



VANUATU

**BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF R2P
IMPLEMENTATION 2023**



**Asia-Pacific Centre for the
Responsibility to Protect**

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VANUATU

Vanuatu remains a high scorer on R2P implementation in the region.

Internationally, it has ratified just over half of the treaties most relevant to R2P. It has not ratified the Rome Statute, but has put in a great deal of work and called for assistance to be able to ratify the treaty. It is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, and only offers support to asylum-seekers on an ad-hoc basis supported by the UNHCR.

Vanuatu is particularly concerned about climate change and has via the UN General Assembly requested that the International Court of Justice assess how existing legal obligations apply to climate change. Despite not being directly related to R2P, climate security speaks to a structural security necessary for resilient society.

Domestically, citizens enjoy high levels of freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of association. This produces a vibrant civil society.

Discrimination and SGBV are outlawed but remain large issues in the country. Domestic violence is largely left untreated by the police and the judicial system as it is seen as a 'family matter', which significantly impacts women. The government is aware of this and is attempting to pass legislation and action plans to address the issue.

Education is offered in both English and French, but is often not taken up by children due to poverty. Many schools are also under-equipped. The government has this as a focus area as well and enjoys support from partners to develop further.

Vanuatu broadly supports the norm of R2P, voting largely in favour of resolutions referencing R2P for example, but does little to proactively push it in international fora, focusing on climate issues instead.

Thematic Area	Indicator	Assessment	Notes
Basic Compliance	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes.	Strong Unchanged	There is effective protection from atrocity crimes for the people of Vanuatu. Vanuatu faces challenges because of political turmoil, SGBV, limited access to education and climate change. However, the government is aware of these challenges and is through partnerships and international institutions working to solve them. This is combined with a vibrant civic space, an independent judiciary and general respect for human rights, offering the population effective protection from atrocity crimes.
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks.	Very Strong Unchanged	The risk of atrocity crimes occurring in Vanuatu is low due to its relatively strong institutions and close ties with neighbouring nations.
	Dealing with past atrocities.	Very Strong Unchanged	Vanuatu has not suffered widespread conflict or atrocity crimes on its territory. Vanuatu was colonized by the British and French 1906-1980, but enjoyed a high degree of autonomy during the period and a peaceful decolonization process.
Policy Mechanisms	Appoint national R2P Focal Point.	Very Weak Unchanged	Vanuatu does not have a national R2P Focal Point. ¹
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships.	Weak Increase	No evidence could be found of Vanuatu incorporating atrocity crime risk into development partnerships. Vanuatu has a national development plan for itself that is aimed at improving conditions structurally. ² Aid it receives from Australia, its largest donor, is tailored to support this plan. ³
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence could be found of Vanuatu establishing a mechanism for R2P-accountability.
International Human Rights Obligations	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law.	Fair Unchanged	Vanuatu has signed and ratified seven of the following instruments of international human rights law most relevant to R2P: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geneva Conventions (Ratification/Accession: 1982). • Geneva Protocol I (Ratification/Accession: 1985).⁴ • Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment [CAT] (Ratification/Accession: 2011). • International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [ICCPR] (Ratification/Accession: 2008). • Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW] (Ratification/Accession: 1995).

¹ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P), 2022. *Members of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/members-of-the-global-network-of-r2p-focal-points/>.

² Government of Vanuatu, n.d., Vanuatu 2030: The People's Plan, <https://www.gov.vu/images/publications/Vanuatu2030-EN-FINAL-sf.pdf>

³ DEFAT, 2022, Vanuatu: Development Cooperation Factsheet, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/development-cooperation-fact-sheet-vanuatu.pdf>

