforcing mandates on genocide prevention and the responsibility to protect -a point he emphasized in his remarks.

Member States have a fundamental responsibility to create enabling environments that empower civil society and local actors, ensuring their active and meaningful participation in early warning, prevention, and response.

In closing, the Responsibility to Protect remains a cornerstone of international peace and security. Let us honor the lessons of the past twenty years by committing ourselves to the full implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations and by reinforcing our collective resolve to prevent atrocities and uphold human dignity.

I thank you all for your leadership, engagement, and unwavering dedication to this vital cause.

Thank you.