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Responsibility to Protect?

A Commitment to Act

Speaker

Frederic Eckhard, Chief spokesperson for Kofi Annan from 1997 to 2005

After a passionate challenge, the U.N. General Assembly recently turned back efforts to water down or "unsign" the landmark human rights legislation, the Responsibility to Protect.

R2P, as it is known, says that when human populations suffer from gross violations of human rights - such as genocide or ethnic cleansing - and the home government either can't or won't act, the international community must step in to protect the people.

First presented by the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, R2P was approved by the Security Council in 2006. However, some U.N. Member States oppose the concept, which they see as a pretext for strong nations to infringe upon the sovereignty of the weak. Moreover, lawyers have questioned whether there is a basis in international law for such an infringement of national sovereignty. But of the 93 Member States that participated in a special debate this summer, 75 spoke in favor of R2P, and it now looks like the challenge is dead.

So why should we still be concerned?

Join us as Frederic Eckhard tells us how R2P came to be and how it is being applied today.

WICE World Watch is a platform for the exchange of ideas and information on dynamics in today's world.

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The American Library in Paris

10 rue du Général Camou, Paris 75007

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