

## Resolution on Responsibility Not to Veto

WFM Council Meeting in Washington, DC on 24-26 October 2011,

Whereas in October 2005 the United Nations' member states unanimously endorsed the Responsibility to Protect principle in the World Summit Outcome Document affirming that each state had 'the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity' and should any state be found to be 'manifestly failing to protect their populations' from these four crimes, the world's governments committed themselves 'to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council, in accordance with the Charter;

Whereas the UN Charter grants the five permanent members of the Security Council (P5) veto power in areas related to Security Council decision-making, Charter amendments, and the appointment of the Secretary-General;

Whereas the use of the veto or informal threat to exercise the veto by P5 members to block resolutions in cases of genocide and other mass atrocities, constitutes an obstacle to the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect and rapid reaction by the international community to end mass violence against populations;

Whereas Article 24 of the United Nations Charter stipulates that the Security Council's "primary responsibility" is "the maintenance of international peace and security"; and

Whereas genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity constitute threats to international peace and security;

Be it resolved that the World Federalist Movement affirms:

1. that the use of the veto or informal threat to exercise the veto by a P5 member of the Security Council when responding to genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity constitutes a failure on its part to fulfill its responsibility to protect and maintain international peace and security;
2. that the P5 should commit to voluntary mutual restraint in the use or threat of a veto in cases involving ongoing or imminent mass atrocities and should agree that unless three permanent members were to agree to veto a given resolution, all five would abstain or support it; and
3. the P5 should also agree that a resolution passed by two-thirds of the General Assembly finding that a crisis poses an imminent threat of mass atrocities should add further impetus to an expeditious Security Council response without threat of a veto.

And be it resolved that the Member Organizations of the World Federalist Movement, working in coordination with the Secretariat shall, within their capacity, urge their respective nations to promote the above policy within the United Nations.