



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

UPDATED ASSESSMENT OF R2P IMPLEMENTATION 2022



Asia-Pacific Centre for the
Responsibility to Protect



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The following Updated Assessment Annex provides an overview of Papua New Guinea's efforts in implementing R2P as of 2022. For a full description of the methodology used in this study, see Part II of 'Implementing the Responsibility to Protect in the Asia Pacific: An Assessment of Progress and Challenges', available [here](#). For more information on R2P implementation in the Asia Pacific in 2022, see the updated assessment [here](#).

Photo Acknowledgement: ColinF, 2004, at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OwenStanleyJungle_clad_mountainsPapuaNew_Guinea.jpg.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea (PNG) continues to confront chronic sexual and gender-based violence, and PNG's women and girls are estimated to endure the highest rates of such violence anywhere in the world.

Domestically, PNG performs strongest regarding criminalizing incitement to commit genocide and in terms of its robust civil society and media sector which, whilst potentially being eroded, continues to be one of the most vibrant, diverse and independent in the Pacific. The country grants decent access to judicial institutions and participates in the Universal Periodic Review process. It still does not possess a national human rights institute and substantive work remains to eliminate discrimination, especially on the basis of gender and sexual orientation. There is also continued need for improvement in security sector governance, with the police sometimes ignoring inter-communal violence and allowing warring factions to settle matters themselves.

On the international scene, PNG's implementation of R2P remains mixed. Although it remains generally supportive of the norm, it rarely backs its stance with any concrete action.

However, the country continues to be a strong proponent of regionalism. It remains a committed and active participant in the Pacific Islands Forum and a supporter of other Pacific nations, most clearly seen in its recent deployment of troops to the Solomon Islands.

PNG's implementation efforts are at their weakest in terms of R2P policy mechanisms and laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence. Yet PNG continues to support the norm, and continues to make progress in some areas.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Assessment	Indicator
Very Strong	Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention
Strong	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes
	Dealing with past atrocities
	Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity
Fair	Reduction of atrocity crime risks
	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law
	Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination
	Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council
	Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations
	Ensure equal access to justice
	Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes
	Weak
Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness	
Participate in international, regional and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P	
Encourage and assist States to fulfil their R2P in situations of emerging and ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy	
Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention	
Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities	
Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of 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	
Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate)	
Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping	
Very Weak	Appoint national R2P Focal Point

	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court
	Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles
	Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence
	Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law
	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships
	Support the Kigali Principles

Papua New Guinea 2022 Score: 33

Papua New Guinea 2019 Score: 35

Difference: - 2 

Papua New Guinea maintains broad support for R2P, but continues to struggle in its practical fulfilment. The country retains issues around the domestic promotion and protection of human rights, especially in regards to sexual and gender-based violence, which remains endemic. Ongoing tribal violence and a lack of capacity in some governance structures sees Papua New Guinea fall short of effective implementation of R2P, although it remains committed to regional initiatives and in its support for other Pacific Island nations.

Thematic Area	Indicator	Assessment	Notes
Basic Compliance	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes.	Strong Unchanged	PNG faces many domestic challenges, including poverty, a lack of infrastructure, rampant corruption and high levels of endemic violence, particularly sexual violence. These factors all play into a highly unstable environment within PNG that do increase the risk of atrocity crimes occurring. Despite these issues, PNG is currently not experiencing widespread atrocities.
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks.	Fair Unchanged	The issues mentioned above, coupled with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic taking its toll on the population, means there is a sizable risk of atrocity crimes occurring in PNG. ¹
	Dealing with past atrocities.	Strong Unchanged	The referendum in Bougainville was carried out effectively, without widespread violence and instability breaking out. Close to 98% of Bougainvilleans voted for full independence from PNG, yet the agreement is non-binding, and the final decision on independence rests with PNG. While not strictly opposed to independence, PNG is still reluctant to give independence to the province, with further consultations between the two parties to follow. Full independence of Bougainville is aimed for some time between 2025 and 2027. ²
Policy Mechanisms	Appoint national R2P Focal Point.	Very Weak Unchanged	There have been recent calls for PNG to appoint a national R2P Focal Point, ³ although it has yet to do so. ⁴
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence was found of PNG having done this.
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence of established mechanisms could be found.
International Human Rights Obligations	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law.	Fair Unchanged	There is no update on PNG's ratification status of international human rights laws that are relevant to R2P. They have yet to sign or ratify the <i>Geneva Protocol I</i> , the <i>Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</i> [CAT], the <i>Arms Trade Treaty</i> [ATT], and the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> . ⁵
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal	Very Weak Unchanged	PNG remains a non-signatory to the <i>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</i> .

