



ARMENIA

9 August 2010

Informal GA inter-active dialogue on
Early Warning, Assessment and Responsibility to Protect

**Statement by Ms. Karine KHOUDAVERDIAN, Deputy Permanent
Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations**

Mr. President,

Armenia welcomes the opportunity to exchange views on concrete steps and means to further strengthen the United Nation's early warning mechanism and applauds the President of the General Assembly for convening this open forum. The frameworks of Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect are key principles that constitute the very essence of this joint endeavor. As such, the UN system is provided with a great opportunity to demonstrate its ability to act in a timely manner in the prevention of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Secretary General's report on "Implementing the Responsibility to Protect" has become an essential guide in charting the course for the United Nations to prevent the four crimes through bolstering the capacities of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide while

combining his activities with the Special Adviser with a focus on RtoP. We appreciate the significant work that has already been accomplished in fortifying the capacities of both Special Advisers and hope to watch the relationships grow stronger in consolidating crisis prevention mechanisms. Particularly, we believe that by developing the Eight Point Framework of Analysis, which helps detect situations that are infused with a dangerous probability of resulting in genocide, the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide has made an important step forwards identifying these guiding principles.

Looking forward to the future of Responsibility to Protect, Armenia has carefully referenced the Secretary General's most recent report on Early Warning and Assessment. We echo the Secretary General's appraisals, which identify problems with early warning gaps, not due to the UN system's lack of sufficient information, but instead the lack of sharing and coordination of said information regarding conflicts between its various agencies, departments or offices. In order to assess the gaps of early warning within the United Nations, mandates of Genocide Prevention and RtoP must work together to create a flow of accurate information in times of crisis. We have learned from our history that an abundance of information regarding conflicts do not equals to early response. We must advocate the reaction and assessment mechanisms within the UN to strengthen the first pillar of RtoP, which encourages prevention and protection.

As it was rightly stated by the Secretary General, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity do not just occur. Prior to

undertaking such action, the instigators propagate intolerance and hatred, setting grounds for violence; some groups of the population become labeled as terrorists, secessionists or criminals. Hate speech, vilification of a certain group in the media, as well as denials of past genocides and atrocities constitute the ideological basis for exclusionary policies. This is inevitably accompanied by the violation of fundamental rights of the targeted groups, such as denial of the freedom of speech, press, assembly and ultimately political marginalization. Passivity towards the policies of denial, revision of history, the demonization of victims and impunity can also encourage the repetition of conflict resurgence.

Therefore we strongly support the notion of involving civil society that was expressed here today and once again underline the importance and necessity of training, learning, and in country education programs, which in our view can contribute significantly to strengthening a state's capacity to protect its populations. The peace education process, which would employ texts well as open dialogue between different groups can help overcome intolerance, bigotry, and exclusion thus encouraging self-correcting mechanisms to thwart ethnic or political tensions.

Armenia notes that there is no one entity that works within the United Nations to solely assess information regarding the four crimes. Member states have made commitments to two overlapping mandates: that of Genocide Prevention stemming from the Security Council and the Responsibility to Protect originating from the General Assembly at

the World Summit in 2005. Therefore, we would like to stress the importance of cooperation and coordination between the two mandates, Secretariat departments, funds and programs to maximize efficiency.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to stress that we strongly believe RtoP is one of the cornerstones of our international human security system. As a result, the international community must be vigilant over the development of the situations and events, where actual legitimization and institutionalization of genocide and crimes against humanity in a given society are beginning to emerge.

In this regard we welcome the proposal of Secretary General to convene next meeting on RtoP with participation of regional and subregional organizations, which, we believe, will contribute to the further development of the concept of RtoP and, hopefully, to the practical policy of its implementation as well.

Thank you.