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Plenary sitting

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B7-0191/2012

PROPOSAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

pursuant to Rule 121(1) of the Rules of Procedure
on the UN principle of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ (R2P)

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

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European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the UN principle of the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ (R2P)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 UN World Summit Outcome Document,
 - having regard to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution of April 2006 (S/RES/1674),
 - having regard to the report by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on ‘Implementing the Responsibility to Protect’ of 15 September 2009,
 - having regard to the UN General Assembly Resolution on the responsibility to protect (A/RES/63/308) of 7 October 2009,
 - having regard to UNSC resolution 1973 of 17 March 2011 on Libya, which for the first time in history authorised the use of force against a country with explicit reference to R2P, which was followed by similar references in Resolution 1975 on Ivory Coast, 1996 on Sudan and 2014 on Yemen,
 - having regard to Rule 121(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas paragraphs 138 and 139 of the UN World Summit Outcome Document establish at the same time the obligation of states to protect their citizens against atrocities and the obligation of the international community to react in a measured way, should states fail to protect their citizens against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as covered by the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court;
- B. whereas the concept is based on three pillars: pillar one being the protection responsibilities of the state, pillar two international assistance and capacity-building to assist states, pillar three a timely and decisive collective response when pillars one and two fail;
- C. whereas the definition of R2P has been further refined to mean responsibility to prevent, responsibility to react and responsibility to rebuild;
- D. whereas more recent experience with specific crises shows mixed results with international efforts under pillar two;
- E. whereas the first example of a global effort under pillar three – the UN Security Council-approved military intervention in Libya – has saved many lives but has also clearly highlighted questions relating to the R2P concept which need further refinement;
- F. whereas the emergence of the UN principle of R2P represents an important step forward

towards a more peaceful world by strengthening compliance with universal human rights norms and international humanitarian law, if it can be rendered sufficiently legitimate and regulated as to remove the suspicion of some governments that it can serve as an instrument of foreign interference;

1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Council:
 - (a) fine-tune the R2P concept in cooperation with other state actors who wish to improve the capacities of the international community to prevent atrocities, such as the BRICS proposal initiated by Brazil entitled ‘Responsibility while Protecting’;
 - (b) lay the basis for an interinstitutional consensus on R2P to be adopted jointly by the Council, the EEAS, the Commission and the European Parliament;
 - (c) do everything in its power to further develop preventive diplomacy and mediation, at EU level as well as within the UN, and to develop tools that can also be put to use by the UN;
 - (d) check policy planning and capability development in the context of the EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) against the goal of creating EU capacities that are compatible with UN needs to provide better protection of human rights and to prevent war and atrocities;
2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council and, for information, to the Commission.