

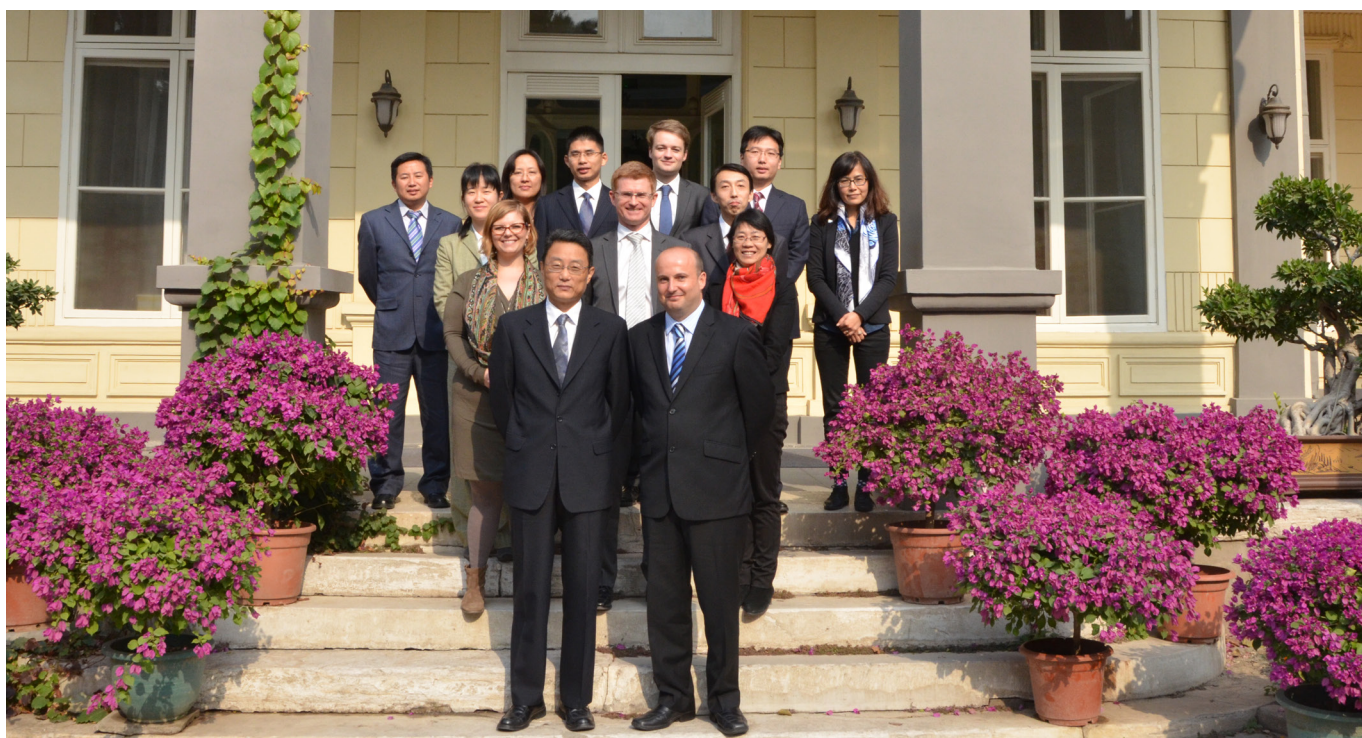


# AP R2P

## Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

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Dialogue participants at the CIIS compound in Beijing, co-hosted by the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and the Chinese Institute for International Studies.

## SPOTLIGHT ON R2P

### First Annual Dialogue between the Chinese Institute of International Studies and the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

On 28 October 2014, the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P) and the Chinese Institute for International Studies (CIIS) co-hosted their first annual dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). CIIS is the think tank of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and conducts research and provides policy recommendations on a wide range of foreign policy issues. This

year's dialogue took place at the CIIS compound in Beijing, and addressed the theme 'Under the UN Framework: The Responsibility to Protect and International Assistance'. Led by CIIS Secretary-General Yang Yi, Chinese participants at the dialogue included representatives from: China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UN Association of China, the Chinese Institute of Contemporary International Relations,

the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, China Foreign Affairs University and Fudan University. Delegates from Australia included APR2P Centre Director Professor Alex Bellamy, the Director of the Peacekeeping and Conflict Section of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, David Chick, and APR2P Centre Deputy Director Sarah Teitt.

