

Gábor Sulyok:

Understanding the Responsibility to Protect:

Textual Anomalies and Interpretative Challenges in the 2005 World Summit Outcome

(Summary)

The ultimate success of the responsibility to protect depends on its effective operationalization. This delicate process demands in the first place an appropriate and standardized interpretation of the text, in which the concept is officially recognized and authoritatively spelled out: paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. However, the interpretation is not as simple a task as it ought to be. The two paragraphs are fraught with several interpretative challenges and textual anomalies that affect, one way or the other, every single pillar of the concept. The paper submitted for discussion seeks to expose and briefly examine these all too often neglected issues, and contribute to a better understanding of the responsibility to protect.