

[UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION FROM WEBCAST]

Thank you Chair. Member states at the International Summit ten years ago adopted the principle of the Responsibility to Protect as a lofty tool to save civilians and spare them from the surge of war in the framework of the national competence and the sovereignty of states concerned. However, unfortunately, some influent states in this organization have distorted this lofty concept so as to make it a new tool and a subterfuge to interfere in the affairs of state and gain their interest no matter what the price. This has led some member states to take some initiatives and attempts to interpret R2P in a different concept, by giving a new concept to it, which runs counter to Responsibility while Protecting. So the principle of Responsibility to Protect, like other lofty concepts, has lost its credibility and its moral character because it has been politicized, and because of a conflict of interest, bad intentions, hegemony and domination.

My country would like to say that the principle Responsibility to Protect against atrocities is the job of concerned states under national sovereignty. Secondly, the principle of protection is to strengthen national sovereignty rather than undermining it. This has not been fully respected and it has led to the imposition of states to change their regimes by means of military invasion, occupation, support to terrorist armed groups and armies, and terrorists who become as they are called “moderate national opposition”, or some “non-state armed elements”. Thirdly, the outcome of these situations, in this selectivity and politicization continue to take place to date.

The Secretary General, in one of his reports, mentioned the bad application of the R2P, just as is the case in Libya. We must remind member states that in Libya, the country was transformed into a source of terrorism, which is then exported to other states, particularly in Africa and my own country, Syria. Hence, such practices have shown that the principle of protection is no longer a humanitarian principle as was intended. Some states use it to interfere in the affairs of states and to practice and perpetrate terrorism and murder, and these member states sap safety and security.

My delegation is aware of the last report of the Secretary General regarding the situation in my country. I would like to re-affirm the following: the Secretary General’s report does not mention Israeli occupation which continues on Arab territories, which is the humanitarian tragedy that should be exposed in this context, because Israel, for decades now, has failed to respect the UN charter, particularly regarding the solutions which should do away with the occupation by force of the territory of others. My country does not have a civil war, but several hundreds and thousands of terrorist combatants from other nationalities come to our country and are bombing and undermining the description of this issue by the Secretary General, which is called a civil war.

My country continues to show its responsibilities regarding protection of our territory and our citizens against armed groups which have attacked the state and its people. The national constitutions of all states criminalize the use of arms except on the part of the army and institutions of a country which are responsible for the protection of its populations. “Non-state armed groups” is an expression which does not change the fact that all these terrorist groups we are mentioning are terrorist entities, which the Syrian state has to deal with in its role as R2P. My country has, for decades, been providing assistance to refugees and it would not have suffered from such a phenomenon, had it not owing to the assistance of

countries you are familiar with, which continue to support dozens of thousands of terrorist fighters from abroad, who come to commit the most atrocious crimes in our country. Those regimes continue to support terrorism in my country, and prevent us to get to a political solution and are imposing a unilateral course of blockade, which affects the very lives of all Syrians who try to go abroad and are risking their lives or go to other regions where they are protected by states.

Thank you.