¹ See: Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P), 2021. Asia Pacific Regional Outlook Issue 20, 'Papua New Guinea', https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/7835/APR2P_Outlook_dec2021_complete.pdf.

² Regan, Anthony, 2021. 'Bougainville independence: Pressure from PNG agreement builds'. The Interpreter, 18 June. Available at: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/bougainville-independence-pressure-png-agreement-builds>.

³ These were made at PNG's most recent UPR in 2021. See subsequent Indicator.

⁴ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P), 2020. Members of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/members-of-the-global-network-of-r2p-focal-points/>.

⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross, n.d. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977, https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/States.xsp?xp_viewStates=XPages_NORMStatesParties&xp_treatySelected=470; United Nations Treaty Collection (UNTC), 2022. 9. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-9&chapter=4&clang=en; UNTC, 2022. 8. Arms Trade Treaty, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XXVI-8&chapter=26&clang=en; International Criminal Court (ICC), n.d. The States Parties to the Rome Statute, <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/states-parties#P>.

	Court and cooperate fully with the Court.		
	Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.	Very Weak Decrease	PNG has yet to establish a national human rights institution. This is despite recommendations from international watchdogs such as Human Rights Watch and the UN, and the government itself stating they wish to establish one. ⁶
	Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination.	Fair Unchanged	Many human rights are guaranteed under PNG's constitution in accordance with international human rights conventions. ⁷ Yet in practice, discrimination is widespread and many people, most notably women (see later Indicator), children, those with a disability, and those in the LGBTIQ+ community, face intense discrimination in their daily lives. ⁸ The UN Human Rights Commissioner commended PNG for repealing the death penalty in January 2022. ⁹
Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.	Fair Unchanged	<p>PNG participated at its most recent UPR in November 2021. UN bodies and other stakeholders made note of PNG's lack of ratification of international human rights treaties, pervasive societal violence and impunity within security and governmental architecture.¹⁰ Individual States also commended PNG's advances in trying to address sexual violence and improving governance.</p> <p>In response, PNG was generally supportive of the recommendations it received, particularly around human rights protection, climate change action, and technical assistance, and made a note of being committed to the UPR process.¹¹ Of particular interest is its response to Slovenia's recommendation to appoint a national R2P Focal Point. PNG noted the recommendation, saying R2P "...is not yet a multilaterally agreed framework and is a work in progress. Papua New Guinea is supportive of this initiative. However, it is premature, at this stage, to consider such a proposed appointment".¹²</p>	

⁶ Sakai, Moses, 2021. 'When will PNG establish a National Human Rights Commission?' The Interpreter, 11 March. Available at: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/when-will-png-establish-national-human-rights-commission>. It should be noted that while PNG does not yet possess such an institution, the Ombudsman Commission established in 1975 does have the purview to independently investigate misconduct and discriminatory practices in government institutions. This institution is assisted by the Independent Commission Against Corruption established in 2020. Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea, n.d. *Roles and Functions*, <https://www.ombudsman.gov.pg/about-us/rolesfunctions/>.

⁷ Higgins Chambers, 2020. *19 distinct human rights identified under PNG constitution*, <https://www.higginschambers.com.au/png-human-rights/>.

