

Statement delivered by the Delegation of Iran 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]

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We share the view that even pillar three of Responsibility to Protect does encompass several measures that do not necessarily call for the use of coercive measures. We also agree that the concentration of the international community should focus on prevention.

However, since militarism and war are deeply rooted in the political culture of certain powers who believe in exporting peace through boots, it remains a matter of absolute concern that the execution of Responsibility to Protect may continue to bring more harm than good. Meanwhile, in the absence of a genuine and unbiased functioning structure, there is a persistent tendency towards applying double standards and selective approaches which grants impunity to favorable ones and overlooks atrocities committed by them no matter how serious and horrific they are. It's not history, it's true even for today's events.

Selectivity, double standards and the politicization of the concept make it prone to manipulation and abuse, the question is why Responsibility to Protect should be called to address one situation but, at the same time, not in other similar situations. The answer is clear: because of political considerations.

Indeed, it was because of these political considerations that, at the time of the Rwanda genocide, some Security Council members denied to recognize genocide in Rwanda for a long period of time. Unfortunately, it is the reality of international order. It's a major challenge around this important concept. Selectivity because of political consideration is a reality which undermines the integrity of this concept and gives the impression that the main objective behind Responsibility to Protect is a political agenda and political interests.

Selective reference to Responsibility to Protect applicability in similar situations shows that this concept is attached to political consideration. It is the major obstacle which precludes Responsibility to Protect from becoming an international norm.

We call on friends of Responsibility to Protect to address this deficiency in a serious and objective manner before moving towards any action on their resolution in the General Assembly.