

**Statement delivered by the Delegation of Costa Rica 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

Costa Rica actively participates in several initiatives whose aim it is to promote the implementation of Responsibility to Protect, such as the Latin American Network for the Prevention of Genocide, the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes, and, together with Denmark, Ghana and Australia, we are part of the group that convenes the Global Network of National Focal Points on Responsibility to Protect. Costa Rica welcomes that, so far, 51 members in addition to the EU have designated a national Focal Point on Responsibility to Protect which strengthens their preventative capacities and urges States which have not yet done so to designate a Focal Point and join the Global Network.

We are very satisfied by the significant progress made in implementing the Responsibility to Protect and its 3 pillars which is reflected in the increasingly frequent discussions we have on the topic as well as the inclusion of the principle in many resolutions of important organs, such as the Security Council and the HRC.

We also recognize that there is a growing commitment to implement the principle by the international community and to create initiatives, such as the framework for analysis of atrocity crimes, which address risk factors and protect populations. Along the same lines, we stress the work done by the Special Advisors on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect.

We believe, however, that much remains to be done. Prevention, early warning and an effective, rapid and appropriate response are imperative. Article 99 of the UN Charter grants the SG the authority to intervene on a timely basis to prevent conflict and eliminate threats to international peace and security and protect the human rights of populations. We believe that this tool must be used more effectively to ensure respect of the purposes and principles of the Charter.

In like manner, we wish to urge support for the ACT Code of Conduct and we urge permanent member of the Security Council to voluntarily refrain from using the veto in situations of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. We welcome that, so far, 110 States are signatories of this and we urge those who have not done so to adhere to it. Considering the possibility that this, in the future, will be a valuable parameter in the selection of candidates to the Security Council.