⁸ U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Papua New Guinea*, 'Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons', <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/papua-new-guinea/>; Human Rights Watch (HRW), 2021. *Papua New Guinea: Events of 2021*, 'Disability Rights', 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity', <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/papua-new-guinea>; Amnesty International, 2022. *Papua New Guinea 2021*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/papua-new-guinea/report-papua-new-guinea/>.

⁹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNOHCHR), 2022. *Comment by UN Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Papua New Guinea's repeal of the death penalty*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/2022/01/comment-un-high-commissioner-human-rights-michelle-bachelet-papua-new-guineas-repeal-death>.

¹⁰ United Nations Country Team, 2021. *Third Cycle Universal Periodic Review of Papua New Guinea Joint Submission of the UN Country Team*, https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/hungary/session_39_-_may_2021/un_compilation_for_png_upr39_png_e_main.pdf.

¹¹ United Nations, Human Rights Council (HRC), Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Papua New Guinea, 30 December 2021, A/HRC/49/11, paras. 137, 142 – 143.

¹² The draft addendum to the outcome of PNG's third UPR can be read following the links here: United Nations Human Rights Council, 2022. *Universal Periodic Review: Papua New Guinea*, 'Third Cycle – Outcome of the review', <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/pg-index>.

		PNG has five reports relating to international treaties with reporting procedures that are overdue. They are: CEDAW, CERD, CESCRC, CRC and CRPD. ¹³
Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations.	Fair Decrease	PNG retains its standing invitation to UN mandate holders. However, there is no update on how many visits have been concluded and reported upon, with the total remaining at three. Many visits are currently inactive. ¹⁴
Ensure equal access to justice.	Fair Unchanged	Judicial independence within PNG is upheld, with presumption of innocence and public trials enacted by court officials and the justice sector. Due process and lengthy pre-trial detention are problems, due mostly to a lack of capacity and resources and pervasive corruption. The state of detention centres is generally low, with overcrowding and inadequate facilities contributing to poor sanitation. ¹⁵
Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.	Strong Unchanged	There was no evidence of PNG updating its criminalisation of atrocity crimes. Genocide and war crimes are covered in PNG's <i>Criminal Code</i> , although crimes against humanity are not. ¹⁶
Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism.	Fair Unchanged	There appears to be little impetus for the government of PNG to enact largescale counterterrorism and counter-extremism policies, as there has never been a terrorist attack within PNG.
		PNG has been a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering since 2008, and in their first and only mutual evaluation, they were found to have very low anti-corruption safeguards, ¹⁷ with great deficiencies in anti-money laundering capabilities. ¹⁸ International partners have since then helped PNG to build its capacity in this area ¹⁹ and the government has committed itself to reforming its financial structures, and it remains an ongoing process.
Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.	Very Weak Unchanged	PNG retains high levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), despite government initiatives to address the problem. Rape, marital rape and family violence carry prison sentences and fines, yet they remained rampant due to the inability of police to effectively enforce laws. There is also wide societal stigma regarding sexual and familial violence, resulting in few incidents being reported by

¹³ United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies, n.d. *Late and non-reporting States*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/LateReporting.aspx.

¹⁴ 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=PNG&Lang=en>.

¹⁵ U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Papua New Guinea*, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from: Prison and Detention Center Conditions, Trial Procedures'; Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in the World 2021: Papua New Guinea*, 'F. Rule of Law', <https://freedomhouse.org/country/papua-new-guinea/freedom-world/2021>.

¹⁶ Parliamentarians for Global Action, 2022. *Papua New Guinea and the Rome Statute*, <https://www.pgaction.org/ilhr/rome-statute/papua-new-guinea.html>.

¹⁷ Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, 2011. *Mutual Evaluation Report Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism: Papua New Guinea*, p. 20 – 24, <http://www.apgml.org/members-and-observers/members/member-documents.aspx?m=3f87fdab-7836-49ec-85de-62ceb17b97f1>.

