

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

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

I thank the President of the General Assembly for having convened this interactive dialogue, which affords me the opportunity to reaffirm the full support of Luxemburg to the principle of Responsibility to Protect and to its implementation.

I align myself with the statements of the European Union and the Netherlands on behalf of the Group of Friends of R2P.

In my national capacity, I would like to firstly to welcome the report of the Secretary-General. He has the courage to paint a clear picture: despite the advances achieved since the 2005 World Summit, the international community, which aspires to protect populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity has, I quote, “failed dismally”. This is a fact. The atrocities committed in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan and South Sudan, Central African Republic, Eritrea or the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has shown this failure on a daily basis.

In his report, the Secretary-General has presented four proposals to overcome the obstacles to implementing R2P. We support those proposals and hope that they will be echoed by the next Secretary-General.

A major obstacle in the implementation of R2P is the fact that more and more parties to conflicts, whether governmental forces or non-state actors such as Da’esh or Boko Haram increasingly openly violate international humanitarian law, and continue to do so fully aware of the fact, with impunity. The fight against impunity must therefore be an absolute priority. In this regard, we welcome the link made by the Secretary-General between R2P and the essential action of the International Criminal Court in terms of international criminal justice.

Bringing perpetrators to answer for the atrocities they have committed contributes to the prevention of the commission of other atrocities. The prevention of atrocities, including the prevention of their reoccurrence, is another key priority in our view. And this is what motivates Luxemburg’s commitment within the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular so as to contribute to a permanent peace in Guinea.

When prevention is unsuccessful, the international community must be able to act in a resolute and timely manner, using all tools at its disposal, to protect the affected populations. A key role here is played by the Security Council. The main responsibility of international peacekeeping and security was conferred to the Council precisely to “ensure prompt and efficient action by the United Nations”, in the terms of the UN Charter. The paralysis of the Council while populations are suffering from atrocities, as it has much too often been the case during the conflict in Syria, runs counter to the Charter. To remedy this, we support the initiative launched by France and

Mexico with the aim for permanent members of Council to restrain for the use of veto in cases of mass atrocities. Beyond the five permanent members of the Council, all Member States must shoulder their responsibilities. We encourage Member States that have yet to do so to align themselves with the Code of Conduct developed by the ACT Group regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. 112 countries have already shown their support for this Code of Conduct. This implementation will allow us to strengthen our collective capacity to implement R2P.

I thank you.