⁴ International Committee of the Red Cross, n.d. *Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols, and their Commentaries*, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/vwTreaties1949.xsp>. (Vanuatu can be found by clicking the links on the relevant Conventions and Protocols).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> [CRC] (Ratification/Accession: 1993).⁵ • <i>The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> (Ratification/Accession: 2011).⁶ <p>In 2013, Vanuatu signed the <i>Arms Trade Treaty</i> [ATT], but it has not yet ratified the treaty.⁷</p> <p>Vanuatu remains a non-party to the following instruments: <i>International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</i> [CERD], <i>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i> [ICESCR], the <i>1951 Refugee Convention</i> and its <i>1967 Protocol</i>,⁸ and the <i>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</i>.⁹</p>
Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court.	Very Strong Unchanged	Vanuatu is an ICC member State and ratified the <i>Rome Statute</i> in 2011. In the past, Vanuatu has requested and received assistance in drafting legislation for its full implementation. ¹⁰
Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.	Fair Unchanged	Vanuatu does not have a national human rights institution but has in the past expressed interest in developing one. ¹¹ Non-governmental human rights institutions exist and are not subject to excessive governmental constraints. ¹²
Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination.	Fair Decrease	The Constitution of Vanuatu provides a variety of civil liberties, including freedoms of religion, expression, assembly and association and equal treatment before the law, without discrimination based upon race, place of origin, religious beliefs, political opinions, language, or sex. ¹³ However, in practice these laws are not always enforced properly, and the LGBTQIA+ community is not protected by specialized anti-discrimination laws. ¹⁴
Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.	Very Strong Unchanged	Vanuatu had its third UPR in 2019. Here, it accepted 96 of the 135 recommendations it received, noting the other 39. ¹⁵ It's fourth UPR will take place in 2024 and civil society organizations within Vanuatu are preparing submissions. ¹⁶

⁵ United Nations Treaty Bodies, n.d. *View the ratification status by country or by treaty*,

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=190&Lang=EN.

⁶ International Criminal Court (ICC), 2011. *Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute: Vanuatu*, <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/states-parties/asian-states/vanuatu>.

⁷ United Nations Treaty Collection (UNTC), 2022. 8. *Arms Trade Treaty*, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVI-8&chapter=26.

⁸ UNTC, 2022. 2. *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*, https://treaties.un.org/PAGES/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-2&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en.

⁹ UNTC, 2022. 1. *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-1&chapter=4.

¹⁰ Parliamentarians for Global Action, 2022. *Vanuatu and the Rome Statute*, <https://www.pgaction.org/ilhr/rome-statute/vanuatu.html>.

¹¹ Pacific Community, 2021. *Vanuatu prepares to establish a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)*, <https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/08/vanuatu-prepares-to-establish-a-national-human-rights-institution-nhri>.

¹² Freedom House, 2023m. *Freedom in the world 2022: Vanuatu*, <https://freedomhouse.org/country/vanuatu/freedom-world/2022>

¹³ Republic of Vanuatu, Government of Vanuatu, *Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu, Chapter 2, Part 1, Article 5*. Port Vila, 2006.

¹⁴ U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vanuatu*, 'Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons' <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/vanuatu>

¹⁵ UPR-Info, 2019. *Responses to Recommendations: Vanuatu*, https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/vanuatu/session_32_-_january_2019/2rps_vanuatu.pdf.

¹⁶ Pacific Community, 2023, 'Civil Society Organisations in Vanuatu Champion Human Rights through Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Submissions,' *Pacific Community*, 12th October. Available at: <https://www.spc.int/updates/news/media->

	Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations.	Weak Decrease	Vanuatu has extended a standing invitation to UN mandate holder. However, none of the six proposed visits have been carried out, despite time frames being proposed for five of them. ¹⁷
	Ensure equal access to justice.	Very Strong Unchanged	Vanuatu has an independent judicial system. In accordance with the constitution, innocence is assumed in trials and the judiciary is effective and impartial. There are some issues of long pre-trial detentions, averaging at 12 weeks, due to lack of resources in the judicial system. ¹⁸
	Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.	Fair Increase	The <i>Geneva Conventions Act of Vanuatu</i> , criminalizes war crimes. ¹⁹ This is the only direct criminalization of atrocity crimes in Vanuatuan domestic legislation.
	Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism.	Weak Unchanged	Vanuatu has experienced very few terrorist attacks. Its National Security Strategy refers several times to the need to prevent terrorism through measures like financial control, border control and cyber interference. ²⁰
	Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.	Weak Unchanged	Vanuatu has a large and enduring problem with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). About 60% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner, one of the world's highest rates of violence against women. ²¹ The law criminalizes rape, but not specifically spousal rape, however these laws are not enforced properly due to a perception that domestic violence is a family matter. ²²
	Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law.	Weak Unchanged	Vanuatu is not a party to the Refugee Convention, and cooperates with the UNHCR on an ad-hoc basis to provide asylum-seekers with support. ²³ There is protection gap within Vanuatu for those fleeing atrocity crimes or those already vulnerable, which may potentially increase in the future due to rising instability.
Domestic Implementation	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence could be found of such an assessment being carried out in Vanuatu.
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society.	Strong Unchanged	Vanuatu has traditionally had a strong civic space, and rights of assembly, association, movement, expression and religion are upheld and respected. ²⁴

[release/2023/10/civil-society-organisations-in-vanuatu-champion-human-rights](#) ; Diplomacy Training Program, n.d., 2023 *Vanuatu and Human Rights – Universal Periodic Review*, <https://dtp.org.au/training/2023-vanuatu-and-human-rights-universal-periodic-review/>

¹⁷ UNOHCHR, n.d. *View Country visits of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council since 1998*, <https://spinternet.ohchr.org/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?visitType=all&country=VUT&Lang=en>.

¹⁸ Freedom House, 2023. *Freedom in the World 202: Vanuatu*, 'F. Rule of Law' ; U.S Department of State, 2023. 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vanuatu, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, e. Denial of fair public trial'

¹⁹ Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute. 'Geneva Conventions Act of Vanuatu'. (24 August 1982). *Equipo Nizkor*. Part 2, Section 4. <

[https://www.derechos.org/intlaw/doc/vut1.html#:~:text=\(An%20Act%20to%20provide%20for%20provisions%20of%20the%20Geneva%20Conventions\)&text=Geneva%20Convention%20relative%20to%20the%20Protection%20of%20Civilian%20Persons%20in%20War%20of%202012%20August%201949.&text=GENEVA%20CONVENTIONS-%20To%20provide%20for%20the%20ratification%20and%20enforcement%20provisions%20of%20the%20Geneva%20Conventions>](https://www.derechos.org/intlaw/doc/vut1.html#:~:text=(An%20Act%20to%20provide%20for%20provisions%20of%20the%20Geneva%20Conventions)&text=Geneva%20Convention%20relative%20to%20the%20Protection%20of%20Civilian%20Persons%20in%20War%20of%202012%20August%201949.&text=GENEVA%20CONVENTIONS-%20To%20provide%20for%20the%20ratification%20and%20enforcement%20provisions%20of%20the%20Geneva%20Conventions>).

²⁰ Government of Vanuatu, 2019. *Vanuatu National Security Strategy*,

https://www.gov.vu/images/publications/Vanuatu_National_Security_Strategy.pdf.

²¹ Spotlight Initiative, 11th September, *In unity our advocacy becomes a chorus - the women working to end violence in Vanuatu*, <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/unity-our-advocacy-becomes-chorus-women-working-end-violence-vanuatu>

²² U.S Department of State, 2023. 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vanuatu, 'Section 6. Discrimination Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons: Women, Children'

²³ U.S Department of State, 2023, 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vanuatu, 'Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties, Including: f. Protection of Refugees'

²⁴ U.S Department of State, 2023. 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vanuatu, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person'

