

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

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

I would like to thank the president of the General Assembly for his initiative to invite Members States to this reflection on the Responsibility to Protect, which allows us to remain mobilized on this fundamental issue.

I would like to recognize the important role played by the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, pay tribute to the dynamism and exceptional work of the former the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Ms. Jennifer Welsh and welcome the appointment of Mr. Šimonovic.

We would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report, which can serve us as a compass guiding our actions in preventing mass atrocity crimes. We must, as stressed by the Secretary-General, turn thinking into action.

Ten years after 2005's surge of the concept, faced with a government that does not want to protect its population, or that is causing the violence, faced with leaders who organize massacres, the international community is still too often silent. This is why we must examine the means to overcome the challenges to R2P's implementation.

The Security Council must not be paralyzed when confronted with situations where atrocities are being committed or are like to be committed. It is with that aim that France proposed that the five permanent members of the Council restrain temporarily and collectively from using the veto in situations of mass atrocities. This voluntary approach does not require revising the Charter, but a political commitment. We also continue to support other initiatives that aim to restraint veto use in situations of mass atrocities.

As you know, France and Mexico jointly proposed an initiative that has received the support of 86 Member States. Together with the ACT Code of Conduct, to which France has subscribed, both initiatives highlight the Member States' interest on this subject. More than ever, it is in our common interest that the Security Council play a comprehensive role in the most pressing situations, in the service of our organization and of our values.

This is why we encourage Members States that have yet to do so to support our initiative and the ACT's Code of Conduct.

Thank you.