

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

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes the convening of this dialogue to discuss the new report on Responsibility to Protect prepared by the Secretary-General, titled “Mobilizing collective action: the next decade of the responsibility to protect”.

We view with concern that the number and scale of crimes has increased, and since 2014, the number of deaths caused by these in armed conflicts has exceeded 100,000. However, like the Secretary-General, we believe that in the eyes of the international community, it is very difficult to find justification for mass atrocities.

Sir,

Chile’s commitment in 2015 led us to co-chair, together with Spain, the fifth meeting of the Focal Points of R2P in Madrid, where a final document emanated, which we took to the Security Council, optimising our resources by working together.

On 14 December, Chile and Spain organized a Formula Arria meeting on “Responsibility to Protect and non-State Actors”, an opportunity in which we stressed that to perpetrate those crimes, it required time, planning and systematization, thus generating spaces for the non-State actors like civil society, religious actors or local leaders to intervene and warn about those situations. They play a key role by building more cohesive and inclusive societies.

Sir,

Also, we cannot omit the relevance of the role of women in preventing atrocities, in the understanding that this could be a key element for early warning and peacebuilding, promoting cooperation, building capacities, solidarity networks and resilience.

Sir,

We call for the strengthening of existing international mechanisms in order to implement R2P, those which do not necessarily have to involve financial resources from States, and promote a comprehensive reform of the United Nations, ensuring that the structure of the Organization is adjusted for new geopolitical contexts and able to act preventively instead of having to bemoan new tragedies.

We are aware of cases where the UN and the international community failed to prevent atrocious crimes.

Therefore, as a question of priority and an ethical imperative, we support firmly veto restraint within the Security Council in the face of situations that involve atrocity crimes, and we recognize furthermore that the paralysis of this body in such cases, as well as the bureaucracy within the UN, are among the main obstacles to the implementation of R2P.

This is why, Sir, we support the Secretary-General's "Human Rights Up Front" initiative, in harmony with Chile's commitment to human rights and the protection of civilians, and we also value the work and efforts of the Office of the Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide and for Responsibility to Protect, as well as the Global Center for R2P and its role as Secretariat of the Focal Points Network in particular.

Thank you very much, Sir.