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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, On September 16, 2005 at the World Summit Outcome  
3 of the United Nations General Assembly, the United States of  
4 America and the other Members of the United Nations embraced  
5 the principle of the responsibility to protect according to  
6 which, "(e)ach individual State has the responsibility to  
7 protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic  
8 cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility  
9 entails the prevention of such crimes, including their  
10 incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. We accept  
11 that responsibility and will act in accordance with it. The  
12 international community should, as appropriate, encourage and  
13 help States to exercise this responsibility and support the  
14 United Nations in establishing an early warning capability"  
15 (U.N. Document A/RES/60/1, par. 138 (2005)); and

16           WHEREAS, The United States of America and other Members of  
17 the United Nations further agreed that, "(t)he international  
18 community, through the United Nations, also has the  
19 responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and  
20 other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII  
21 of the Charter, to help to protect populations from genocide,  
22 war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In  
23 this context, we are prepared to take collective action, in a  
24 timely and decisive manner, through the Security Council, in  
25 accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a  
26 case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional  
27 organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be  
28 inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to  
29 protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic  
30 cleansing and crimes against humanity. . . . We also intend to  
31 commit ourselves, as necessary and appropriate, to helping  
32 States build capacity to protect their populations from  
33 genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against  
34 humanity and to assisting those which are under stress before

1 crises and conflicts break out" (U.N. Document A/RES/60/1, par.  
2 139 (2005)); and

3 WHEREAS, On April 28, 2006, the United Nations Security  
4 Council reaffirmed the provisions of paragraphs 138 and 139 of  
5 the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document regarding the  
6 responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war  
7 crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity (U.N.  
8 Document S/RES/1674 (2006), par. 4); and

9 WHEREAS, The principle of the responsibility to protect now  
10 reflects the commitment of all the Members of the United  
11 Nations to determine means to protect populations from the  
12 deadly and devastating consequences of genocide, war crimes,  
13 ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity (hereinafter  
14 "atrocity crimes"); and

15 WHEREAS, Efforts by the United Nations and individual  
16 nations to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes and thus  
17 protect populations have far too often failed or not even been  
18 attempted, with the result since 1945 that millions of innocent  
19 civilians have lost their lives or been wounded or displaced  
20 and their property and livelihoods destroyed; and

21 WHEREAS, In the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, the  
22 United States of America has accepted its responsibility to  
23 protect its own population from atrocity crimes and should  
24 continue acting in accordance with this principle; and

25 WHEREAS, The continued commission of atrocity crimes and  
26 the likely future threat of them is morally intolerable and  
27 unacceptable; and

28 WHEREAS, At other times in the history of the State of  
29 Illinois and of the United States, such abominations as slavery  
30 and the denial of basic civil and voting rights to all citizens

1 have been rendered illegal and to significant degrees  
2 eliminated through the concerted actions of concerned  
3 citizens, civil society, the courts, and state and national  
4 lawmakers and leaders; and

5 WHEREAS, In the State of Illinois there reside many  
6 citizens who have fled from atrocity crimes, for whom the State  
7 of Illinois provides services and various forms of support, and  
8 many thousands of relatives of victims of the atrocity crimes  
9 that have occurred in other countries and who seek effective  
10 policies by the United States and other nations to help protect  
11 their surviving relatives; and

12 WHEREAS, The moral imperative of the responsibility to  
13 protect is inescapable and it reflects the highest American  
14 values of freedom, humanitarian care, and the preservation of  
15 the lives of innocent non-combatant men, women, and children;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The United States of America, as the most powerful  
18 and influential country in the world, has the moral duty and  
19 capacity to lead in domestic, in multinational initiatives and  
20 in the United Nations Security Council to prevent and respond  
21 rapidly to protect populations from the commission of atrocity  
22 crimes; and

23 WHEREAS, The citizens of the State of Illinois contribute  
24 men and women and financial resources to the U.S. Armed Forces  
25 and elect Members of Congress and, with other states, the  
26 President and Vice-President of the United States, and strongly  
27 believe that these public officials and their subordinates have  
28 profound responsibilities, to use every possible legal means,  
29 under both federal and international law, to protect  
30 populations from atrocity crimes; therefore, be it

31 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
2 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the President and Congress should  
3 commit the leadership of the United States Government to  
4 effective implementation of the World Summit Outcome  
5 declaration on the responsibility to protect, and to do so in  
6 part through strengthening the preventive early warning  
7 capabilities of the federal government and the United Nations,  
8 and to develop strategies and policies as outlined in the 2005  
9 World Summit Outcome Document (U.N. Document A/RES/60/1) and in  
10 the Security Council Resolution 1674 (2006) to ensure that the  
11 responsibility to protect populations has both credible  
12 meaning and effect, and that the United States is in the  
13 forefront of its domestic and global application; and be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the President should initiate discussions  
16 with the permanent and non-permanent members of the United  
17 Nations Security Council, the members of the United Nations  
18 General Assembly and in separate forums with the governments of  
19 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, the  
20 African Union, the Organization of American States, and the  
21 Association of Southeast Asian Nations respectively, to  
22 develop coordinated strategies for regional efforts to  
23 implement the responsibility to protect, and that Congress  
24 should express its full support for these discussions by joint  
25 resolution; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the  
27 President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the  
28 U.S. House of Representatives, each member of the Illinois  
29 congressional delegation, the President and Vice-President of  
30 the United States, the U.S. Secretary of State, the U.S.  
31 Secretary of Defense, and the U.S. Permanent Representative to  
32 the United Nations.