

The French Republic

Positions for the Security Council

I. Stabilizing Conflict Areas after Government Collapse

The French Republic implores all Member States to take an active role in helping to stabilize areas of conflict after the fall of governments. Drawing on previous resolutions, such as S/RES/2040(2012) and S/RES/1641(2005), the French Republic calls for the extension of all UN efforts in areas where governments have collapsed due to conflict. By building upon the foundation of A/RES/60/180 and S/RES/1645(2005), France looks forward to the continued work of the Peacebuilding Commission in stabilizing countries afflicted by conflict and civil war.

Since conflict can spread very quickly, France encourages all Member States to become actively involved in maintaining peace and stability in areas where governments have collapsed by supporting the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) and working with various agencies to develop effective, and tailored, stabilization plans for these states. France strongly advocates strengthening the UNPBF and its goals of researching patterns of conflict and organizing procedures for countries to follow during times of unrest. The UNPBF can also play an essential role in facilitating the establishment or re-establishment of the rule of law after government collapse, a priority stated in S/PRST/2012/1. Furthermore, France recalls S/PRST/2011/10 and S/PRST/2011/2 that not only acknowledge the unique challenges faced by transitional, post-collapse governments but also offer some concrete recommendations to help impacted states establish durable peace. France looks to the Secretary General's Report on Civilian Capacity in the Aftermath of Conflict (A/67/312–S/2012/645) for some crucial elements in post-conflict recovery, including integrating the whole society in the rebuilding process and holding individuals accountable for their actions.

With recent political upheavals throughout the Middle East and continued instability in parts of Africa, France entreats all Member States to prepare for possible conflict and its aftermath. Specifically, all Member States should have protocols in place to assist in the re-establishment of order should conflict erupt or their government collapse. The French Republic also implores members of the global community to work together to continue to reach out to states experiencing conflict or governmental collapse and provide them with needed supplies, resources, and manpower necessary for stabilization efforts. All Member States must remember that it is in the best interest of the global community as a whole to not only resolve conflict and but also to stabilize rebuild states and societies quickly once the conflict has ceased. With the 7th Forum on Reinventing Government complete and the publication Building Trust in Government in the Twenty-First Century, the French Republic promotes the implementation of policies and procedures that will foster trust between all governments and their citizens. France looks forward to the coming days with great hope for stable governments, fulfilled citizens, and heads of state devoted to global cooperation and the suppression of conflict.

II. Protection of Natural Resources and Waters

Water is one of the fundamental building blocks for all life, and as such it is a natural resource that must be protected for all. Following the Millennium Development Goal 7, France urges all Member States to recognize the importance of water as a natural resource and necessity of life. The French Republic applauds UN-Water for its efforts undertaken as part of the "Water for Life" program. These programs are essential to ensure effective multilateral cooperation to ensure safe, secure, and sustainable water for the entire global population. Effective water management during times of peace is only one part of the challenge, however.

In times of armed conflict, it is critical that natural resources be protected from exploitation in order to provide for the needs of all citizens in impacted areas. France calls for immediate fortifications to ensure the safety of drinking water in all areas—but particularly zones plagued by conflict. Recognizing that the ability to utilize the natural resources of one's native land is a fundamental right of all people, the French Republic, using Article 2 of the United Nations Charter and General Assembly Resolution 1803(xvii), urges all Member States to adopt protocols to protect their natural resources in times of crisis in order to provide for their citizens.

Recognizing that the exploitation of natural resources during times of armed conflict is both an issue of environmental and security concern, France is encouraged by the progress made by the international community in addressing these issues as expressed in A/RES/56/4, S/RES/1457(2003), and the establishment of an International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. France also calls upon

environmental agencies and agencies concerned with security, including the UN Environmental Program, the UN Development Program, and the Peacebuilding Commission to work together to form dedicated partnerships focused on the fundamental issue of resources and conflict. These partnerships will ensure that a multilateral approach is taken when dealing with the exploitation of natural resources during times of armed conflict as this is inherently a multilateral issue. Another issue of concern is that of environmental modification techniques. These activities can have adverse consequences to both populations and territory, and are often contrary to the goals and principles of the UN. Therefore, France emphasizes A/RES/31/72 and condemns the use of hostile environmental modification techniques.

Currently, France has ninety-eight government appointed environmental experts throughout the world who are contributing to the growing knowledge about exploitation of natural resources in armed conflict. France encourages other Member States to also lend their expertise in the field of the environment and security. France recalls S/2011/661, which notes the expanding need to protect natural resources of all states, especially in times of armed conflict. The French Republic applauds the sanctions and embargos placed on countries that exploit natural resources in times of war as documented in resolutions such as S/RES/1518(2003) and S/RES/1718(2006). Building upon S/RES/1591(2005), France encourages the practice of freezing state assets and banning the travel of leaders when governments challenge the rights of citizens and intentionally exploit natural resources in times of armed conflict.

It is of the utmost importance that all Member States take a stand against the exploitation of natural resources in times of armed conflict and ensure that the needs of all citizens be met above the interests of the warring parties. The French Republic expresses its unyielding support of states attempting to secure natural resources during times of armed conflict and appeals to all Member States to do their part to see the exploitation of resources eliminated.

III. The Application of Responsibility to Protect

Recalling the horrific genocides in the past century and recent atrocities carried out against populations by their own governments, France believes it is now imperative that the international community make a concerted effort to fully implement all aspects of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The French Republic is devoted to applying R2P in all situations that threaten the well-being of people across the globe. Working within the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, France implores all Member States to recall that all people are afforded the rights of life, liberty, and the security of person. It is therefore imperative that all Member States ensure these rights for their citizens. Drawing upon ECOSOC/RES/2001/11 and the Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (2001), the French Republic believes it is of the utmost importance that Member States provide pathways to safety for all citizens not only from outside forces, but from fellow citizens or leaders with the intent to harm. It is vital to the sustainability of any society that all people's security be assured.

With the memories of genocide still fresh in the world's collective memory, the French Republic acknowledges the particular importance of R2P in genocidal situations. France proposes that emphasis should be placed on educating societies on both genocide prevention techniques and conflict resolution between warring races, nationalities, religious groups, or other sects. France urges Member States to follow the three-pillar plan outlined in the Secretary General's reports A/63/677, that focuses on prevention, early warning, and tailored implementation, as well as subsequent reports A/64/864 and A/65/877-S/2011/393.

In keeping with the continual protection of all people, France recalls ECOSOC/RES/2007/3 as a foundation for better prepared humanitarian efforts in times of emergencies when citizens' safety and security are endangered. Underscoring the inalienable rights of all people, France brings forward A/RES/62/149 and once again calls for the immediate abolition of the death penalty by all states as it directly defies the rights of all people. According to Amnesty International, in 2011, 676 persons were known to have been executed by 20 countries while 1,923 were sentenced to execution. It is the responsibility of each Member State to protect its own people and, with the continual use of the death penalty by Member States, R2P is being ignored. Furthermore, France encourages Member States to provide all resources necessary in cases of unjust executions in order to ensure the safety of the citizenry as a whole.

Successful implementation of R2P on a truly global scale will take collaborative efforts. The French Republic is encouraged to see various UN organs, such as the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, taking an active role in this process. France also reaffirms the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and advocates the swift consequences for Member States who resist the rules stated within. France urges all Member States to acknowledge and appreciate the rights of their people and commit to applying the responsibility to protect in all situations that citizens' security and safety is threatened.