

SPOTLIGHT ON R2P



On 24-25 October 2018, the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) and the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P) co-hosted the fifth annual China-Australia Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The dialogue took place at CIIS headquarters in Beijing, and focused on preventing mass atrocities through prioritising early warning and early action. The dialogue featured discussions on Australian and Chinese perspectives on early warning-early action, and how Australia and China might work together to strengthen relevant measures, particularly in relation to improving the capacity of UN peacekeepers to fulfil their civilian protection mandates.

In her opening remarks to the dialogue, Professor Wang Haihan, Vice Chair of the China National Com-

mittee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CS-CAP-China) and Senior Research Fellow of CIIS, commended the dialogue as a “unique opportunity for frank, candid and thorough review to increase mutual understanding and contribute to sufficient implementation of R2P”. This appraisal was echoed in the opening remarks of Professor Alex Bellamy, APR2P Executive Director, who stressed that there are glaring gaps between the commitment to R2P and the experience of vulnerable populations around the world, including in the Asia Pacific region. Prof Bellamy remarked, “The region must do a better job at looking after its own populations, and this meeting provides an ideal opportunity to talk about how we might do that”.

Session I – 2018 Secretary General Report ‘The Responsibility to Protect: From Early Warning to Early Action’

The dialogue began with sharing Australian and Chinese perspectives on the 2018 United Nations Secretary-General’s report ‘[The Responsibility to Protect: From Early Warning to Early Action](#)’.

Mr Yang Yi, Secretary-General of CIIS, opened the session by noting that China recognises the “increasing need for us to work together to address destabilizing situations confronting us. No country can face this alone and no country can afford to retreat in isolation.” Mr Yang noted with appreciation that the Secretary-General’s report emphasised that early action includes “broad

based efforts by local, national, regional and global actors, in most cases taken in partnership with relevant authorities”.

However, a key message of Mr Yang’s presentation was that establishing an effective, transparent and fair early warning capacity requires “further discussion to reach consensus”. This is because “although there is progress in understanding early warning signs of atrocities, there is no single standard to apply in early warning assessment”. Mr Yang shared China’s perspective that prior to operationalising an assessment mechanism, there must be a preliminary study or agreed framework to ensure the “trustworthiness, reliability of information and fairness of process without double standards”. Chinese concerns centre on the following questions:

- Who should we trust for early warning?
- What assessment procedure can be fair?
- How can we do early warning without double standards?
- Which indicators or index should be included for analysis of a situation?
- Should we use high technology, cyber capacities or big data to improve analysis for early warning?

While Mr Yang assessed that the Secretary-General’s report made “overall good” recommendations with regard to (1) reviewing and strengthening existing early warning capacity and (2) ensuring greater accountability for atrocity prevention, he stressed that there needs to be a “careful approach” to the Secretary-General’s third recommendation relating to innovating early warning-early action by expanding the roles of civilian actors. Mr Yang conveyed that China remains cautious about this recommendation due to the concern that “unlike states, which have accountability for implementing R2P, there is no accountability for civil society to ensure that implementation is within the UN framework”.

Mr Yang’s presentation was followed by remarks delivered in Mandarin

Chinese by Mr Gregory Andrews, Australia’s National R2P Focal Point, and Assistant Secretary, International Organisations Branch, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Mr Andrews began by noting that 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and as the world continues to experience atrocity crimes, “we find ourselves increasingly engaged in defending international rules, laws and institutions that carry the spirit of the Convention”. Affirming that “Australia strongly believes that the protection and promotion of human rights is vital to lasting global peace and security”, Mr Andrews highlighted a number of initiatives Australia has led to support the implementation of R2P, including:

1. Strengthening regional and sub-regional arrangements to address issues like climate change, natural disasters, development, disease outbreaks, and transnational crime. Mr Andrews relayed that Australia views investment in these efforts as helping to ensure greater stability, which, in turn, “can reduce atrocity risk.”
2. Improving horizon scanning to better assess which countries and regions are at risk of crisis from instability, fragility and conflict; and training Australian diplomats to identify and track specific risks of atrocity crimes.
3. Building partnerships and capacities for atrocity prevention in the Indo-Pacific region, such as supporting the first ever Youth Summit on the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes in the Asia Pacific in August 2018. Mr Andrews conveyed that “The R2P Youth Summit demonstrated that drawing young people together from diverse backgrounds can mitigate underlying causes of conflict, such as hate speech and incitement to violence. It can build the kind of community resilience that prevents atrocity crimes.”
4. Advocating for a coherent and coordinated approach to atrocity prevention at the UN. For exam-

ple, Mr Andrews noted that Australia’s submission to the 2018 UN Secretary-General’s R2P report urged the Secretary-General to continue to integrate the Prevention, Sustaining Peace and Sustainable Development agendas.

