

Statement delivered by the Delegation of Canada to the United Nations, at the United Nations General Assembly Thematic Panel Discussion "From commitment to implementation: Ten years of the Responsibility to Protect," convened by the President of the General Assembly [Unofficial Transcription]

25 February 2016

We appreciate very much the convening of this meeting. Canada, as you know, has been a longstanding supporter, even originator of the concept of Responsibility to Protect and we remain so today. We're a steadfast supporter of all efforts to prevent genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We believe that we need to move forwards towards a more focused early coordinated and proactive approach towards atrocity prevention, and move away from a culture of simply reacting.

In this regards, we continue to support the efforts of the UN towards mediation and conflict prevention. We commend the recommendations made and the recent reviews of the HIPPO and peacebuilding architecture to include an added focus on prevention efforts. We will also continue to champion the values of inclusiveness and accountable governance, respect for diversity and peaceful pluralism and, as well, human rights.

Canada is a very strong supporter of goal 16 of the STGs, which we see as a fundamental aspect towards protection because it, first and foremost, establishes the proper institutions to allow prevention and protection.

Second, Canada believe that the UN should increase its capacity to provide earlier and more coherent human rights support before a crisis emerges and, in this regards, it is of utmost importance to support the 'Human Rights Up Front' Initiative, taking note of the SG's personal commitment on this initiative, including the prominence it has received leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit.

Finally, we believe there are opportunities to ensure better integration of atrocity prevention in a more proactive way. We advocate for the more comprehensive use of early warning tools, such as the UN framework of analysis for atrocity crimes.