			There are some concerns with the freedom of the press, after a Canadian journalist was penalized for the publication of some articles about Chinese influence in the region. However, no laws limit journalistic work. ²⁵
	Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector.	Very Strong Unchanged	Civilian authorities in the ministry of internal affairs maintain control over the security sector. Due to limited resources, external security is covered by a paramilitary unit of the police force. ²⁶
	Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness.	Weak Unchanged	To reflect demographics, children in Vanuatu can enrol in either English-speaking or French-speaking school. Regardless of language, there is two years of preschool, six years of primary, four years of lower secondary and three years of upper secondary education. ²⁷ There are limited options for tertiary education in Vanuatu. ²⁸
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.	Fair Increase	Education is not compulsory, and is expensive relative to the median income, resulting in Vanuatu having one of the lowest rates of enrolment and literacy in the Pacific. ²⁹ Vanuatu is committed to full implementation of the Rome Statute and has additionally criminalized war crimes.
Bilateral and Multilateral Relations	Participate in international, regional, and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P.	Strong Unchanged	Vanuatu has been an active participant in many discussions of R2P and broader human rights issues, both internationally and regionally through the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) ³⁰ and the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), ³¹ which has its headquarters in Port Vila. Relatedly, Vanuatu has raised the issue of climate change in many international forums, including the International Court of Justice (ICJ). On Vanuatu's request, the ICJ is considering how existing international legal obligations apply to climate change in an advisory opinion. ³²
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect.	Strong Decrease	Vanuatu has a mixed record, as it either votes for or refrains from voting on resolutions that reference R2P. UN General Assembly Resolutions: ³³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013: The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/67/262: yes.

²⁵ Freedom House, 2023. *Freedom in the World 2022: Vanuatu*, 'F. Freedom of Expression and Belief'

²⁶ U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Vanuatu*, 'Executive Summary'

²⁷ Global Partnership for Education, n.d. *Education in Vanuatu*, <https://www.globalpartnership.org/where-we-work/vanuatu#:~:text=Vanuatu's%20education%20system%20uses%20the,supported%20by%20church%20education%20authorities>.

²⁸ Ministry of Education and Training, n.d., Tertiary Education, <https://moet.gov.vu/index.php?id=tertiary-education>

²⁹ Ratua Foundation, n.d. *The Ratua Foundation is Improving Education for Vanuatu Children*, <https://www.ratua.com/2019/05/02/improving-education-vanuatu-children/>; Study Country, 2022. *Education in Vanuatu*, <https://www.studycountry.com/guide/VU-education.htm>; Education Encyclopedia, n.d. *Vanuatu*, <https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1659/Vanuatu.html>.

³⁰ For example: Pacific Community, 2019. *Port Vila Declaration signed by Pacific MPs at conclusion of regional dialogue*, <https://www.spc.int/updates/news/2019/11/port-vila-declaration-signed-by-pacific-mps-at-conclusion-of-regional-dialogue>.

³¹ MSG, 2023. *Inaugural workshop on Atrocity Prevention and Responsibility to Protect (R2P)*, https://www.msgsec.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-July-25-MSG-DGs-Opening-Statement_R2P-Workshop.pdf

³² Michale Birnbaum, 29th March 2023, The Washington Post, *How a small island got world's highest court to take on climate justice*, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2023/03/29/vanuatu-international-court-un/>

³³ GCR2P, 2023. *UN General Assembly Resolutions Referencing R2P*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/un-general-assembly-resolutions-referencing-r2p-2/>. (Voting records for each resolution were accessed using the UN's Digital Library: General Assembly of the United Nations, n.d. *Voting Records*, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/documents/voting.asp>.)