¹⁸ Bank of Papua New Guinea, 2022. *AML/CTF – Anti-Money Laundering & Counter Terrorist Financing*, 'Mutual Evaluation', <https://www.bankpng.gov.pg/about-us/amlcft-anti-money-laundering/>.

¹⁹ For example: Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, n.d. *Australia's support to law and justice in Papua New Guinea*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/australias-support-law-and-justice-papua-new-guinea>.

survivors and impunity for these crimes in the security and justice sectors.²⁰

An idiosyncrasy of PNG society is the widespread and growing phenomenon of killings related to acts of sorcery, especially in isolated tribal areas of the country where police resources are thin.²¹

Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law.

Very Weak
Unchanged

Support for refugees and asylum seekers in PNG remains lacklustre, although the end of its agreement with Australia over offshore processing on Manus Island has meant those former detainees now reside in Port Moresby with government support, although conditions at the Bomana Detention Facility were regarded as horrendous by human rights groups.²²

There is also the issue of West Papuans crossing into PNG from Indonesia, many to escape violence at the hands of government forces. While there is general support for West Papuans in PNG, practical support for them is limited due to the remoteness of the border region and a lack of services in the area.²³

Domestic Implementation

Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience.

Very Weak
Unchanged

No assessment has been undertaken.

Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society.

Fair
Decrease

Press freedom remains relatively intact in PNG, and NGOs working within the country are not harassed by authorities. Freedom House ranks PNG as 'Partly Free', due to the pervasive corruption and impunity within various government branches, and widespread discrimination against societal minorities.²⁴ Reporters Without Borders acknowledges PNG's relative openness in its media environment, yet it also recognises it is under threat due to political interference during the pandemic and high concentration of media ownership.²⁵

Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector.

Weak
Unchanged

PNG retains a spotty record regarding control and oversight of its security forces. Violence committed by security personnel during arrests and in detention centres was pervasive and could amount to instances of torture. PNG's police force is generally regarded as violent and brutal, and ongoing impunity reinforces these tendencies of its members. There is also a lack of capacity in the security sector, particularly in the Highland regions of the country where tribal violence is common, and police do not have the means to adequately address it.²⁶

²⁰ SGBV in PNG is a widespread and enduring problem, with many factors influencing its prevalence in the country. See: U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Papua New Guinea*, 'Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses and Trafficking in Persons: Women'; HRW, 2021. *Papua New Guinea: Events of 2021*, 'Women's and Girls' Rights'; Amnesty International, 2022. *Papua New Guinea 2021*, 'Gender-based violence'.

²¹ Whiting, Natalie, Bethanie Harriman, 2021. 'Fears of COVID-19 "time bomb" in PNG as unexplained deaths spark sorcery claims, torture and murder'. *ABC News*, 26 June. Available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-26/coronavirus-a-time-bomb-in-png-amid-sorcery-allegations/100227350>.

²² U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Papua New Guinea*, 'Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties, Including: f. Protection of Refugees'; HRW, 2021. *Papua New Guinea: Events of 2021*, 'Asylum Seekers and Refugees'; BBC, 2021. 'Australia ends controversial asylum detention deal with Papua New Guinea'. *BBC News*, 6 October. Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-58812578>.

²³ Blades, Johnny, 2021. 'West Papuans flee from conflict into remote PNG area'. *Radio New Zealand*, 28 October. Available at: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/454356/west-papuans-flee-from-conflict-into-remote-png-area>.

²⁴ Freedom House, 2022. *Freedom in World 2021: Papua New Guinea*.

²⁵ Reporters Without Borders (RSF), 2021. *Papua New Guinea*, <https://rsf.org/en/papua-new-guinea>.

