FINAL REPORT
The Interrelation between the Right to Peace and the Responsibility to Protect:
The path towards "peace, justice and stronger institutions"

Held at Hacettepe University, Ankara on December 12, 2019

This final report comprises of the reflections on and outcomes of the 12 December 2019 Meeting[1] entitled "The Interrelation between the Right to Peace and the Responsibility to Protect: The path towards 'peace, justice and stronger institutions'" under the 2R2Ps[2] Initiative carried out with the collaboration of the Embassy of Costa Rica, Hacettepe University and the University for Peace.

I. The Interrelation between the Declaration on the Right to Peace and the Responsibility to Protect

The Charter of the United Nations (UN) recognizes that peace is more than the absence of war and therefore, it includes outstanding legal provisions of international human rights law to be applied by the international community as a whole, which should be aimed at eliminating progressively those issues likely to cause war. The analysis of international human rights instruments confirms the conviction that respect for fundamental human rights, including the

---

[1] Meeting Participants

Coordinators:

- Mr. Gustavo Campos Fallas, Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica in the Republic of Turkey.
- Mr. David Fernandez Puyana, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the UN University for Peace to UNESCO in Paris and the United Nations Office-International Organizations in Geneva.
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pınar Gözen Ercan, Head of the Public International Law Branch, Department of International Relations, Hacettepe University, Turkey.
- Mr. Gustavo Adolfo Ramírez Bacca, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica in the Republic of Turkey.

Representatives from the UN Agencies:

- Mr. Alvaro Rodríguez, RCO, OIC for UN in Turkey.
- Mr. Karl Kulessa, UNFPA, Representative.
- Mr. Philippe Duamelle, UNICEF, Representative.
- Mr. Jean-Marie Garelli, UNHCR, Deputy Representative.
- Mr. Nils Grede, Country Director, WFP.
- Mr. Mazen Aboulhosn, IOM, Emergency Coordinator.
- Ms. Zeliha Aydın, Legal and Human Rights Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Meeting Rapporteurs from Hacettepe University:

- Selin Kul, Research Assistant, Department of International Relations, Hacettepe University.
- Aysu İmran Erkoç, MA Student, Department of International Relations, Hacettepe University.
- Buşra Küçük, MA Student, Department of International Relations, Hacettepe University.
- Ezgi Koç, MA Student, Department of International Relations, Hacettepe University.

[2] Acronym for the Right to Peace and the Responsibility to Protect initiative.

right to development, is at the core of peace. In this vein, at the intersection of the Right to Peace and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) lie peace and universal protection of human rights.

In October 2005 the Member States of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the World Summit Outcome Document, which in its Paragraphs 138 and 139 establishes the principle of the "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P). Accordingly, it is accepted that state sovereignty also entails the responsibility of the states to protect their populations from the four grave crimes of "genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing", and that the international community commits itself to assist states in upholding this responsibility as well as to assume the responsibility to protect the concerned population in the case of a state's manifest failure.

On 19 December 2016, by Resolution 71/189, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right to Peace, which establishes in Article 1 that "Everyone has the right to enjoy peace such that all human rights are promoted and protected and development is fully realized". This conceptualised peace as a positive, dynamic and participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are resolved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation and socioeconomic development is ensured.

The Declaration on the Right to Peace recognises the right of all people to enjoy the three pillars of the United Nations—namely peace, human rights and development—which are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Thus, it constitutes a way to implement the 2030 Agenda in a manner that is not focused on a state-centric conception of security, which until now has been linked to the concept of peace. In a related and complementary manner, with its focus on human security, R2P aims for sustained protection for populations both at the state and system levels. In this vein, the Right to Peace and R2P (the 2R2Ps) are interlinked in various ways in relation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and more specifically Goal 16.

II. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Goal 16: The path towards "peace, justice and stronger institutions

In 2015, the UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which "provides a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future".[3] The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the concept of "Sustaining Peace", as outlined in Security Council Resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly Resolution 70/262, are complementary and mutually reinforcing. While sustainable development underpins sustainable peace, more peaceful and inclusive societies create an environment conducive to sustainable development. Sustainable peace is both an enabler and an outcome of sustainable development.

In recognition of the fundamental interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and Sustaining Peace, the President of the General Assembly convened a High-Level Dialogue entitled "Building

---

[3] United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform, *Sustainable Development Goals*. Available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs.

Sustainable Peace for All: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustaining Peace Agenda" on 24 January 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. In this important global debate, sustaining peace is cross-cutting and relevant in all areas of conservation, sustainable development and security. Building more effective environmental and human rights governance and policies can help to reduce conflict and ensure security at all levels, from local to global. By reducing conflict and potential for conflict, as well as strengthening environmental security, it becomes possible to establish the grounds for enduring social and environmental sustainability as well as sustainable peace.

In the specific case of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which is entitled "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions", there is a strong connection between the Right to Peace and R2P, since peace and universal protection of human rights are at the core of both principles. Hence, the strengthening of both principles as well as the clarification of the purposes and limits of R2P for effective and timely implementation at the state and international levels can also be considered in light of SDG 16.

III. Objectives of the event:

Accordingly, placing the targets of SDG 16 at its core, in its attempt to contribute to the continuing efforts of the international community, and specifically of the UN, the primary objectives of the 2R2Ps initiative can be summarised as follows:

• Identifying the main mutually reinforcing components of the Right to Peace and R2P agenda implementation: Bringing academics and practitioners together for further conceptual and practical development of the overlapping frameworks of the right to peace and the responsibility to protect as well as ensuring their implementation in an early and decisive manner.