- 2014: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/69/188: **yes**.
- 2014: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/69/189: **yes**.
- 2015: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/70/172: **did not vote**.
- 2015: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/70/234: **did not vote**.
- 2016: The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/71/130: **yes**.
- 2016: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/71/203: **yes**.
- 2017: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/72/188: **adopted without vote**.
- 2017: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/72/191: **yes**.
- 2018: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/RES/73/172: **yes**.
- 2018: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/73/180: **adopted without vote**.
- 2018: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/73/182: **yes**.
- 2019: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/74/166: **adopted without vote**.
- 2019: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/74/169: **yes**.
- 2020: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/75/190: **adopted without vote**.
- 2020: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/RES/75/189: **yes**.
- 2020: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/75/193: **yes**.
- 2021: Promoting a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites A/RES/75/258: **adopted without vote**.
- 2021: The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity A/RES/75/277: **did not vote**.
- 2021: Terrorism and human rights A/RES/76/169: **adopted without vote**.
- 2021: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea A/RES/76/177: **adopted without vote**.
- 2021: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/76/228: **did not vote**.
- 2022: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, A/RES/77/218: **yes**.
- 2022: Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, A/RES/77/226: **adopted without a vote**.
- 2022: Myanmar/Burma, A/RES/77/227: **adopted without a vote**.
- 2022: Syria A/RES/77/230: **did not vote**.

	emerging and ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy.		populations in colonial territories. Support for West Papuan independence and respect for human rights in the province has been a pillar of Vanuatu's foreign policy for decades. ³⁴ However, at the most recent MSG, the block voted against the Vanuatuan position and instead voted West Papua did not yet fulfill membership requirements. ³⁵
			No evidence could be found of Vanuatu taking a stance on Myanmar.
	Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.	Strong Increase	Vanuatu is an active member in the regional forums of which it is a part, calling in particular for action on climate change, as addressed in another Indicator.
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations.	Fair Increase	While Vanuatu is an active member of several organizations, to lack of capacity and reliance on foreign aid means it has not worked to strengthen them.
	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities.	Fair Unchanged	Vanuatu supports human rights in the region, particularly related to climate change. Limited capacity and internal turmoil has made Vanuatu turn to international organizations and partners to fulfill these goals in collaboration, a delicate balance as Vanuatu aims to remain neutral in the Indo-Pacific power competition. ³⁶
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships.	Fair Increase	Vanuatu receives large amounts of development aid and support from multiple donors, which focuses on multiple areas including economic development, governance and civil society, infrastructure and increased disaster resilience. ³⁷ While many of these efforts support structural prevention of atrocity crimes, the explicit mention of R2P could not be found.
United Nations, prevention, Peacekeeping, and assistance	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Weak Decrease	While being a strong advocate for R2P leading up to the establishment of the office, Vanuatu was absent when voting occurred on funding for the UN Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. ³⁸ It has, as addressed in another Indicator, refrained from voting on the 2021 resolution on R2P and prevention of atrocity crimes. No newer evidence could be found of Vanuatu taking working either for or against the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Strong Increase	Vanuatu has supported the Human Rights Up Front initiative of the UN and more broadly, the UN efforts to prevent atrocities in its statements regarding R2P, ³⁹ but has due to lack of capacity not actively worked to increase UN capacities on the matter.

³⁴ United Nations, 2013. 'Vanuatu urges inclusive development, pledges to continue speaking out against colonialism'. *UN News*, 28 September. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2013/09/451642-vanuatu-urges-inclusive-development-pledges-continue-speaking-out-against>.

³⁵ Dziedzic, Stephen and Bill, Birtles, 2023 'Melanesian leaders group decides West Papua independence body does not meet 'existing criteria' to join', *ABC News*, 25th August. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-25/melanesian-spearhead-group-meeting-west-papua-independence/102772838>

³⁶ Frost. Natasha and Cottell, Christopher, 2023, 'Caught Between China and the West, a Pacific Island Nation Ousts Its Leader', *The New York Times*, 5th September. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/05/world/asia/vanuatu-pm-australia-china-us.html>

³⁷ Lowy Insitution, n.d., Pacific Aid Map, <https://pacificaidmap.lowyinstitute.org/> (Vanuatu can be chosen via the map) ; Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, 2016. *Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016-2030*, https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/vanuatu_cc_drr_policy_minus_att4v4.pdf.