In their opening remarks to the dialogue, Yang Yi and Alex Bellamy noted that the agreement between CIIS and the APR2P Centre to co-host an annual dialogue on R2P represented a deepening of over four years of cooperation and exchange between the two organisations.



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Yang Yi represented China at the 2010-11 CSCAP (Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific) Study Group on R2P, which Alex Bellamy co-chaired. Since then, CIIS has hosted the APR2P Centre for a number of informal discussions and education seminars. To further institutionalize this ongoing exchange, Yang Yi and Alex Bellamy used the occasion of the dialogue to sign a memorandum of understanding on behalf of CIIS and the APR2P Centre. The organisations committed to co-hosting a dialogue each year focusing on the theme of the UN Secretary-General's annual report on R2P, along with pertinent and timely topics of mutual concern to the organisations. The organisations will rotate as host, with CIIS visiting Australia for the next dialogue. CIIS and the APR2P Centre further committed to share research and publications, jointly publish research articles and reports where appropriate, and host visiting scholar exchanges to explore opportunities for collaborative research.

This year, the dialogue featured an exchange of ideas on Pillar 2 of the R2P framework on how international assistance can help build resilient states and societies. Chinese participants endorsed the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document as the consensus definition of R2P, and characterised the 2009 Secretary-

**“Chinese participants underscored that the primary responsibility for protection lies with the state itself, and the concern for building resilient states and societies is a ‘common area between China and the rest of the world’”.**



Sarah Teitt and Professor Alex Bellamy from the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P) at the first annual dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect in Beijing, China.

General's report on implementing R2P as a solid 'handbook' to guide action on the concept. Chinese participants underscored that the primary responsibility for protection lies with the state itself, and the concern for building resilient states and societies is a 'common area between China and the rest of the world'. International assistance should be guided by the principles of national ownership and consent, and should include encouragement, capacity building and protection assistance. In addition, participants stressed the Chinese perspective that international assistance should not be limited to the human rights/humanitarian framework, and should apply to a more comprehensive economic and social development agenda. Discussions centered on how to build resilience to mass atrocities within the post-2015 development agenda, and how to engage and work with the G7+ group (the association of twenty fragile or conflict-affected countries seeking to end conflict, build effective state institutions and eradicate poverty through innovative development policies).

To facilitate an exchange of perspectives on approaches to international assistance, DFAT representative David Chick provided an overview of how Australia's aid program helps foster resilient

societies through support for: inclusive constitutions and censuses, human rights, civil society, law and justice programs (including security sector reform), and poverty alleviation. Australia focuses on the Indo-Pacific region, and emphasizes the importance of promoting women's rights, as it is 'demonstrated time and again that the best development outcomes come when the whole population is involved'. David Chick emphasized the importance of development cooperation, and noted that aid is most effective when Australia works with countries who seek Australia's assistance. The aim of development cooperation is to build resilient, robust, and stable societies. Such cooperation and assistance is a key component of upstream prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Other themes addressed in the dialogue included concern over the (mis)application of R2P and clarity over the scope and definition of the concept. Chinese representatives to the dialogue expressed concern over the Libya intervention, and stressed that action under R2P should strictly conform to the UN Charter, must not deviate from the authorization of the Security Council, should be aimed at civilian protection and not regime change, and must not cause further harm and instability. Chinese participants noted that China is a



cautious supporter of R2P, and the government remains concerned that R2P could be a tool to justify military intervention in the developing world and cause the UN to become a party to conflict or involved in civil war. However, they likewise stressed that China is committed to shouldering its international responsibilities, and that the new leadership under Xi Jinping intends to be a norm-shaper rather than receiver. In this regard, the notion of 'responsible protection' forwarded by CIIS researcher Ruan Zongze was viewed as a useful contribution.

The dialogue closed with a dinner hosted by Ambassador Ma Zhengang, Chair of CSCAP China, and former Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Ambassador Ma welcomed the dialogue as an important forum for sharing ideas and deepening cooperation between China and Australia. To this end, participants proposed that future discussion could focus on exchanging views on: different approaches and models of mediation; strategies and institutions for risk reduction; clarifying how the principles of Australian and Chinese diplomacy relate to R2P; and lessons for integrating into the United Nations multilateral peacebuilding process. Delegates proposed that future dialogue might benefit from the participation of United Nations representatives from, for example, the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs or the Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect.

The APR2P Centre thanks CIIS partners and participants and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their role in this successful dialogue, and looks forward to hosting the 2015 dialogue. The proposed focus for next year will be taking stock of the development and achievements of R2P in the first decade since its endorsement at the World Summit.

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