²⁶ U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Papua New Guinea*, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from: a. Arbitrary Deprivation of Life and Other Unlawful or Politically Motivated

	Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness.	Weak Unchanged	Lack of quality education in PNG remains a problem. The literacy rate in the country is approximately 64%, ²⁷ and while education is technically free and compulsory to Grade 10, in practice scarcity of resources and funding, remote locations and gender inequality all contribute to make barriers for many to receive an education. ²⁸
	Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.	Fair Unchanged	The country has recently pivoted to an education system more in line with a Standard-Based Curriculum to address some of the critical issues faced by PNG students, yet investment in infrastructure and teacher training remain issues that stymie proper implementation. ²⁹ No update could be found on PNG's ability to prosecuting nationals who commit atrocities overseas. Its effective legislation includes the <i>Offences (Overseas) Act 1984</i> .
Bilateral and Multilateral Relations	Participate in international, regional, and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P.	Weak Decrease	No evidence could be found of PNG participating in recent discussions regarding R2P. Given the comments of its delegation in its most recent UPR, while it seems to broadly support the principle, but sees little need in explicitly pursuing it over other considerations.
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect.	Fair Unchanged	In its voting patterns at the UN General Assembly, PNG generally supports R2P. It was also a co-sponsor of resolution A/RES/75/277. UN General Assembly Resolutions: ³⁰ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/RES/73/172: abstained. • 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.

Killings; c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment'; HRW, 2021. *Papua New Guinea: Events of 2021*, 'Police Abuse'; Freedom House, 2022. Freedom in the World 2021: Papua New Guinea, 'F. Rule of Law'; Doherty, Ben, 2020. 'Papua New Guinea police accused of gun running and drug smuggling by own minister'. *The Guardian*, 18 September. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/18/papua-new-guinea-police-accused-of-gun-running-and-drug-smuggling-by-own-minister>.

²⁷ Central Intelligence Agency, 2022. *Papua New Guinea*, 'People and Society: Literacy', <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/papua-new-guinea/#people-and-society>.

²⁸ HRW, 2021. *Papua New Guinea: Events of 2021*, 'Children's Rights to Health and Education'; U.S Department of State, 2021. *2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Papua New Guinea*, 'Section 6. Discrimination, Societal Abuses, and Trafficking in Persons: Children'.

²⁹ Goro, Jeremy, 2021. *Is Papua New Guinea ready to implement the new 1+6+6 basic education system?*, <https://pngnri.org/index.php/news-events/research-corner/226-is-papua-new-guinea-ready-to-implement-the-new-1-6-6-basic-education-system>.

³⁰ GCR2P, 2021. *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>.)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/75/193: abstained. 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: yes.
	Encourage and assist States to fulfil their R2P in situations of emerging and ongoing crisis, such as good offices and preventive diplomacy.	Weak Unchanged	PNG, along with Australia and Fiji, sent a contingent of police officers to the Solomon Islands in the wake of violence and riots to maintain peace, calling on Solomon Islanders to respect the rule of law and democratic institutions. ³¹
	Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.	Weak Unchanged	Agreements in place with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Solomon Islands since the end of RAMSI in 2017 have allowed PNG to support the security of regional neighbours through peaceful interventions. Evidence of more specific atrocity prevention measures could not be found.
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations.	Fair Unchanged	PNG's Prime Minister James Marape, along with leaders from Fiji, Samoa and the PIF's outgoing secretary general, issued an apology ³² to the Micronesian members of the Forum, who decided to leave the bloc after an upset vote for the next secretary general. ³³ PNG's efforts to maintain the integrity of the regional body show an appreciation for regional diplomacy, yet their efforts may not prove effective in the long run.
	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities.	Weak Unchanged	PNG's efforts in supporting the PIF, the Solomon Islands and – to a much lesser extent – Bougainville, ³⁴ suggest PNG prefers diplomacy and agreements to deliver regional peace and stability. Specific references to atrocity prevention could not be found.
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships.	Very Weak Unchanged	No updated evidence could be found of PNG doing this.
United Nations, prevention, Peacekeeping, and assistance	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Weak Unchanged	While 72 UN member States and the EU supported the work of the Office, ³⁵ it is unclear whether PNG was amongst them. Based on previous comments by PNG regarding R2P, it would seem they are neither specifically for nor against it.
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Weak Unchanged	The UNOHCHR in PNG has a Human Rights Adviser's Unit that provides technical assistance and support to the PNG government and civil society organisations. One of the 'thematic pillars'

