

Statement of Togo
Unofficial Translation from Published Statement
11 September 2013

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his report based on the theme “Responsibility of States and Prevention.”

I would also like to congratulate the moderator and the panelists for their contribution to the unraveling of the present interactive dialogue on the theme indicated above.

Mr. President,

[Eight] years after World Summit which enshrined the concept of responsibility to Protect, my country salutes the efforts deployed by the General Assembly, the Security Council, and other Member-States of the United Nations to advance said concept.

My country feels that the submission of periodic reports and the annual holding of an informal interactive dialogue on the question, like this one, as well as the recent nomination of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the responsibility to Protect, will continue to promote the concept.

I would also like to salute the organization of the gathering, this past 11th and 12th of June in Accra, Ghana, of the global network of National Focal Points on the Responsibility to Protect. My country participated in this gathering, which allowed to better understand the importance of having access to a national protection mechanism and to prevent possible atrocity crimes in the case that these might exist.

My country is convinced that even in the absence of judicial obligations, there exists a moral obligation to provide societies with the means of protecting populations against criminal atrocities, thereby reinforcing the Sovereignty of the State by augmenting the chances for peace and stability. This shows that my country fully subscribes to the first two Pillars of R2P, consisting in a reminder of the sovereignty of States to protect their populations, without any external interference, and of the international community’s obligation to assist the State in this respect, per said State’s request.

My country understands the Responsibility to Protect primarily as the act of taking all necessary measures underlying in national laws and international law to prevent any tension which could potentially be the source of atrocities. We might as well say that Togo subscribes to the content of the Secretary-General’s fifth report, which advises to examine the underlying causes to allow for taking measures that should prevent atrocities in the case that these might exist. That is how, for example, in the case of elections, which are increasingly a serious threat to national, and sometimes international, stability all efforts are made to implement visible judicial and institutional

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mechanisms for conflict prevention and peace promotion. As for the legislative elections of 25th July 2013, these mechanisms and institutions have taken the shape of agreements between the Government, political parties, and the representatives of civil society, with the participation of several politicians, religious clerics, union representatives, and a Permanent Framework for Dialogue and Consultation, which have allowed violence-less elections.

Mr. President,

I am also proud that on the regional level, the early warning mechanism implemented by my country works actively with the regional early warning mechanisms created within ECOWAS. As a Member-State of ECOWAS, we have had good neighborly relations between States, a priority, such that any difficulty a Member-State meets automatically invokes the others. Thus, Togo has taken an active part not only in the formulation and implementation of the intervention strategies of ECOWAS within the framework of R2P, but also as a provider of troops for the crises of some countries in the sub-region like Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Mali, with the agreement of these countries.

Togo is proud that these States, which had not done so before, are in the process of nominating National Focal Points who will allow for better coordination on the topic, hopefully beyond ECOWAS and on the African level.