5. Supporting capacity building to implement international human rights standards in the region. Mr Andrews highlighted that the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Human Rights Commission are jointly working with China, Laos and Sri Lanka on human rights technical cooperation programs. In China, Australia has supported training activities, research and workshops on human rights issues such as women’s rights and migrant workers’ rights.

Mr Andrews concluded his remarks by highlighting that Australia appreciates the valuable role of China in preventing atrocity crimes, particularly as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, a peacekeeping contributor, and the second largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping. He expressed Australia’s gratitude for “China’s increased engagement in peacekeeping in some of the most troubled regions of the world”.

Following the presentations by Mr Yang and Mr Andrews, Dr He Yin, Associate Professor, Chinese People’s Police University, offered discussant remarks. Dr He began by assessing that, “China and Australia really have a lot in common in understanding R2P. Many people think China is opposed to this idea, but we are not. China is supportive of R2P action. But we have concerns. Our concern is more focussed on the results.”

Reflecting on the presentations by Mr Yang and Mr Andrews, Dr He noted that Australia appears to be most concerned about what happens if there is too little or too late action; whereas, China is apprehensive about “too heavy action”. Dr He made reference to China’s concerns over interventions in Libya and Iraq where “killing one devil can release a lot of other devils”. Dr He also con-

tended that “many conflicts tend to be proxy wars”, wherein “international actors are spoilers, and make the situation more difficult to resolve...R2P is against irresponsible governments, dictators. But many atrocities are brought by international spoilers, invaders.”

Dr He summarised, “Today, China is very supportive of the international community and international order—even as others are retreating. R2P is part of the multilateral regime, so of course China supports that. But we want [responsible protection](#), like put forward by CIIS’ Dr Ruan Zongze.” Partly due to concerns over “too heavy” action, Dr He stressed that “China has been very active in pushing for peaceful settlements of situations”, and is upscaling its use of special envoys, developing its role in mediation and negotiation, and continuing its investments in peacekeeping.

In response to Mr Andrews’ presentation, Dr He noted that he was particularly impressed by Australia’s support for the Youth Summit on atrocity prevention and its commitment to developing partnerships for atrocity prevention in the region, which he noted is “very important”. Dr He concluded, “Australia is in good position to take a lead on this type of activity. Australia is a middle power, sometimes promoting norms is good for a middle power in ways big powers are more constrained.”

Dr Sarah Teitt, APR2P Deputy Director, offered the second discus-sant remarks for the session. Dr Teitt noted that the past four years of the China-Australia dialogue on R2P “has affirmed that China and Australia have a shared understanding that more needs to be done to prevent atrocity crimes and a common commitment to improving the protection of vulnerable communities.” Nevertheless, global trends are moving in the wrong direction—since 2005, battle-related deaths have increased by a magnitude of ten, and there are record high numbers of people who are forcibly displaced. In the face of this grim reality, she encouraged dialogue participants to consider practical ways to carry forward some of the key recommendations of the

2018 Secretary-General’s report on R2P, focusing on the following four areas:

- 1. Early warning and assessment should be integrated into foreign, defence, development, trade and economic policies.** The Secretary-General’s report noted that the [UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes](#) provides a comprehensive guide to detecting atrocity risks. Dr Teitt conveyed that some countries have already adopted relatively sophisticated, government-wide risk assessment, such as the United States’ [Atrocity Prevention Board](#). As a practical outcome of this dialogue, Dr Teitt suggested that CIIS and APR2P could explore how they might facilitate a deeper exchange between Australian and Chinese diplomats, private sector/business actors, or academics on approaches to risk assessments and early warning and key gaps or challenges these actors confront. She also suggested that the next dialogue could include a session to discuss in detail the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes.
- 2. States should reflect on past failures to respond early to crises when there were credible signs of mass atrocities.** Dr Teitt noted that the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P has commissioned a lessons learned exercise based on case studies. The aim is to understand: what works and what has not worked, and what lessons can be drawn from past cases? She suggested that one avenue for deepening the China-Australia dialogue on R2P in the future could be to focus on a particular case study, and to bring in area experts from DFAT and the Chinese Foreign Ministry or Chinese and Australian area specialists to discuss the UN’s lessons learned case studies.
- 3. Strengthen civilian action for atrocity prevention, particularly the role of women in the prevention of atrocity crimes.**