³¹ Reuters, 2021. 'Papua New Guinea joins Australia effort to calm Solomon Islands'. *Nikkei Asia*, 27 November. Available at: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Papua-New-Guinea-joins-Australia-effort-to-calm-Solomon-Islands>; Editor, 2021. 'PM Marape appeals to Solomon Islanders to respect the rule of law'. *Solomon Islands Herald*, 24 November. Available at: <https://solomonislandsherald.com/pm-marape-appeals-to-solomon-islanders-to-respect-the-rule-of-law/>.

³² Radio New Zealand, 2021. 'Surprise apology to Micronesia over Forum election row'. *Radio New Zealand*, 28 April. Available at: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/441343/surprise-apology-to-micronesia-over-forum-election-row>.

³³ Dobell, Graeme, 2022. *Micronesia's exit from the Pacific Islands Forum*, <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/micronesias-exit-from-the-pacific-islands-forum/>; Paskal, Cleo, 2021. 'How the Pacific Islands Forum Fell Apart'. *The Diplomat*, 10 February. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2021/02/how-the-pacific-islands-forum-fell-apart/>.

³⁴ McDonald, Joshua, 2021. 'Bougainville Inches Closer to Independence'. *The Diplomat*, 29 July. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2021/07/bougainville-inches-closer-to-independence/>; McKenna, Kylie, Emelda Ariku, 2021. 'Bougainville independence: recalling promises of international help'. *The Interpreter*, 19 November. Available at: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/bougainville-independence-recalling-promises-international-help>.

³⁵ GCR2P, 2021. *Summary of the 2021 UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect*, 'Support for the Office of the UN Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect', <https://www.globalr2p.org/publications/summary-of-the-2021-un-general-assembly-plenary-meeting-on-the-responsibility-to-protect/>.

		of this effort in PNG relates to “Peace and Security: Early warning, prevention & protection of human rights in situations of conflict & insecurity”. ³⁶
Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes.	Fair Unchanged	Recent and explicit support by PNG for atrocity prevention is hard to find. Yet, their recent actions suggest the current government holds broad support for atrocity prevention and human rights protection. PNG’s readiness to deploy police to help the Solomon Islands and its recent establishment of a federal anti-corruption commission suggest the government’s actions, while not directly referencing atrocities or R2P, do support structural prevention of atrocities.
Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate).	Weak Unchanged	While they were ready to deploy personnel to the Solomon Islands in response to unrest, PNG has currently no troops assigned to UN peacekeeping missions. ³⁷
Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping.	Weak Unchanged	Little updated information could be found on PNG’s capacity for peacekeeper training. Due to the challenges of keeping the peace within their own borders (regarding tribal violence in the Highlands), PNG currently does not have the personnel or capacity to make a meaningful deployment overseas as part of a UN force. ³⁸
Support the Kigali Principles.	Very Weak Unchanged	PNG does not support the Kigali Principles.
Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention.	Very Strong Unchanged	PNG retains its support for both the ACT Code of Conduct ³⁹ and the French/Mexican initiative on the suspension of veto powers during mass atrocities. ⁴⁰

³⁶ UNOHCHR, 2022. *OHCHR in Papua New Guinea*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/papua-new-guinea/our-presence>.

³⁷ United Nations Peacekeeping, 2022. *Troop and Police Contributors*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>. (PNG can be selected from the drop down menu.)

³⁸ See: Sharland, Lisa, Genevieve Feely, 2020. *Mapping Pacific contributions to UN peacekeeping*, ‘Papua New Guinea’, <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/mapping-pacific-peacekeeping>.

³⁹ GCR2P, 2019. *List of Signatories to the ACT Code of Conduct*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/list-of-signatories-to-the-act-code-of-conduct/>.

⁴⁰ GCR2P, 2020. *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/>.