

Statement delivered by Ecuador – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2016
[TRANSLATION]

Thank you Mr. Chair,

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Responsibility to Protect. We are convinced that you will contribute with your major talents in this context.

We also thank the general Assembly for having convened this dialogue on an especially important topic. We would also like to acknowledge the report of the Secretary-General, titled “Mobilizing collective action: the next decade of the responsibility to protect”, where on the basis of the evaluation of 2015, he presents a vision for collective action aiming to implementing R2P.

This will be the last report which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will be presenting on this topic, and in this sense, I would like to thank and congratulate his on his work and commitment in this area since the 2005 World Summit. We would like to reaffirm Uruguay’s desire to continue moving forward in the implementation of R2P.

At a time when the world is convulsed by atrocious crimes and violence against civilians both from armed groups and from states’ forces and where the disrespect for the norms of humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law is blatant. A principle like R2P is therefore necessary.

In this context, we share the view of the Secretary-General that we need to adopt a new resolution from the General Assembly where states will reaffirm their commitment to R2P. We also agree on the new for a global campaign to promote respect for human rights and humanitarian law as part of a comprehensive strategy.

Let me stress some of the progress that has been made as well as challenges for the future. Since the adoption of R2P, progress has been seen in different places, particularly regarding its implementation and the expansion of the network to strengthen this implementation. Uruguay is part of the Group of Friends of R2P, both in New York and Geneva, and the Global Network of R2P Focal Points. These initiatives are strengthening national and regional preventive capacities and building confidence among states.

Regarding the contribution of troops, we would like to acknowledge the importance of the Kigali Principles. We encourage training programs before deployment of troops for missions of protection of civilians. It is necessary to provide these missions with resources, so as to help them to carry fully their mandates.

As a member of the Act Group, we reaffirm our support to a Code of Conduct in the Security Council regarding resolutions that aim to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and we support the French/Mexico proposals on voluntary restraint from the use of veto by the five permanent members of the Council when mass atrocities are being committed.

We are confident that this work on R2P will move on and that we will have tools to make this concept effective.

Thank you.