

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

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NATIONS**

**DURING THE
INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT**

**6 SEPTEMBER 2016
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**



Please check against delivery.

Moderator;

Distinguished Delegates;

1. Let me at the outset thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this very important interactive dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect. The dialogue indeed provides an opportunity for the international community to reflect on the collective efforts to prevent atrocity crimes particularly at these challenging times.
2. We also express our thanks to the Secretary General for his informative report entitled **“Mobilizing collective action: The next decade of the responsibility to protect”**.
3. Our word of gratitude also goes to the Assistant Secretary General as well as the panelists for their invaluable information.

Moderator;

4. First and foremost, it is an undisputable fact that States bear the primary responsibility to protect their populations in times of conflict.
5. When in 2005 our leaders gathered here to codify the concept of R2P, they were only reaffirming a sovereign obligation which has always been recognized and respected by nation states.
6. Consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter R2P remains a core value on which to encourage the promotion and protection of human rights.
7. Member States have mandated the Secretary General and the entire UN system to help meet standards set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

8. This, in our view, is not only consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter but it also enables the UN system, to use all resources at its disposal, including its moral authority and operational reach.
9. We wish to therefore reaffirm Botswana's commitment to the international criminal justice system, to the respect for the rule of law, respect for human rights, inclusive governance and accountability.
10. Let me buttress this by reiterating Botswana's strong support for the Responsibility to Protect and we support the Secretary General's call for Member States to reaffirm and deepen their commitment through a new General Assembly resolution on R2P.

Moderator;

11. Even though there has been stability in other parts of the world, Botswana remains gravely concerned over the crimes against humanity that continue unabated in some parts of the globe.
12. It is the responsibility of the international community to ensure that institutionalized perpetration of gross human rights violations are duly addressed and those responsible are held to account to the fullest extent of the law.
13. Botswana agrees with the Secretary General's report that, lack of unity at the Security Council, especially at the early stage of a crisis can be detrimental. Yet the consequences of failing to prevent serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are all too evident. This applies to individual countries and regions.
14. We have witnessed this with the Syrian crisis which has and continues to lead in massive loss of life, displaced populations, and staggering numbers of refugees. It is estimated by the UNHCR that

over 65.3 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes. Amongst them 21.3 million refugees and in Syria alone over 13 million including women and children.

15. This problem is compounded by the involvement non-State actors who continue to perpetrate terrorist acts, war crimes and crimes against humanity ignoring their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, especially on the protection of populations including the most vulnerable, women and children.
16. In conclusion, Botswana will continue to play its part by contributing to the promotion of R2P.
