

NIGERIAN STATEMENT IN SECURITY COUNCIL POC MEETING, MAY 2011: S/PV.6531.

“A thoughtful approach to understanding the specific vulnerabilities of all civilians in a conflict situation would lead us to the right combination of these strategies, one reflecting the socio-economic context of the conflict.”

needs of the state in question. The Focal Point works as a “hub” for analysis and policy input.¹⁸⁶

On a larger view, each Focal Point is one part of a larger Global Network, allowing mutual support and sharing of lessons learned and best practices, as well as intergovernmental coordination and assistance where appropriate.

Current challenges with regard to Efficacy and Mutual support: Executives and Parliaments mainstreaming R2P Pillar Two throughout foreign and trade policy.

Perhaps the single most difficult challenge to nations – and so to executives and parliaments – is to contribute to large-scale structural prevention of atrocities through mainstreaming R2P *throughout institutions not normally perceived as implicated in atrocities*. One instance here is arms-dealing, particularly of the small arms used by irregular forces – who typically pose the greatest danger to populations. It is all too possible for States to view such international dealings purely through a business perspective.

A more difficult case again is the question of economic development: Does structural atrocity prevention include – as the original ICISS Report suggested – concern for the economic development of poorer States, so as to mitigate the economic factors that play a role in precipitating atrocities? Even if the link between economic aid or the dissolution of trade barriers on the one hand, and R2P atrocity-prevention on the other, is too tenuous to inform direct policy initiatives, there are tighter links between certain types of economic activity and atrocity. To

Romeo Dallaire (2003), Commander of the UN PKO in

Rwanda: Major Brent Beardsley, “asked a Belgian officer what it felt like to be risking his life in Rwanda while his nation dealt arms that could be used to kill him. The officer replied that peacekeeping was peacekeeping, and business was business, and the business of Belgium was arms.”

take one example: *Blood diamonds* are just one well-known instance of the larger problem of the *resource curse*.

Case Example: The Resource Curse and the Challenge of mainstreaming R2P’s Structural Prevention

One of the largest risk factors for civil war and despotism is the presence of reserves of oil and mineral wealth – the so-called “Resource Curse”. Rather than such natural wealth being exploited for the common good, the wealth these resources offer furnishes a standing incentive for the brutal takeover of vulnerable States by armed actors. Once a successful takeover occurs, the massive and on-going income the oil and mineral resources provide allows despots to cement their rule by indefinitely repressing the population. The resource curse is thus directly implicated in the two major contexts where genocide and atrocity crimes occur: civil war and despotic State repression. Yet this income is not created by the resources themselves, but by the willingness of other States to trade in what are effectively stolen goods: stolen from the population for whose good such natural wealth by rights should be exploited. A variety of policy-initiatives, both unilateral and multilateral, have been developed to combat this problem – such as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds. However, the disconnect between atrocity-prevention, foreign policy and international business has so far meant that genocide prevention has focused on setting up discrete organs of genocide prevention rather than through mainstreaming R2P by altering national policy in other domains.

§5.4.d Military and Police

Ongoing reform with regard to Efficacy: Military and Police training in the context of POC peacekeeping operations

Many national military and police forces do not currently have operational guidelines or doctrine to enable them to contribute with assurance to the implementation of POC. UN concepts and frameworks are more advanced,

and UN training modules for POC are currently being developed. Greater effort is required by countries to ensure their military and police contingents are adequately trained for POC, and that POC doctrine and training is consistent with UN developments and the requirements of international humanitarian law. Thought must also be given to ways in which relevant aspects of R2P can be introduced into POC training, for example, the preventive role of peacekeepers in the face of potential outbreaks of mass atrocities.

§5.4.e

Human rights commissions: R2P

Reform Proposal with regard to Role development and Mutual support: Human Rights Commissions and R2P early warning and advocacy.

National human rights commissions could play a greater role in monitoring State compliance with R2P – although in some jurisdictions the commissions themselves would need protecting. Of course, many human rights commissions are actively involved in UN meetings and seek greater engagement with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Thus, they play a role in ensuring compliance with R2P through identifying gaps in protection and recommending and advocating for the necessary legal and political reforms. Such monitoring, assessment and recommendation should be informed by knowledge of the risk factors for genocide and atrocity crimes, as detailed by the OSAPG.¹⁸⁷ On the other hand, in jurisdictions where human rights are overly politicised, associating the human rights commission with R2P could be detrimental to the State’s willingness to engage with those principles, and for that reason might need to be avoided.

187 Office of the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide OSAPG, “Analysis Framework,” United Nations, http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/pdf/osapg_analysis_framework.pdf.

186 See Rachel Gerber and Pawnday Savita, “Policy Memo: Preparatory Workshop for the Second Meeting of the R2P Focal Points Network,” (New York: Stanley Foundation; GCR2P, 2012.)