

# COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Intervención de  
S.E. Claudia Blum  
Embajadora, Representante Permanente**

Sexagésimo tercer período de sesiones de la Asamblea General

**Aplicación y seguimiento integrados y coordinados de los resultados de  
las grandes conferencias y cumbres de las Naciones Unidas en las  
esferas económica y social y esferas conexas [Temas 44 y 107]**

**Nueva York, 23 de julio de 2009**

*Favor verificar con el discurso pronunciado*

**Statement by  
H.E. Claudia Blum  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

Sixty-third session of the General Assembly

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the  
outcomes of the major United Nations Conferences and summits in the  
economic, social and related fields; Follow-up to the outcome of the  
Millennium Summit: report of the Secretary-General [Agenda Items 44  
and 107]**

**New York, 23 July 2009**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President:

Colombia has taken note of the report by the Secretary General on the implementation of responsibility to protect. We acknowledge the importance of the matter and the final objective of promoting action and ways to strengthen the security and protection of people.

Mr. President:

The definitions in the 2005 World Summit document constitute the essential framework to examine this subject. Its reach must not be a topic of renegotiation

The 2005 Summit focused the idea of responsibility to protect in four crimes and specific acts. Genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and the crimes against humanity are extremely serious matters. We, the Member States, agreed to deal with these crimes and acts, based on regulations and principles of international law. Colombia reaffirms its commitment with the definitions and criteria established in Resolution 60/1 of the Assembly, which reflect an expression of political will from the United Nations.

My delegation has observed with interest the structure proposed on the report, relative to the three pillars that might sustain the application of responsibility to protect: the responsibility that is incumbent upon each State; international assistance and capacity building; and the timely response from the international community in specific cases. Although the Secretary General considers that there should not be a set sequence, and that all of the pillars should be equally solid, it is undeniable that depending on the circumstance, they can have different degrees of importance.

The responsibility incumbent upon each State reflects one of its essential functions, this is, the obligation of assuring the protection and security of its inhabitants. To achieve this, the consolidation of national capacity acquires special importance. This broader capacity is required in areas such as the reinforcement of the Rule of Law; the development of norms and mechanisms to consolidate the enjoyment of rights; the preservation of democratic institutions and popular participation; the modernization of security and defense state institutions so that they can carry out their constitutional mandates concerning protection more efficiently; and the strengthening of judiciary systems to better face impunity.

These capacities are also enriched under an environment of full freedom of opinion, the role played by civil society, the development of assistance programs for victims programs and the rebuilding of the social networks affected by violence.

International cooperation on all these fronts is of great significance and value. Likewise, the openness of States to scrutiny and to international oversight in the area of human rights, including the ones carried out by United Nations agencies and by bodies related to human rights. The openness and cooperation implemented in a constructive and objective manner offer opportunities in contributing to the strengthening of national actions implemented by States for protection.

International cooperation offers a positive contribution as well, when facing the fulfillment of obligations to confront criminal phenomena of transnational impact. Therefore, the eradication of trafficking of illegal arms, ammunition and explosives, the elimination of the production, use and transfer of anti-personnel mines, the fight against the world drug problem, the joint front against terrorism and money laundering are some of the problems that demand joint action by States. International coordinated action against these problems is essential, so that protection strategies all around the world will be efficient and lasting.

Colombia agrees with the belief that adequate understanding of responsibility to protect must be an ally rather than foe of national sovereignty. The international community must offer its solidarity and sustained support to national actions that consolidate the protection of its inhabitants, while respecting the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention, as well as the Rule of Law.

In regards to the third pillar of responsibility to protect, that is the timely response by the international community in specific cases, the World Summit pointed at the relevant types of actions and legal frameworks. The United Nations Charter, its goals, principles and dispositions, as well as other relevant international law, including specific international treaties, constitute the judicial framework for constructive discussion by the General Assembly on the responsibility to protect, with regards to the four defined crimes.

Even in concrete situations, in which the international action would take place through the Security Council, Chapter VII of the Charter establishes the mandates and procedures related to the preservation of international peace and security. This framework is useful in avoiding decisions or situations that end up affecting the legitimacy of the concept.

As for prevention actions, it is clear that the early alert systems, mentioned in the World Summit Document, should be developed on the basis of a professional, objective and prudent process. Information that is reliable, that has been gathered

without selectivity or slants, and analyzed in a technical and neutral manner, turns out to be of particular importance.

Within the framework of prevention, it is important to underline the responsibility of the United Nations and regional organizations to conduct diplomatic efforts and promote peaceful processes that contribute to that essential goal.

Mr. President:

Colombia will continue to contribute with the discussion on this matter, which we hope will be carried out with a broad participation of Member States. We highlight the role that the General Assembly should keep playing when examining the responsibility to protect, to measure its reach, and to define jointly the actions to follow.

The main challenge is to ensure a common understanding on the concepts and its framework of implementation. The dialogue that was initiated today should contribute to this goal, as well as to the implementation of the definitions of the World Summit, in a constructive and consensual way.

Thank you.