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Mr. President,

We thank the distinguished panelists for their insightful presentations. We would also like to congratulate the Secretary General for the quality of his report (A/66/874.S/2012/578, titled: 'RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: TIMELY AND DECISIVE RESPONSE'. We are further pleased to recognize the good work of his two former advisers: for Responsibility to Protect, Dr. Edward Luck and for Genocide Prevention, Dr. Francis Deng; and we wish them well as they move on. In the same vein we welcome to the saddle of Advisor, Genocide Prevention, Mr. Adama Dieng and trust that under his watch the planned joint office will be fully functional and working very closely with member states and relevant national and international bodies to further consolidate the R2P norm.

We note with satisfaction that the Secretary General's report has sought to clarify the concept of R2P, lessons learnt so far and the tools available for member-states and the international community to use in our individual and collective efforts to make the norm of R2P a functional reality, particularly in the face of threats of atrocity or manifest atrocities.

Despite the focus of the report under review, we think that our primary aim should be the prevention of the four capital crimes listed, and thus build relevant time tested governance and legal institutions at the national, regional and global levels. It will involve member states developing and being helped as required and appropriate to develop national and sub-national, regional and sub-regional robust and enduring governance structures, including functioning and

accessible peace and rule of law infrastructures to ensure inclusiveness, and particularly the promotion of shared values in diversity. Naturally this will not preclude the necessary contingency planning of building capacity for pillar 3 intervention to deal with the undesirable and avoidable eventuality of situations of threats or manifest atrocities. It would seem to us that the approach of conceptualizing response in 3 pillars has not been as helpful as was intended to be.

Second, the very timely accountability frame-work in R2P intervention as highlighted by the Brazilian initiative of RwP needs more emphasis if R2P is to be inherently sustainable and if the UN and its relevant organs are to be taken more seriously.

Third, the tools available and outlined in the report need to be leveraged and developed into a comprehensive framework to guide the Security Council, the General Assembly and other actors in these matters.

Fourth, the lessons learnt from the individual and collective actions of the Security Council, and the challenges of synergy between the UN and regional bodies would need closer attention if we are to move forward more convincingly in support of a common but diversified human civilization in general, and threatened populations in particular.

Fifth, the status and structure of the joint office and how it would operate with member-states and international actors will be useful information to be shared by the Secretariat and should help give traction to the on-going national focal points informal initiative.

Moving forward, therefore, we would like to recommend that member states and regional bodies commit to building national, and sub-national capacities as well regional and sub-regional capacities, by creating and consolidating relevant mechanisms, policies and programmes in support of atrocity prevention in particular but also including management capacity; that, sub-regional and regional bodies provide relevant platforms for intra-regional and inter-regional sharing of best practices and peer review. We therefore encourage member states to subscribe to the national focal point initiative and call on the UN and other collaborating international governmental and non-governmental agencies to continue to partner member states and regional groups in this endeavor.

As intimated by the Secretary General in his report, if we move forward in openness to ourselves and to each other, learning lessons at each turn, this idea of R2P, an idea whose time has come, should have a safer, better and earlier landing than the eye can see on the horizon.

I thank you.