³⁸ United Nations, General Assembly, Harmonizing Staff Working Conditions, Strengthening UN Information Technology among Issues, as Budget Committee Approves 18 Texts, Concludes Session, 23 December 2010, GA/AB/3980.

³⁹ GCRP, 2017, *Statement of Vanuatu at the 2017 General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2017-IID-Vanuatu.pdf>

		As mentioned in another Indicator, Vanuatu has championed that the ICJ consider the human rights impact of climate change, which strengthens the institution and scope of human rights. ⁴⁰
Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes.	Strong Unchanged	Vanuatu has with its voting record in the UN and statements given in international and regional for a demonstrated strong and continuous support for preventative actions on atrocity crimes and strengthening of human rights.
Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate).	Fair Decrease	<p>Its action on climate change, while not directly atrocity crime prevention, is also contributing to the structural prevention of atrocity crimes and strengthening the role of international institutions. For a nation without an official standing military force, Vanuatu's contribution to UN peacekeeping missions is quite impressive, as they have deployed troops to 10 missions over a 17-year period.⁴¹</p> <p>After an investigation of misconduct, Vanuatu is ready to and willing to deploy troops again.⁴² However, as of November 2023, Vanuatu does not have troops deployed.⁴³</p>
Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping.	Fair Unchanged	<p>Vanuatu is supported by Australia in training its forces for peacekeeping missions, and has a long-standing record of contributing forces.⁴⁴</p> <p>However, no specific mention of atrocity prevention could be found.</p>
Support the Kigali Principles.	Very Weak Decrease	Vanuatu is not a signatory of the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians. ⁴⁵
Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention.	Very Strong Unchanged	Vanuatu remains a signatory to both to the ACT Code of Conduct and the French/Mexican initiative on the suspension of veto in the case of mass atrocities. ⁴⁶

⁴⁰ Fogarty, David, 2022. 'Civil society groups back Vanuatu's quest to link human rights and climate change'. The Straits Times, 6 May. Available at: <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/civil-society-groups-back-vanuatus-quest-to-link-human-rights-and-climate-change>.

⁴¹ Sharland, Lisa, Genevieve Feely, 2020. *Mapping Pacific contributions to UN peacekeeping*, 'Vanuatu', <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/mapping-pacific-peacekeeping>.

⁴² Willie, Glenda 2023, 'PM acknowledges UN for allowing Vanuatu to participate in the UN Peacekeeping Operations', *The Daily Post*, 31st March. Available at: https://www.dailypost.vu/news/pm-acknowledges-un-for-allowing-vanuatu-to-participate-in-the-un-peacekeeping-operations/article_e239ed73-d17e-5064-b1c8-d4d3e990f734.html

⁴³ UN Peacekeeping, n.d., Troop and police contributors, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors> (Vanuatu can be chosen in the drop-down menu)

⁴⁴ Willie, Glenda, 2023, 'Peace Keeping Mission to resume for VPF officers', *The Daily Post*, 5th February. Available at: https://www.dailypost.vu/news/peace-keeping-mission-to-resume-for-vpf-officers/article_1884e711-6cb0-5fba-bdb4-97a045f55c70.html; DEFAT (Defence), n.d., Cook Barracks and Tiroas Barracks Redevelopment (Vanuatu), <https://www.defence.gov.au/defence-activities/programs-initiatives/pacific-engagement/vanuatu-infrastructure>

⁴⁵ APR2P, 2018. *The Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians*, https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/2942/2018_kigali_principles.pdf.

⁴⁶ GCR2P, 2022. *List of Supporters of the Political Declaration on Suspension of Veto*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-supporters-of-the-political-declaration-on-suspension-of-veto/>; GCR2P, 2022 *List of Signatories to the ACT Code of Conduct*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-signatories-to-the-act-code-of-conduct/>.