

Statement delivered by Argentina – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2016  
[TRANSLATION]

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair,

First of all, Argentina welcomes the eight report of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, which highlights the critical importance of mobilizing collective action to protect populations from crimes against humanity.

Therefore, we would also like to thank the presence of the president of the General Assembly, Mogens Likketoft, and to highlight the valuable interventions of Mr. the Vice Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and of the distinguished panelists.

More than ten years after having adopted the principle of the Responsibility to Protect, we consider that it is adequate to assess the future challenges in order to provide concrete guidelines to the next Secretary-General.

As equals and sovereigns, the States have reciprocal rights and responsibilities, and we understand in that sense that all States are equally committed to the protection of their populations from atrocious crimes.

In the United Nations, we have developed an framework of implementation based on three fundamental and interrelated pillars, which has been consolidated into various institutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

However, beyond the progress achieved during this decade, we still have to face some challenges, both in implementing R2P and in facing the new complexities and threats from which populations around the world are suffering today.

The phenomenon of terrorism and the activities of non-State actors who disseminate violent extremism represent a major challenge to the R2P.

This is why we believe it is necessary to strengthen our collective commitment to R2P.

In this context, Argentina believes that prevention is the most important dimension in protecting populations from the four mentioned crimes, and that it carries with it all existing international obligations under human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law.

It is imperative that we consolidate a decisive strategy of prevention based of an impartial analysis of the events, sufficient resources and political will, in order to be able to react in an opportune, timely, organic and robust manner in the face of situations that put our populations at risk of suffering horrendous crimes.

The ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is essential in light of its contribution to the fight against impunity and as a deterrent mechanism.

Therefore, we firmly support any initiative of the United Nations aiming to implement prevention in a cross-cutting manner, such as R2P, peacekeeping operations, peacebuilding activities, the promotion of the rule of law, the “Human Rights Up Front” initiative, among others.

In this sense, Argentina has joined the ACT Group’s Code of Conduct, because its objectives match with both Argentina’s foreign policy in terms of human rights and R2P and its national position regarding the Security Council’s responsibility in the maintaining of international peace and security.

The Code of Conduct represents a commitment to supporting a timely and decisive action from the Security Council to prevent and end genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and to ensuring that its members will not vote against a credible draft resolution aiming to prevent or end those crimes submitted before them.

We would also like to highlight the contribution of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, made up of 55 Member States, among them Argentina, as a tool to build individual and collective capacities to prevent mass atrocities.

Sir,

Argentina also highlights the positive role of regional and subregional organizations for their efforts in conflict resolution, prevention, response and early warning in a fair, prudent and professional manner and without political interference or double standards, in the face of threats that can develop into atrocities.

At the national level, it is crucial apply the transversal nature of human rights to public policies. The agents from both the public sector and civil society can work together to raise public awareness on respect of human rights and what it implies.

Finally, we would like to stress that the use of force must only be considered as a measure of last resort, after every prevention effort has failed, in a legitimate, responsible and proportional manner, and for the only purpose of implementing R2P in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

Sir,

To conclude, and to focus on the future, Argentina would like to reiterate the need to strengthen and deepen our commitment to R2P, to increase our efforts in implementing it fully and to emphasize once more the fundamental role of prevention, from a transversal and integral perspective, in all of our efforts and initiatives.

Thank you very much.