



REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY



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*STATEMENT*

*BY*

*H.E. MR. GÁBOR BRÓDI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY*

*TO THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

*ON THE 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, AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME  
OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT  
(IMPLEMENTING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT)  
(agenda item 44 and 107)*

*NEW YORK, July 24, 2009*

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Mr President,

The Republic of Hungary welcomes this opportunity for a broad based debate on the implementation of the principle of the responsibility to protect. My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

It is undisputable, that the main challenge of mankind has always been to learn from the mistakes of the past, especially to prevent the repetition of the crimes of the previous decades and centuries. That is why it is particularly significant that the Heads of State and Government have unanimously reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. At the same time they underlined, that the most important task of the international community is not only to punish the perpetrators of the most serious crimes, but not to let these crimes to ever happen again.

In this process the first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the responsibility to protect has a crucial importance. The Republic of Hungary warmly welcomes the report, and finds its analysis remarkable and well balanced. The report gives a clear guidance to the Member States in the implementation, and identifies the ways and means to achieve our common goal, the fullest protection of the population. We concur with the Secretary-General's conclusion, that the three pillars of the responsibility to protect, as described in the report, together constitute the complete implementation of the concept. No pillar can be singled out as the ultimate solution to all problems.

There is equal emphasis on the shared responsibility of each individual state and the international community to avert any kind of violation of international law. It is evident, however, that the primary responsibility is on the states to protect their populations. Notwithstanding the basic principle of state sovereignty, it is hard to contest that state sovereignty implies not only rights, but also responsibilities and obligations under international law, especially the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Therefore, if a state has manifestly failed to do so, the international community has the moral obligation to give a timely and decisive response.

Depending on the particular circumstances, the international community has to act efficiently, by assisting states in fulfilling their responsibility and in building their protection capacities. In this regard the international instruments and mechanisms for early-warning, conflict prevention, mediation and crisis management shall be further improved. Based on the current experience in this particular field the potential and the significance of regional organizations shall not be underestimated. In those cases, when despite all these efforts, a state is manifestly failing to meet its responsibilities, the response of the international community shall be prompt, and even the necessary action of the Security Council might be taken, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

