

{Please check against delivery}

DRAFT STATEMENT

BY

EMMANUEL KAYODE OJO, fdc

MINISTER/R2P

PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

**INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: MOBILIZING COLLECTIVE
ACTION: THE NEXT DECADE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO
PROTECT**

NEW YORK, 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Mr. Moderator,

The Nigerian delegation aligns with the statement of the Group of Friends and welcomes the Secretary-General's 8th Report on the Responsibility to Protect themed; **Mobilizing collective action: The next decade for the Responsibility to Protect.** The Report which is a follow up to the 2015 report provides a vision for collective action to implement R2P amid an impending leadership change at the UN.

Mr. Moderator,

R2P is based on international humanitarian and human rights law and represents a global conceptual and policy shift in the notion of sovereignty and security. Suffice to say that R2P was endorsed by member states during the World Summit in 2005 to prevent and respond to Genocide, War crimes, Ethnic cleansing and Crimes against humanity; recent experiences in Cote d'Ivoire, Libya, Ukraine and Syria conveyed clear lessons that the cooperation of, and among, member states is critically essential to the successful operationalisation of the Responsibility to Protect. Today's dialogue therefore is timely for member states to rededicate their efforts towards the actualisation and implementation of the vision as conceived in 2005.

Africa initiated the principle of R2P through article 4(H) of the African Union Constitutive Act. It's implementation in the region was established with the signature of the ECOWAS Protocol on Mutual Defense Assistance signed on 29th May 1981, in Sierra Leone and the interventions led by Nigeria through the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia in 1990, which helped stop the carnage in those countries. Nigeria used this instrument to support peaceful resolution of conflicts in various countries in Africa, especially in the West African sub-region.

Mr. Moderator,

As highlighted in the Regional Forum on the Responsibility to Protect which was held in Nigeria in June 2012, it is necessary to intensify efforts towards

clarifying the concept of R2P as a result of the perceived reluctance of member states to subscribe to the principle's operationalisation, which is enshrouded in scepticism. **The efforts of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect as the Secretariat of the Global Network of Focal Points, in championing the cause of the principle through the recommendation of strategies to encourage political will and cooperation among Member states, is highly commendable. It is important for Member states to support those efforts by subscribing to R2P.** Nigeria recently became the 53rd Focal Point of R2P. This is an expression of the support of my country to the principle. **It is of necessity for more member states to appoint Focal Points so as to facilitate and accelerate the full understanding and acceptance of the principle.**

Mr. Moderator,

Nigeria suggested during the 2015 Focal Points meeting in Madrid, that Member states should consider the appointment of regional Focal Points. Nigeria believes that in the next decade of the R2P, such a strategy will facilitate and fast-track the understanding and acceptance of the principle. Nigeria remains determined to work in concert with other stakeholders in ensuring a more effective operationalisation of the R2P.

Thank you.