

General Assembly Debate Statement: Slovenia

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Much has already been said today, and we'd like to make a few brief remarks. First, the failures to protect human beings from mass atrocities should not be repeated. As world leaders agreed in 2005, the international community needs to develop the necessary and appropriate tools to live up to this responsibility. Our record has been mixed at best so far. Given the importance of the matter, continued engagement of the General Assembly on this subject proved to be necessary – we must learn to do better.

Secondly, no region is immune to mass atrocities – they can occur anywhere in the world and at any time. We have just been reminded of that yesterday as we observed the anniversary of genocide in Srebrenica. We have to do our utmost to prevent these atrocities from happening in the first place and address the root causes. As it is pointed out in the SG report – regional and sub-regional bodies can play a critical and facilitating role as political and operational bridges in preventive activities. No situation is the same. There is diversity in interests and experiences of regions speak to the value of cross regional agendas and political dialogue.

Thirdly we must elaborate on the relationship between regional organizations and the UN. Special focus should be on linkages between early warning structures that regional and sub-regional organizations have established and the joint office. Lastly, education is key. Training, education and awareness raising are key. Sharing of good practices including through capacity building and awareness raising, as undertaken by joint office, are positive examples.