• Demystifying the claimed controversies of the R2P principle and clearing the path for policy making: Shedding light on the misconceptions of R2P that have been staggering its implementation as well as its informal and formal debates under the roof of the UN General Assembly in order to contribute to the ongoing efforts of the UN Secretary-General to turn "words into deeds".

• Contributing to the internalisation of the Right to Peace as well as sovereignty as responsibility understanding at the domestic level, so that the right to peace can be realised first at the domestic level and then at the international level, while the responsibility to protect is upheld by individual states leaving no need for international involvement.

• Contributing to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to the commitment to peace by pursuing non-violent, fair and inclusive societies, which are free from fear. There can be no sustainable development without peace, nor peace without sustainable development.

• Identifying the relevant regional actors and what roles they can play to develop both agendas.

• Placing education at the core and utilizing it to overcome the existing challenges to the protection of human rights.

- Addressing the Recommendations and Observations made by the specialised agencies of the United Nations.

IV. Program of the event

Inauguration

- Welcome remarks by Prof. Dr. Haluk Özen, Rector of Hacettepe University, Turkey.
- Remarks by Dr. Alvaro Rodríguez, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Turkey.
- Remarks by Mr. Gustavo Campos Fallas, Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica in the Republic of Turkey.

Open Panel for Discussion

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Gustavo Campos Fallas, Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica in the Republic of Turkey.

- Introduction of the topic by the moderator
- Presentation 1: The "Responsibility to Protect", by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pınar Gözen Ercan, Head of the Public International Law Branch at the Department of International Relations, Hacettepe University.
- Presentation 2: "The Right to Peace", by H.E. Mr. David Fernandez Puyana, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the UN University for Peace to UNESCO in Paris and the United Nations Office-International Organizations in Geneva.
- Presentation 3: "The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal N° 16 Peace, Justice and strong institutions and the interrelations with the Right to Peace", by Mrs. Zeliha Aydın, Legal and Human Rights Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Conversation with/questions by the moderator
- Questions form the public
- Closing remarks - End of the open panel discussion.

Closed Roundtable Discussion

Roundtable discussion with UN Representatives and Experts.

V. Summary of the Outcome of the Closed Roundtable Discussion.

The participants shared their thoughts and practical experience, in accordance with each UN agency's mandate, on how they work to attain the SDGs, in particular SDG 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"; and the obstacles they face to achieve the said goal.

With regard to sustainable development, human rights and peace in relation to the interconnected principles of the Right to Peace and the Responsibility to Protect, the following were raised by the participants:

• Food, security, social cohesion and education are fundamental bases for a peaceful environment and preventing violence.

• The Right to Peace and the Responsibility to Protect are directly linked with the protection of refugees and IDPs, especially through the development of comprehensive and protective legal frameworks for them and the effective implementation and access to status and legal assistance. In this vein, SDG 16, and specifically target 16.2, is of special importance for migrants and refugees, mainly in terms of ending violence and xenophobia, especially for creating a living environment that enables the peaceful coexistence of migrants and refugees with the host communities.

• False information creates distorted images of social events, which may lead to xenophobia and intolerance. To fight this, it is crucial to involve all possible sectors, including academia, civil society, economic chambers, groups and/or youth, political parties, communities and universities among many others, in order to better understand the realities. The involvement of the rest of the society, particularly the private sector, provides an opportunity to expand this debate to other parts of the society. Focus can also be placed on circular economy and inclusive economy, as well as social cohesion in the economy. Hence, there is need to move away from the "economy just for growth" perspective towards a more inclusive one that would also consider economy for stability and equity.

• A responsibility to prevent understanding, in particular from the perspective of child protection and gender-based violence is of great importance. When prevention is successfully achieved, there would be no need for drastic measures. Moreover, focusing on successful prevention results in saving more human in a more efficient and credible way. Prevention starts with reliable knowledge regarding the situation on the ground and with the strong participation of civil society as well as regional organisations. Therefore, establishing early warning systems and gender equality sensitive peace-processes are highly desirable. Accountability of individuals and states are also of significance for achieving progress in this regard.

• There can be no peace without development, and no development without peace. The cohesion amongst and the assistance of the international community would be key to achieving sustainable development.

VI. Possible Ways Forward

The objectives and considerations raised in this panel will constitute the basis for the establishment of an Academic Permanent Working Group on the 2R2Ps in order to develop the main ideas listed in Section V of this Report. This group would be based at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey and with a permanent collaboration and coordination between Hacettepe University, University for Peace and the Embassy of Costa Rica in Ankara. While the cooperation between committed academic institutions and scholars is of great significance in terms of identifying and coping with misconceptions and prejudices about the Right to Peace and R2P, in

order to turn theory into practice and achieve concrete results, the involvement of states is crucial. In this vein, Costa Rica, being a highly active state in international politics with the initiatives it undertakes and/or takes part in, is a key component of this initiative as well as a bridge between academic institutions and political actors.

In light of this, the 2R2Ps Initiative will continue with a focus on identifying the persisting issues with regard to the Right to Peace and R2P. To this end, besides conducting academic research, it will consult with states and policy makers. After completing this task, studies will be carried out to address the issues raised in Section V of this report, and the focus will be shifted towards developing specific policies to achieve the targets of SDG 16.