

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

Mr. Chair,

1. My delegation expresses its special appreciation for the eight and last report (of the current Secretary-General) on the Responsibility to Protect. This report, titled “Mobilizing collective action: the next decade of the responsibility to protect”, assesses the trends regarding the commission of atrocity crimes (genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity) during the last 10 years, as well as the obstacles to the effective application of R2P, and attempts to draft the concepts and to prepare the agenda for the next Secretary-General.
2. In this regard, we call for this dialogue to be a genuine reflection and self-criticism on the sources of the current conflicts which cause devastation in almost every regions of the world, while bearing in mind in mind that R2P has not been conceived to undermine, but to strengthen the sovereignty of States as a principle enshrined in the UN Charter. Indeed, we must not forget that R2P is primarily the responsibility of the State.
3. This being said, Peru reaffirms its commitment to consolidating the principle of R2P, as it was articulated in paragraphs 138-139 of the Final Document of the [World] Summit (A/RES/60/1), and its implementation through its three pillars<sup>1</sup>. With respect to the third pillar (and its relation to the other pillars), my delegation shares the position of the Secretary-General in the sense that the international community should always act through peaceful means, in collaboration with national authorities, and that military force should always be a means of last resort.

Mr. Chair,

4. Peru attaches the greatest importance to the preventive aspect of the R2P principle, which is essential for Latin America. We would like to stress the educational dimension of conflict prevention. In this regard, we wish to highlight that Peru relies on a National Educational Plan in Fundamental Rights and Obligations for 2021, which establishes a comprehensive strategy to promote a human rights culture in the country, as well as a national mechanism of conflict prevention and management in the “Defensoría del Pueblo”. We also wish to highlight international cooperation in creating systems of prevention in this matter, through UNESCO programs for instance. All of this seeks to ensure the education of youth and a culture of peace removed from the influence of groups which incite violent extremism.

Mr. Chair,

5. As a State with a long tradition of unconditional respect for international law, my delegation notes with concern one of the trends identified by the Secretary-General in his Report, namely the increase in gross violations of international humanitarian law (deliberate attacks on civilians and others), which highlights the wide gap between the commitments made by Member States and the reality faced by the most vulnerable civilians around the world. Another indicator of the same problem is the number of States that still have not ratified fundamental international

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<sup>1</sup> The commitment of Peru to the development and the consolidation of the R2P principle is also demonstrated in the great attention that the Government of Peru pays to the information requested for the work of the Secretariat (e.g. presentation of the inputs for the Compendium of Practice, in November 2015; presentation on inputs for the eight Report of the SG, in April 2016, among others).

instruments related to the protection of civilians, or that have done so, but do not enforce its dispositions.

6. In that context, my delegation believes it is important that we consider elaborating projects of medium-term and long-term plans of action addressing concrete measures dedicated to strengthen the level of commitment and awareness to, and implementation of, R2P. Those plans of action could consist in a primary phase where universalisation fundamental normative instruments relevant to R2P are promoted (i.e.: the 1948 Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court). A second phase could involve the design of systems or mechanisms of early warning of universal and regional character, that make it possible to identify situations of potential conflicts where mass atrocities could be committed. In this regard, it would be useful to strengthen the areas of cooperation and of exchanges of experiences, so as to include activities that aim to train and increase the awareness of public officials that have the authority to make decisions, as well as parliamentarians who are in charge of legislation and ratification of treaties that are essential for the protection of human rights. Finally, a third phase would be dedicated to drafting collective action protocols to face various potential scenarios, providing us with examples of the type of action that is necessary when confronted with different cases, and taking into account – as previously mentioned – that military intervention is a measure of last resort.
7. Concerning the obstacles that prevent collective action in the face of the risks of mass atrocities, Peru agrees with the Report of the Secretary-General regarding the necessity of restraining the right to veto. In this respect, we reiterate to reform the work methods of the Security Council; this is why Peru supports the France/Mexico Initiative, as well as the initiative of the ACT group, led by Liechtenstein, on a Code of Conduct for the use veto in the Council. Both initiatives, which complement one another, require that the highest political body of the UN exercise greater responsibility, coherence and transparency in its action, particularly in situations that could require the invocation of the R2P principle.

Mr. Chair,

8. I would like to reaffirm our support to the principle of R2P and its strengthening, and we thank the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in general for their relentless work, whose very useful periodic reports assist Members States in designing concrete policies specific to R2P. Thanks to their efforts, we are convinced that we will succeed in increasing our capacity to prevent mass atrocities.

Thank you.