Rapidly Deployable and Robust

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1. Each of the three RtoP pillars requires attention to the capacities by which we can prevent the onset of atrocity crimes, stop the violence quickly once it begins, and address conditions that can cause societies that have emerged from violence to slip back into cycles of violence. These three obligations require complementary, prevention-oriented tools, including more robust, standing peacekeeping capacities that can stop violence in its earliest stages.

2. Given the controversies over implementation of the Libya resolution and related issues, many states actively seek to counter what they see as a 'rush to intervention' by insisting on more attention to the UN's preventive/early warning toolbox. One of the requirements here is to ensure that findings on atrocity crimes avoid institutional bottlenecks and become actionable at earlier stages by the international community. Another is that tools are properly vetted. RtoP debate.

3. But there are times when the most skillful diplomacy and prevention are unable to successfully resolve the threat of atrocity crimes, necessitating more robust, timely reaction by legitimate responders. Conventional PKOs arrive on the scene too late to respond to atrocity crimes in their earliest stages; and outsourcing response to NATO or individual western powers raises issues of political legitimacy and calls into question the discipline of these powers to implement resolutions carefully rather than seeing such resolutions as a smoke screen for the pursuit of other foreign policy agendas.

4. We support priority attention to all aspects of prevention and early warning, and insist that any new peacekeeping tools must be carefully vetted in the regions where they are most likely to be used. We also support efforts to eliminate tendencies to recidivism – including voluntary assistance for states contemplating laws to eliminate hate speech or, in the words of Rwandan law, genocide ideology. At the same time, we advocate specifically for development of a UN Emergency Peace Service -- a standing, complementary, gender and service integrated, limited-mandate capacity, under a unified UN command that can respond quickly and effectively to outbreaks of severe violence. The Ambulance. UN still has legitimacy that regional capacities do not, esp. when those capacities are used beyond regional borders.

5. Political viability for the development of such a service is undermined by a variety of trust issues within the international community – including trust in the (mostly western) promoters of UNEPS as well as trust in the fairness and transparency institutional home for this proposed service, in this case the UN itself and more specifically the Security Council.