



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Canada

## Accountability Series

Co-hosted by

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations  
The Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations

Accountability for violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law is critical not only to ensure justice for the victims, but also to contribute to building sustainable peace and preventing recurrence.

United Nations Secretary General Guterres has made prevention a key priority for the UN system by promoting a preventative approach to conflict including through advancing the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). In 2005, UN Member States adopted this principle and made a commitment to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Impunity for past such crimes is a risk factor for their future commission and a threat to sustainable peace. It also runs counter to the commitments states made under R2P, and their obligations under IHL and international human rights law. Ensuring accountability for such violations, including the commission of mass atrocity crimes, is both a legal and moral imperative for states.

This panel is the second installment of the Accountability Series co-hosted by Canada and Liechtenstein. It will address the central role that accountability plays in R2P and provide a venue for sharing concrete, actionable, and replicable practices States can draw upon to meet their legal, political and moral obligations to ensure accountability. While accountability cuts across all three R2P pillars, this event will focus on the second and third pillars which state that:

*(1) "Every state has the Responsibility to Protect its populations from four mass atrocity crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing;" (2) "The wider international community has the responsibility to encourage and assist individual states in meeting that responsibility."*

These pillars reflect the need for national action supported by the international community, where needed, in order to implement the R2P prevention agenda and to have a transformative impact on the ground. This panel discussion will explore:

1. The limitations/challenges States face in ending impunity for mass atrocity crimes and how technical cooperation and capacity building can set the stage for effective national accountability mechanism that meet international human rights standards. What is needed? What can be provided and how can the gaps be closed?

2. How regional networks/organizations can be harnessed in order to meet states' commitments under pillars 1&2. What is working and how can it be amplified?
3. How civil society (including womens' organizations and NHRIs) and the larger international community (including the HRC) can contribute to these efforts? Where are the successes and how can they be replicated?
4. How lack of political will at the national/international level can be addressed?
5. How to effectively apply a gender lens into the consideration of all these issues.

## **Session 2 –Accountability and Prevention of Mass Atrocities – The Link to R2P**

Date : 7 June, 2017

Time : 13:30-14:45

Venue : Room XXI Palais de Nations

### Moderator

H.E. Ambassador Peter C. Matt, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein

### Opening statements:

H. E. Ambassador McCarney, Permanent Representative of Canada

### Panellists

1. H.E. Ms. Carla María Rodríguez Mancia , Ambassador and Permanent Representative Guatemala;
2. Mr. Simon Adams, Executive Director, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect – via teleconference;
3. Ms. Marie Louise Baricako, President of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS);
4. Ms. Joanne Mariner, Senior Crisis Adviser, Amnesty International.