The 2018 Secretary-General’s report underscored that gender equality and the full inclusion of women in peace processes and as preventive actors “greatly reduce a society’s exposure to the risks of violence”. Going forward, Dr Teitt suggested that APR2P and CIIS might: (a) support a workshop with Chinese and Australian gender experts on efforts to empower women in atrocity prevention (such as through development or peacebuilding programs), (b) conduct a joint study on actions undertaken by Australia and China to increase women’s mediation and peacebuilding capacities, or (c) develop and share expertise and training on addressing widespread or systematic SGBV in peacekeeping operations.

- 4. Strengthening Atrocity prevention capacity in peacekeeping.** Dr Teitt’s final suggestion related to more systematically integrating atrocity prevention in peacekeeping training curriculum, and exploring avenues for sharing Chinese and Australian expertise in this regard.

Dr Teitt concluded her remarks by underscoring that these four areas (developing domestic early warning and assessment capacities; exchanging perspectives on lessons learned from past failures to prevent atrocities; building civilian capacity for atrocity prevention, particularly related to empowering women; and integrating atrocity prevention training in peacekeeping) all build on initiatives that Australia and China already support, or cohere with their stated policies on building national capacities and ownership of atrocity prevention.

During the discussion that followed, dialogue participants exchanged views on these recommendations, and endorsed the idea of:

- learning more about different approaches and methods for conducting atrocity early warning analysis at a national level;
- exploring channels for a joint workshop or study on empow-

ering women in mediation and peacebuilding; and

- including a session in the next dialogue on one of the UN 'lessons learned' case studies to share perspectives on what does and does not work for atrocity prevention.

Session II – From Early Warning to Early Action-Asia Pacific

The second session of the dialogue focused specifically on building capacity and commitment to early warning and early action in the Asia-Pacific region. The session began with a presentation by Prof Alex Bellamy, who stressed that prevention is the cornerstone of R2P because it is "morally, financially, politically and prudentially better" than waiting to respond until crises have escalated. Yet, despite widespread agreement on the merits of prevention in principle, it is very difficult in practice.

Prof Bellamy assessed that part of the problem is that "we often overestimate the capacity of external actors to effect change. Source of atrocities are rooted in deep local issues, and we need to admit that prevention from external actors isn't going to be perfect". Prof Bellamy emphasised, however, that "trying to make a difference usually does make a difference". Using examples from Kenya, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire, Prof Bellamy pointed to evidence that the best results have been achieved when "early on actors agree that atrocity prevention should be a priority, and where there is shared understanding of risk and common approach to atrocity prevention".

Prof Bellamy highlighted a number of practical steps that can be taken to improve capacity for early warning and early action in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, the final report of the [2010 CSCAP Study Group on R2P](#) recommended that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) establish a Risk Reduction Centre, which could fulfil important early warning functions and significantly improve the region's capacity to prevent and respond effectively to atrocity crimes. A regional Risk Re-

duction Centre within the ARF Unit could serve the following functions:

1. "Establish a transparent and reliable method of early warning analysis that includes safeguards against politicization and makes use of local knowledge". This might be aided by mandating a group of experts from the region to discuss in detail the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes and how it might be utilised or adapted in the region.
2. Utilise the agreed method to assess risk of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.
3. Cooperate with the UN.
4. Share best practices and lessons learned in early preventive action with the UN and other regions.
5. Establish small teams of experts from the region on matters such as mediation, ceasefires, power sharing arrangements, disarmament, election design and monitoring, human rights, and promotion of constitutional reform. The teams could be called upon to assist the ARF Chair and governments upon request.
6. Facilitate desk top exercises to examine the connections between early warning assessment and response. This might include "conducting scenario-based games with defence officials to demystify the process of early warning and early action".

Prof Bellamy concluded by underscoring that these recommendations remain practical and realisable pathways for making the commitments to prevention a "lived reality" in the region. However, not much has happened to move these proposals forward since they were endorsed by CSCAP in 2010. As a result, "the region still struggles to do early warning and early action, which is why our track record is less good than that achieved in other regions".

