

Intervention by Bangladesh Delegation at the Informal Interactive Dialogue on Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) on Tuesday, 06 September 2016

Mr. Moderator,

The Bangladesh delegation joins others in thanking the President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly for organizing this informal interactive dialogue. We take note of the constructive recommendations made in the Secretary General's eighth and final report on Responsibility to Protect (RtoP). We also appreciate the useful comments of our distinguished panelists this morning.

In the interest of time, we shall limit ourselves to five issues we think should be important for the international community's collective action on RtoP in the coming decade (including for General Assembly Resolutions):

First, it is critical to recognize that Member States' views on RtoP are still evolving. An overtly prescriptive or straitjacket approach could be self-defeating for the delicate consensus reached in the 2005 World Summit. The comprehensive notion of 'sustaining peace' and the interface between peace and development recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should take us forward in further deconstructing and clarifying the notional issues around RtoP.

Second, the primary responsibility of States for RtoP must be upheld as an inalienable principle. The international community must act decisively, yet remain mindful of exhausting all available tools for preventive diplomacy before considering the last resort of using force. As we see it, a sequential approach to the three pillars of RtoP should help avoid precipitating unwarranted reaction or disproportionate response.

Third, the growing convergence on 'prevention' at the core of the international peace and security agenda needs to be invested in on a sustained basis. In order to maintain clarity, we agree with the Secretary General that conflict prevention and atrocity prevention are not synonymous, and thus deserve differentiated response strategies. The framework for analyzing atrocity crimes needs to be carefully calibrated and applied, including through consultations with all actors that can constructively contribute to diagnosis and prevention.

Fourth, we subscribe to the importance of early detection, awareness and response to the emerging signs or imminent threats of atrocity crimes. We would, however, stress that 'credible information' cannot be the prerogative of only a handful of actors, irrespective of their mandates. The many different ways information is manufactured and tailored in today's world should make a strong case for setting thresholds or criteria for legitimacy, objectivity and credibility in the information that is acted upon in the protection context.

Fifth, addressing impunity for past atrocity crimes is very much a critical aspect of RtoP as it inhibits possible recurrence and promotes reconciliation. This is most often a delicate issue in the national context, and needs sympathetic understanding of the international community to the dynamics of the specific context.

To conclude, we reiterate that adherence to relevant international norms, including international humanitarian principles; ownership of the protection obligation by all Member States as a shared

pursuit; and, judicious, timely and effective response by the UN Security Council are the cornerstones of RtoP, and must constitute the overarching focus of any future Resolution.

We assure our delegation's continued support to you as the incoming Special Adviser, as we also commend the diligent efforts by your predecessor in pursuing these objectives. I thank you.