

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

Mr. Chair,

Last year, we celebrated two anniversaries: the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Organization and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our common commitment to the Responsibility to Protect. During this year, many meetings and formal and informal discussions were undertaken, so as to take toll of the commitment of our Organization in preventing conflicts and atrocities.

It is clear that the international community has undertaken a long path in the area of protection, whether it be in peacekeeping, in respecting and promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, or in preventing atrocities.

However, the international community as a whole, and our Organization in particular, are still far from achieving their goals. The situation in our world today, with the constant increase of conflicts, calls upon us to reexamine the obstacles that prevent the full implementation by the international community of its responsibility to protect the citizens of the world.

If the R2P has received increasing support from the international community over the last few years, many issues continue to be raised over the best way to operationalize this concept. The issue that is often raised is how we can ensure protection while avoiding, on one hand, an uncontrolled implementation of the R2P, and on the other, the manipulation or the political exploitation of its noble objectives.

In this context, my delegation wishes to recall the relation between the three pillars of the R2P, while emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to protect their own populations.

My delegation also wishes to reiterate the importance that must be accorded to the prevention in implementing the R2P.

In this regard, it is crucial to strengthen support to States so as to allow them to strengthen their national mechanisms for protection of their populations. This notably can be done through strengthening legal instruments and consolidating democracy and the rule of law. The strengthening of capacities and technical assistance are indeed the best preventive measures. This will allow for States to create an environment conducive to protection of their respective populations.

Sir,

My delegation takes note with interest of the Secretary-General's report which gives a picture of the decade to come in the area of R2P.

My delegation also takes into account the analysis of the obstacles that are preventing the implementation of a collection action aiming at preventing and fighting genocide and war crimes, as well as recommendations made in this regard.

My delegation is particularly interested in paragraph 61 of the report devoted to the "Human Rights Up Front" initiative.

My delegation wishes to reiterate the irreversible commitment of Morocco to human rights and fundamental liberties, as has been shown by the legislative and institutional reforms it has undertaken so as to strengthen the respect of human rights.

We also firmly support the noble objectives of this initiative. However we cannot support an initiative that has not developed in an intergovernmental approach and for which our government has not been associated with or consulted during its development, nor informed of its implementation.

Human rights must be promoted or defended in a transparent manner through dialogue and cooperation. So as to ensure the success of this initiative, it is essential that it is appropriated by States. As it has been shown by the successful experience of the Human Rights Council and its Mechanism of Universal Periodic Review, it is through dialogue, cooperation and appropriation by the States that we can advance human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Sir,

To conclude, my delegation wishes to reaffirm that implementation of the R2P can be fulfilled only through consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, as well as through the respect of human rights and individual and collective liberties. This is why we must strengthen our efforts in these areas in the context of dialogue and cooperation.

I thank you for your attention.