Dr Liu Tiawa, Associate Professor, School of International Relations

and Diplomacy, Beijing Foreign Studies University, delivered the second presentation in this session. Dr Liu began with a review of Chinese research on early warning and early action, and highlighted that there is at present "no systematic academic work in China or current engagement on early warning with regard to atrocity prevention". Dr Liu conveyed that Chinese research on early warning and early action is largely confined to natural disasters such as earthquakes and fires, with some more recent scholarship on conflict prevention.

Based on her review of relevant research, Dr Liu summarized four key trends in Chinese research and analysis in relation to conflict analysis and prevention.

1. Until recently, conflict prevention pertained mostly to the short-term measures, "targeting symptoms not disease". Now, some Chinese researchers are focusing more on structural and systematic long-term approaches to prevention.
2. Whereas there was previously a focus on singular causal arguments for conflict, there is now a more multidimensional, comprehensive perspective.
3. The majority of previous studies featured qualitative research; whereas, now there are more quantitative studies with databases that look at instability in Africa (for example), and collect information from mass media.
4. While Chinese academics are familiar with early warning, 'early action' is a relatively new term. There is beginning to be some focus on early action, particularly as China begins to propose initiatives to address emerging crises, such as [China's four-point proposal to facilitate a political settlement in Syria in 2012](#).

These trends, Dr Liu assessed, suggest that there are opportunities for greater engagement with Chinese academics on early warning-early action. It was noted that in mid-October 2018, CIIS, the UN and World Bank Group [jointly host-](#)

[ed an event in Beijing to launch](#) the UN-World Bank study on [“Pathways to Peace-Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict”](#). Dr Liu suggested that it would be beneficial to engage Chinese academics on similar types of research, which focus on “addressing grievances of inclusion at the root of many conflicts today”. At the same time, Dr Liu suggested that there is merit in exploring opportunities for dialogue on Women, Peace and Security. China has “focused a lot on improving female education, alleviating poverty and promoting women’s employment”, but to date “has not made connections between these initiatives and the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda”. In addition to these suggestions, Dr Liu offered two recommendations for “elevating China’s contribution to research and practice on early warning-early action”, which included:

1. Engaging young people in raising awareness of atrocity prevention. Dr Liu emphasised that the Chinese government is very interested in recruiting young people for roles in the UN and international organisations, which may present opportunities for building knowledge, skills and capacities of young people in China in relation to atrocity prevention.
2. Providing opportunities for relevant field study and work experience placements. Dr Liu emphasised that study tours to UN headquarters and countries such as South Sudan have offered a “really practical experience for the young generation or academic researchers” and “helped Chinese researchers a lot in understanding the work of the UN, and what they are doing in atrocity prevention/R2P”. Dr Liu recommended that such opportunities should be expanded, both at the UN and at other levels, including exploring opportunities for placements at the [UN regional office in Bangkok](#).

Dr Zhang Qi, Lecturer, Central University of Finance and Economics, offered the first discussant remarks for the session. Dr Zhang welcomed the focus on early warning and pre-

vention, but raised concerns about framing engagement on this matter under R2P, because the 2011 intervention in Libya has “destroyed the consensus of 2005”. Dr Zhang contended that “R2P has bad memories of regime change and coercive diplomacy. So why not frame this as a matter of human rights protection, conflict early warning, or capability building?” He asked, “Is R2P still the appropriate phrase to use? Or, is it more helpful to use other phrase to replace it?...Why not use a framework that is less controversial to protect people and protect human rights?” Dr Zhang also noted that the Secretary-General’s report “sees a role for the international community for early warning-early action”, but does not indicate what should be done if a host government refuses to accept the action of the international community. Dr Zhang expressed his view that it is “necessary for the international community to earn the consent of the host government”.

Dr Zhang’s comments were followed by discussant remarks by Dr Noel Morada, APR2P Director of Regional Diplomacy. Dr Morada stressed that R2P is not primarily concerned with external intervention but with encouraging responsible sovereignty. The key message of R2P is that “states who take care of their own people, are committed to good and inclusive governance, and uphold the rule of law enhance their legitimacy”. Dr Morada provided an overview of national dialogues he has facilitated in Southeast Asian countries on the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes. He reflected that stakeholders from government, industry, civil society and academia have found the Framework to be a useful tool for detecting risks and learning about targeted measures for atrocity prevention. This knowledge has raised awareness in Southeast Asia regarding: “What do we mean by atrocity prevention? What are the indicators of risk? How is the relevant to our own priorities and goals, and what more can be done to build resilience?” He suggested that Chinese experts might find it beneficial to engage in similar dialogue.

