

The Republic of Rwanda
Positions for the Security Council

I. Cyber Security: The Threat of Cyber Conflict on International Peace and Security

The Republic of Rwanda is dedicated to mitigating and educating the developing world about the threats posed by cyber conflict and cyber terrorism in nations all over the world, but in particular those nations just now creating their internet infrastructure. Rwanda is the fourth largest high speed internet user in Africa and is launching a revolutionary new program designed to inform and educate the public about the dangers of online threats and the need for cyber security on both the individual and national levels, as addressed in the Rwanda National ICT Strategy and Plan.¹ Rwanda is investing 8.7 million dollars into this education campaign that will be concentrated on IT managers and government personnel. Rwanda is also creating a national taskforce to cooperate with other states on the regional and international level.

Rwanda is deeply concerned with potential vulnerabilities in global security that coincide with increased use of information technologies in all areas of governance and calls upon the international community to establish a framework for the coordination of security measures as addressed in Resolution 66/24. The United Nations has commissioned many studies on cybersecurity including the General Assemblies report on developments in information technology and telecommunications and the report presented by the Secretary General within A/65/201. Rwanda encourages the continuation of these studies. Additionally, as noted in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Field of Information and Communications Technology in the Context of International Security, the current scope of international law is sufficient to cover security in the context of ICT security, however Rwanda believes that the rapid expansion of ICT technology necessitates expanded and explicit coordination of security approaches specifically tailored to cyber security concerns. As we note in our own National ICT Strategy, legal frameworks require "...continuous improvement to facilitate swift adaptation to changing trends and technologies" and we would argue that the global effort to adapt to ICT security concerns is no different.

II. Coordinating Global Accountability between SC, ICC and ICJ

"Instead of promoting justice and peace, the ICC has undermined efforts at reconciliation and served only to humiliate Africans and their leaders, as well served the political interests of the powerful"
Paul Kagame President of Rwanda

The Republic of Rwanda will not support the actions of a puppet court like the ICC that stands for nothing but its own political interests. The ICC has been a destabilizing force since its inception, and its failure to provide an equal and equitable chance for justice to all nations is why Rwanda never signed the *Rome Statute* that created the ICC. The ICC has been used to promote the will of Western Imperialists and it is unsurprising to note that all eight of the ICC's current investigations center on African nations. As noted by President Kagame, "[we] cannot support an ICC that condemns crimes committed by some and not others."

Rwanda is not against the concept of international justice and, in fact, we strongly support measures that would guarantee the consistency in the application of justice in ad hoc tribunals and even support a more permanent court in theory. However we cannot whole-heartedly back the current system because of our adamant support for equality under the law. International Justice can only be found where nations and peoples of every race and nationality can come before an international body on equal footing before the law. Justice cannot be meted out where a judiciary is so clearly steeped in political whim. The ICC is a tool for the powerful of this world to use international justice as a weapon against the smaller and weaker nations of the world. It is used to hold back the development of weaker states and to shield the powerful nations of this planet from justice under international law.

¹ See: www.minicom.gov.rw/IMG/pdf/NCI_III_Final_Draft.pdf

Rwanda supports the recommendations presented by the International Peace Institute that call for a coherent and transparent system of accountability in the application of international justice, noted explicitly for the ICC but also applicable to the need for independence, clearly delimited scope of jurisdiction, and transparency of the ICJ.² Rwanda calls for actions to reform the international criminal court with the following steps. The first step should be to limit the powers of prosecutors, as currently they are far too broad. They are also currently not accountable to any government or institution. Second, the ICC must be granted more independence from the Security Council so that the permanent members on this Council cannot continue to use the Court as a means to dominate the developing world, particularly Africa. Rwanda cannot support increased cooperation with the ICC until these things have been done.

III. Addressing the Role of the Security Council in Civil Conflict

Rwanda has been the victim of the international community's lack of focus and resolve when 1 million Tutsi lost their lives in an attempt to force a final solution to ethnic division by the Hutu led Rwandan government. The international community wrung its hands on the sidelines and it is only by the efforts of President Kagame and the victorious Rwandan Patriotic Front that the Tutsi people were spared total destruction. This loss of life and devastation is still being dealt with today by the Rwandan people and is something that can never be allowed to happen again.

Rwanda is a supporter of the Responsibility to protect doctrine first proposed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document³ and reaffirmed in Resolution 1674 on the Protection of Civilians in World Conflict. Rwanda also supports the Three Pillars approach outlined by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in Berlin in 2008.⁴ These pillars should form the core of the international communities' recognition and response of crimes against humanity like genocide.

The international community has formed a doctrine that can prevent the worst of human atrocities, but must find the will to enforce them. The Security Council must do more to empower the international community to act on matters like genocide and other crimes detailed in the World Summit Outcome Document. The current system allows the most powerful of nations to dictate world action on matters of life and death and this will not change unless there are reforms in the Security Council itself. The ability of the five permanent members to prevent – with their veto power – real action in places like Syria and Rwanda leaves the world powerless to intervene in regional crises. The general assembly should be empowered to grant authorization to regional organizations like the African Union to intervene in situations where the veto five Security Council members are unwilling to act. The UN should also be willing to grant economic and military training to these regional actors so that they will be able to enforce the Responsibility to protect doctrine. Rwanda is not a passive participant in this debate, but a chilling reminder of the costs of failure on this most important issue. We call on the world to act in the name of those who have died because of the world's failure. We must not allow another people to be destroyed simply because it is not expedient to help them. Further, we must provide those regional powers and organizations the ability and the resources to act when the UN cannot.

² Papenfuss, T. 2013. "The Relationship Between the ICC and the Security Council: Challenges and Opportunities" Available online: <http://www.ipinst.org/publication/meeting-notes/detail/388-the-relationship-between-the-icc-and-the-security-council-challenges-and-opportunities.html>

³ "Key Developments on the Responsibility to Protect at the United Nations" International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect, Available online: <http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/about-rtop/the-un-and-rtop> (Accessed March 12, 2014).

⁴ "Secretary-General Defends, Clarifies 'Responsibility To Protect' At Berlin Event On 'Responsible Sovereignty: International Cooperation For A Changed World'" Department of Public Information, Available online: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sgsm11701.doc.htm> (Accessed March 12, 2014).