

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mexico thanks you for having convened this interactive dialogue and welcomes the report of the Secretary-General, “Mobilizing collective action: the next decade of the responsibility to protect”. We also acknowledge the constant efforts of the Secretary-General to build consensus around the R2P principle.

For over a decade, the international community has manifested its refusal of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Over the last 71 years, the Organization has learned, sometimes through failure, about the causes and consequences of those atrocities which unfortunately persist as threats to international peace and security.

One year ago, Mexico spoke out for a plan of action of entire UN system to implement the three pillars of R2P. We continue to believe that a resolution from the general Assembly could enable the Member States to express their views on this matter. We agree with the Secretary-General: it is necessary to move from concept to action.

Today, we welcome the “Human Rights Up Front” initiative as a support for implementing early warning. The R2P represents, first and foremost and for all, a responsibility to prevent.

Mexico believes that the UN still has much work to do in order to operationalize R2P. The Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes is extremely useful in this sense.

We note with concern the protracted nature of various armed conflicts. We strongly condemn the recent alleged use of chemical weapons in some parts of these conflicts.

Those crimes persist in the face of the political indifference of third parties. The paralysis of the Security Council to respond to protracted crisis is simply and plainly unacceptable. Suspending the veto in those cases has become a moral imperative and a principle of accountability of the five permanent members of the Council.

We can provide a considerable impetus in the regard. Mexico urges all Member States to join the France/Mexico Initiative on veto restraint in the Security Council and the ACT Code of Conduct. The veto is not a privilege; it is a responsibility.

Mr. Chair,

Mexico has taken an active part in the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. We have trained officials through the Intersectorial Commission on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which represents strengthening capacities, access to technical assistance and a better discussion on monitoring and early warning.

International law is the very source of our collective responsibility. Mexico invites countries that have not done so to ratify the international instruments relevant to R2P, especially the Convention on Genocide and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Mr. Chair,

Mexico firmly believes that the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is at the heart of this Organization's *raison d'être*. We hope that the next Secretary-General will bring a new impulse to the concept and that he or she will work with all Member States and civil society to ensure that we can fulfil the indefectible commitment to innocent people before they become victims.

Thank you very much.