Dr Morada also acknowledged that many Southeast Asian countries share the concerns Dr Zhang raised regarding host state consent. However, Dr Morada stressed that there is a need to reframe our thinking about external action in a more positive light, where states are “encouraged to seek rather than block assistance”. He suggested there is a need to highlight positive examples of states implementing their primary responsibility to protect through proactively seeking international assistance. As an example, Dr Morada highlighted how the Philippine government “is not shy in asking for international assistance, and invited the UN and ASEAN for help” in dealing with the conflict in Mindanao. As, respectively, a major power in the region and a key advocate of R2P, Dr Morada suggested that China and Australia should actively encourage states under stress to seek and accept international assistance.

Session III –The Kigali Principles and Atrocity Prevention Training for UN Peacekeepers

The third session focused on a joint study conducted by Dr Sarah Teitt and Ms Ma Li, Assistant Research Fellow at CIIS, which was undertaken while Ms Ma was a visiting fellow at APR2P in late 2017. Dr Teitt and Ms Ma relayed that they had worked together to translate the Kigali Principles into Mandarin Chinese and to write a background note on the Kigali Principles as a resource for Chinese peacekeeping experts.

[The Kigali Principles](#) are a set of 18 voluntary pledges to help guide the effective implementation of protection of civilians (POC) mandates. They emanated from the High-level International Conference on the Protection of Civilians, which took place in Rwanda in May 2015. A key aim of the Kigali Principles is to ensure that peacekeeping operations identify and respond to threats or potential threats to civilians as early as possible, and are vigilant in monitoring and reporting human rights abuses or signs of impending violence in areas where their personnel serve.

Dr Teitt’s presentation explained how dedicated training on atrocity prevention for UN peacekeepers

can help to realise the aims of the Kigali Principles. Peacekeepers need to be better equipped with skills to build situational awareness of the conditions that may increase the likelihood of atrocity crimes. This entails asking questions such as:

- Who are potential perpetrators? What are their capacity or motives to commit atrocity crimes? Are there inhibitors to this action?
- What factors may put particular religious, ethnic or other groups at risk? Are there signs of targeted attacks in certain locations or sites?
- What are special risks and needs of particular sections of the community, such as women and children?

Dedicated training on atrocity prevention can also assist peacekeepers to identify patterns of abuse that could indicate escalation of violence. Dr Teitt noted that peacekeepers can be better prepared to implement POC mandates if they have the skills to assess when vulnerabilities may intensify, what factors indicate signs of escalating risk, and how to protect civilians before widespread attacks occur. Scenario-based training could help peacekeepers to assess:

- Are there signs that particular groups are being targeted?
- Has there been an increase in reported attacks on particular communities or certain groups?
- Is there an increase and hate speech/incitement against particular groups?
- Are there any conditions that could increase risk (elections, arms transfers, movement of armed groups, etc)?

Dr Teitt concluded by suggesting that, given both China and Australia's commitment to peacekeeping training, there is merit in exploring how China and Australia might work together in integrating atrocity prevention in peacekeeping training programs.

The second presentation in the session was delivered by Ms Ma Li and focused on China's perspectives on

the Kigali Principles. She assessed that there are three aspects of the Kigali Principles that raise concerns for China, namely related to: (1) the use of force; (2) respect of host country's sovereignty; and (3) the Kigali Principles are still voluntary and are not yet officially recognised or endorsed by the UN. Nevertheless, Ms Ma contended, "just because China has not endorsed the Kigali Principles, it still supports some of the basic components". In particular, China "agrees that peacekeepers can use of force to protect civilians when mandated by the UN Security Council".

Ms Ma reflected that the Kigali Principles appear to represent a "new trend" in the implementation of POC mandates, and could "articulate an effective guide" in this regard. However, China's position is that overall, more effective peacekeeping operations relies on:

1. Upholding the UN Charter: the cornerstone of effective peacekeeping remains respect for sovereignty, the peaceful settlements of disputes, and consent of parties to conflict.
2. Political solutions: the ultimate goal of peacekeeping operations is to facilitate a resolution of conflict by political means, and China endorses the "primacy of politics".
3. Realizable mandates: China believes that there should be no sweeping and unrealistic mandates.
4. "Peacebuilding is the natural next state of peacekeeping". In China's view, it is important for peacekeepers to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development as "an enduring foundation of peace".
5. National ownership, which emphasises synergy between the host country and troop/police contributing countries (T/PCCs).

