

### Roundtable 3 Human Security

Edward Jombla  
Ambassador Augustine Mahiga  
Ass. Sec. Gen Carolyn McAskie  
Special Advisor Juan Mendez  
Eugenie Mukeshimana

Speakers stressed the significance of the UN's 2005 endorsement of the responsibility to protect concept, but noted that, as the situation in Darfur indicates, the concept has yet to be fully realized. Issues of capacity, responsibility, and individual governmental commitment to action have yet to be fully addressed. Civil society organizations, the panelists agreed, have a critical role to play in galvanizing state and UN action to fully realize the responsibility to protect in its three dimensions of prevention, reaction, and rebuilding.

Ambassador Mahiga and Ms. Mukeshimana stressed the centrality of humans to the concept of human security. Mr. Jombla joined them in challenging civil society organizations to educate local communities to care about their counterparts overseas, and to pressure governments to be accountable to the documents they have signed and the ideals they profess. Mr. Jombla noted the need for CSOs to be strategic and combine their efforts toward clear goals.

Special Advisor Mendez stressed the centrality of state responsibility within the concept of responsibility to protect and the normative legitimacy that the concept has provided for prevention efforts. He explained the principles and methodology of his work, as well as the critical importance – and difficulty – of prevention in systems of national and international governance that are “structurally geared” to respond only to crises.

Ass. Sec. Gen. McAskie described the peacebuilding commission's work and mandate. She pointed out the need to “look behind” reasons for state failures to uphold human right standards. The international community, she argued, should be willing to provide the necessary support and assistance to enable states to better fulfill their human security obligations. In addition, she suggested that the international community reconsider methods for assessing resourcing for non-military aspects of human security.

Mr. Jombla stressed the link between human security and poverty, uniting this conference's two themes of unfinished business. As Ms. Mukeshimana pointed out, it is difficult to counsel peace to those who are hungry and without hope. Human security is broader than simply physical security, and economic and social development is critical for peace.

Ms. Mukeshimina powerfully illustrated how being in the midst of war provides a fundamentally different awareness of the costs and risks of conflict globally. Tragedies on the scale of the World Trade Center disaster occur throughout the world every day, and the challenge is galvanizing action to address them.

Audience members sought to better understand the concrete steps they could take to promote human security and break through the denial individuals commonly erect with regard to human suffering. Ambassador Mahiga noted that by being at the meeting and increasing their own understanding they had already begun important work, and he urged them to band together to educate others, lobby governments, and work through the United Nations on behalf of human security.