

General Assembly Debate Statement: Mexico

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Thank you Moderator.

I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for moderating this important thematic debate. I would like to thank the panelists for interesting contributions and the Secretary-General for his report. I would also like to recognize the work that has been done by Mr. Francis Deng and Mr. Edward Luck and we would also like to wish you Mr. Moderator success as Special Advisor to Prevent Genocide.

Mexico has been following discussions over recent years with regard to a better understanding of the Responsibility to Protect. Mexico feels that we need to make progress in this concept from focusing on its three pillars. It's important that the Responsibility to Protect is seen as a whole that works for the protection of the person. The three pillars also show us, as the Secretary General pointed out, that the Responsibility to Protect at each of these three stages is a preventative measure. These things are clearly covered by international law and the charter of the United Nations. This is why Mexico, in assuming the R2P as a tool, feels that Pillar three makes it possible to access all tools of the charter and it should not be understood that pillar three necessarily automatically authorizes the use of force. On the contrary, pillar three is also a preventative measure according to paragraph six, eight and nine of the charter and offers very many possibilities. It's important to point out that not all collective measures should be understood as a coercive or military measure. Likewise, it's fundamental that the Security Council fully assumes its responsibility under the charter.

With regard to the need to exercise R2P responsibly, we feel that the Brazilian initiative is very useful. This picks up on some of the elements that were present at the beginning of discussions of R2P and some of these could be reflected in the final report of the international report on state sovereignty and intervention. This is part of the genesis of R2P and it should be considered seriously now as we make progress in its implementation and as various tools are being used in order to achieve the legitimate protection objectives. Mexico considers that accountability and transparency should go hand in hand with the Responsibility to Protect. These elements are inherent to the three pillars or, if you will, they are additional and they are fundamental for the success and the sustainability of this important concept. And finally I'd like to ask the panel their opinion with regard to the importance of bringing those responsible for crimes covered by R2P be brought to justice and how this can help to prevent future violations and to provide guarantees that these acts will not be repeated. Thank you very much Moderator.