Prof Alex Bellamy and Ms Xing Yi, Director, CSCAP-China Secretariat, served as discussants for the session. Prof Bellamy emphasized that civilian protection is now "a core function of UN peacekeeping, not an optional extra, and missions are

now judged on their ability to protect civilians". At the same time, peacekeepers are confronted with new POC challenges, as the five biggest peacekeeping operations are currently deployed to ongoing conflicts. Even though this raises new challenges for UN peacekeeping, Prof Bellamy stressed that research has shown that peacekeeping missions do reduce the levels of civilian victimization, and that greater numbers of peacekeepers contribute to a greater reduction in violence against civilians. This is not just at a national level, but also at sub-national level: areas where peacekeepers are positioned have less violence, and peacekeeping operations are associated with reduced attacks on civilians after conflict. The key aim, therefore, should not be to restrict or resist POC mandates, but to ensure that peacekeepers are as prepared as they can be to implement them under difficult conditions.

In her discussant comments, Ms Xing Yi noted that the Kigali Principles are a "very new concept" in China. She echoed Ms Ma's analysis that the emphasis on "training and accountability for POC does not pose a problem for China's peacekeeping policy". However, China is apprehensive about the Kigali Principles' endorsement of the use of force, and "pledge to protect civilians from any actor", which could include host state security forces and therefore "raise concerns for host state consent". Nevertheless, Ms Xing endorsed the idea of developing more concrete atrocity prevention training for UN peacekeepers, and suggested that training should include building capabilities for "conducting atrocity risk assessment in the host country, practical POC skills development, and mediation guidance". She also endorsed more attention to SGBV prevention in peacekeeping training, and "promoting more women peacekeepers".

The group discussion focused on the perception that Western countries are the primary supporters of Kigali Principles, but developing countries are the key contributors to peacekeeping. A number of Chinese participants commented that there is often a gap between countries

that are writing mandates and countries that are expected to implement mandates. A former Chinese peacekeeper commented that there is a need for more peacekeepers and resources from Western countries such as Australia, as this sends a “strong message that they care, and that they are with us watching the situation”. One Chinese participant noted, “you can’t try to change peacekeeping practice if you don’t make the contributions”.

Closing Session

Major General Liu Chao, Senior Advisor to the China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIIS) made three observations to conclude the dialogue.

First, General Liu reflected, “we are living in days of transformation of the international system...there is no question that China is a beneficiary of the system and is trying to contribute to preserve or develop the current international system”. General Liu commented that, as the system undergoes some stresses of change, “it is very useful for Australia and China—people in think tanks and academia—to sit down and talk about where to go in the international system”.

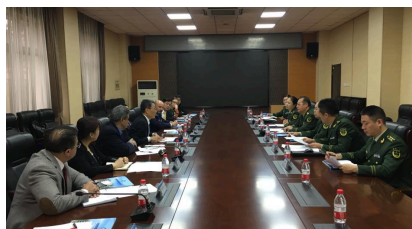
Second, General Liu remarked that “China and Australia may have differences on many issues in political and security areas”, but “R2P is a topic where there is a lot of issues where we can exchange views, and put forward joint efforts to contribute to the international community”.

Third, General Liu reflected that, after five years of China-Australia dialogue on R2P, “We are reaching the point of moving from the conceptual to the practical”. General Liu concluded “for the next dialogue, we need some discussion on concepts, but now is the time to move forward to very practical issues. That will benefit both sides, and hopefully people around world”.

Future Directions

For second day of the dialogue, CIIS and Dr He Yin arranged a visit for Australian delegates to China’s Langfang Peacekeeping Police Training Centre, where they met with senior Chinese peacekeeping

experts to discuss trends in POC and China’s peacekeeping training programs. CIIS and APR2P also discussed topics for the 2019 dialogue, and agreed to carry forward recommendations to begin to move beyond conceptual and normative issues and focus more concretely on “how to do prevention”. CIIS proposed that the 2019 dialogue could feature a deeper discussion of the UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes, and how to practically utilise it. CIIS and APR2P also agreed that it would be beneficial to share perspectives on one of the UN-commissioned lessons learned case studies, and agreed that for the dialogue in 2019 the case study on Myanmar would serve as a focal point for discussion.



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