

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

Mr. Chair,

We are pleased to participate once again to the Interactive Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect. Costa Rica adheres to the declaration made by the Netherlands on behalf of the group of Friends of R2P.

We would like to reiterate our commitment to this principle, acknowledged by all members in paragraphs 138 and 139 of the Final Document of the 2005 World Summit, and we call for its full implementation.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General and the ideas put forward in the discussion panel, which reaffirms the relevance and validity of the principle and presents us with the challenges of an international reality that is much more complex. Today, even after more than 11 years, state and non-state actors continue to threaten civilian populations and show a complete disrespect for human life and dignity.

We know that the principle of R2P has been mentioned in more than 50 resolutions of the Security Council and has been incorporated directly in the mandates of peacekeeping operations of the United Nations.

However, political divisions within the Security Council prevent it from taking effective actions that are necessary to prevent attacks against civilian populations and to detain the perpetrators of those attacks. We call upon the members of the Council, be they permanent or elected, to honor the Charter of the United Nations and to carry out its mandate of ensuring prompt and effective action, in its crucial responsibility to maintain international peace and security and we call upon the permanent members to refrain from using the veto in situations of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

To that end, we call upon the members to support the ACT Code of Conduct against genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and the France/Mexico Initiative regarding the use of the veto by the permanent members of the Security Council.

Sir,

Costa Rica is convinced that when the international community will understand that no society is immune to atrocity crimes, and that we all have the obligation to protect our populations, we will have a better capacity to face the scourge of violence and to fully carry out the principle of R2P.

Costa Rica acknowledges the crucial role played by humanitarian workers in the field and we firmly condemn attacks against them, as well as attacks against civilians, hospitals, schools, journalists and those responsible for maintaining peace.

My delegation reaffirms that the best way to prevent recurrence of mass atrocity crimes is to put an end to impunity. In this regard, we fully support the International Criminal Court, as the most important achievement of the international community in the fight against impunity of the worst crimes and we invite States that have not yet ratified the Rome Statute to do so. We also invite all Member States to cooperate with the Court and to carry out its decisions in the most effective way.

Sir,

Costa Rica firmly believes that we cannot have a better future as humanity if we continue to allow millions of children to be surrounded by violence, thousands of children to be kidnapped and used as weapons of war and a whole generation of human beings to live in terror and despair.

Let us make a collective effort to put an end to violence and honor the principle of the Responsibility to Protect.

Thank you very much.