

**Statement delivered by the Delegation of Argentina to the United Nations, at the United Nations General Assembly Thematic Panel Discussion "From commitment to implementation: Ten years of the Responsibility to Protect," convened by the President of the General Assembly [Unofficial Transcription]**

25 February 2016

It is beneficial for us to listen to the views of everyone on this very important concept of Responsibility to Protect. In the last decade we have maintained an intensive conceptual debate at the UN on Responsibility to Protect which has allowed us to identify the best ways in which to implement specific measures to prevent and halt genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

During this decade member States have recognized their primary responsibility to protect their populations from the four crimes and have accepted their collective responsibility to assist one another in implementing such a responsibility. As equal and sovereign all States have reciprocal rights and responsibilities and, in that regard, we understand that they are all equally committed to protecting their populations against atrocity crimes.

With regard to the UN we have developed a framework of implementation based on three fundamental pillars which are interrelated. We have also developed the concept in various bodies of the General Assembly in the framework of the informal dialogues and in the Security Council. And we have made progress towards crystallizing a concept under Responsibility to Protect, particularly with regard to prevention. We also emphasize the designation of the Special Advisors on Responsibility to Protect and the Prevention of Genocide who have the full support of Argentina.

However, and without detriment to this, and going beyond the progress made this decade, we believe that major challenges remain at the level of implementation and definition of the concept as well as with regard to the complexities and threats against the populations of the world. That is why we consider it necessary, in the context, today, to strengthen our collective commitment to Responsibility to Protect to make progress in its implementation while continuing to reflect on the three fundamental issues within Responsibility to Protect: protection of populations, strengthening human rights norms and international humanitarian law and the fight against impunity.

In that regard, we share the views expressed today on the need to go, from informal debates in the General Assembly, to ensuring that Responsibility to Protect be an item on the agenda. We believe that the General Assembly is the most representative and democratic body in the UN system where we can continue to deepen this frank and open dialogue among all members. In this regard, we welcome the draft resolution of the General Assembly on the 10 years after the adoption of the concept and we support concrete initiatives such as that of the Code of Conduct on action of the Security Council and veto restraint.

It is imperative, in our view, that we consolidate a solid strategy of prevention based on an impartial analysis of events, sufficient resources and political will to react in an early, timely and organic and sound basis given situations which may place our populations at risk of these crimes.

We believe that prevention must be at the center of all of our efforts. In that regard, we strongly support the initiative of the UN system to implement prevention on a crosscutting basis, including peacekeeping operations, Responsibility to Protect, peacebuilding, the importance of the rule of law, 'Human Rights up Front' initiative, among others. Thus, we agree that we

should strengthen the capacity to implement prevention measures and we will continue to do so.

Finally, we would like to reiterate, on the third pillar and the concept of Responsibility to Protect, that the use of force should be considered only as a last resort, once all preventative efforts have failed and it should be implemented legitimately, responsibly and proportionally and only to implement Responsibility to Protect in full compliance with the principles of the UN Charter and international law.