

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2018 YOUTH SUMMIT ON THE PREVENTION OF ATROCITY CRIMES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Determined to build a future for our region that is free from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity based on the principles of international solidarity, gender equality, non-discrimination, inclusivity, and respect for diversity;

Affirming the need to fully implement international human rights and international humanitarian law, the Responsibility to Protect as endorsed at the 2005 World Summit, and UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018) on Youth, Peace, and Security that recognise youth as partners of peace and agents of prevention, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution;

Urging all stakeholders to support effective preventive action, including more efficient responses to emerging crises and ongoing atrocity situations, and the establishment of mechanisms for early warning and early response at the local, national, and regional level;

Recognising the need for greater education, awareness raising, and capacity building about human rights protection, risk assessment frameworks for atrocity crimes, cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue, preventive diplomacy, and local peacebuilding;

Recognising also the importance of investing in youth education and employment opportunities, and supporting young people in peer learning and cooperation to realize our shared vision of a peaceful region free from atrocity crimes;

Bearing in mind the need for meaningful and sustainable youth participation in atrocity prevention in the Asia Pacific;

We are committed to:

1. Supporting the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect in the Asia Pacific region.
2. Establishing youth focal points in each country in the Asia Pacific to advocate specifically for the protection of young people and their full participation in atrocity prevention, including through:
 - the dissemination of information and advice to relevant government bodies;
 - the development of innovative ways to engage with parliamentarians and other national stakeholders;
 - raising awareness about R2P;
 - advocating for accountability and an end to impunity for atrocity crimes; and
 - surveying, within the next 12 months, national capacities and networks that already exist to support atrocity prevention, and reporting our findings to the group.
3. Establishing a regional network of youth leaders for R2P. Its activities will include:
 - Convening an annual meeting;
 - Establishing social media platforms;
 - Exchanging and disseminating information about atrocity prevention;
 - Establishing partnerships with relevant organizations, including the Asia Pacific Centre for R2P, the Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention, and the Global Centre for R2P;
 - Identifying and engaging with other mechanisms and groups to advance our goals, including the ASEAN Youth Forum and ASEAN People Forum;
 - Providing mutual support;
 - Empowering youth to participate in atrocity prevention!