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## Joint Statement by the Governments of Ghana and Denmark

### Third Annual Meeting of the Global Network of National R2P Focal Points

Accra, Ghana 11-12 June 2013

The Governments of Ghana and Denmark co-hosted the third annual Meeting of the Global Network of National R2P Focal Points in Accra, Ghana, on 11 and 12 June in association with the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre.

Over 35 countries from 5 continents participated in the conference, the first of its kind to be held in Africa. The meeting was formally opened by the Honourable Hanna Serwah Tetteh, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana, who noted: *“It is important to dedramatize the concept of R2P to pave the way for a global acceptance and strategic implementation of R2P.”* Regarding the focus on prevention and capacity building, she advised that the concept of national R2P Focal Points should necessarily lead to either activating national and regional mechanisms or creating them where they do not already exist as inter-agency, state and non-state partnerships. The meeting brought together senior government officials as well as high-level representatives from the AU, ECOWAS, EU and UN.

Over two days, delegates participated in a range of thematic sessions, discussing the role of national R2P Focal Points and the global network in preventing mass atrocity crimes. A number of concrete examples to strengthen national capacity were identified, including the improved training of military and police forces on R2P issues. H.E. Mr. Thomas Winkler, Ambassador and R2P Focal Point of Denmark, commented: *“This R2P meeting is a fine example of cross-regional cooperation where Ghana and Denmark through our strategic partnership have been able to advance an important global alliance on mass atrocity prevention.”* H.E. Mr. Carsten Nilaus Pedersen, Ambassador of the Royal Danish Mission in Accra, indicated that the wider international community has a responsibility to encourage and assist individual states in meeting that responsibility. He added that the concept of R2P has brought back the emphasis on “We the Peoples” of the UN Charter and that Ghana and Denmark have built a strong partnership around R2P over the years.

The Honourable Kwesi Ahwoi, Minister for Interior, in presenting Ghana’s Architecture for Peace and R2P, intimated that the Ghana model has been the result of decades of engagements with various stakeholders building, making mistakes and correcting some to move forward.

The national R2P Focal Points initiative was launched in 2010 by the governments of Ghana and Denmark with Australia and Costa Rica later joining the facilitating group. The initiative calls upon all governments to appoint a national R2P Focal Point. This senior official is tasked with initiating a process at the national level on how to prevent and halt mass atrocities crimes both nationally and internationally.

During the meeting, participants recognized the need for functioning national mechanisms for R2P and that existing national and regional arrangement may already be addressing this focus. They also emphasized the need to expand the existing network of 28 senior government officials representing all regions of the world. Dr. Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, emphasized: *“By appointing a national R2P Focal Point, countries renew their commitment to the Responsibility to Protect and make the possibility of ending mass atrocities a reality.”*

12 June 2013

Accra, Ghana