

**Nicaragua's Statement at the 2016 UN General Assembly Thematic Panel Discussion,
From Commitment to Implementation: Ten Years of Responsibility to Protect
[Transcribed]**

26 February 2016

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Our delegation would like to state that the language of the moderator has been lacking in respect to the sovereign positions of member states. In accordance with the United Nations Charter, member states are the same, large or small. We are appalled at that attitude by a secretariat official; this attitude undermines the sovereign right of states to express themselves freely at the United Nations.

The Responsibility to Protect is not accepted, nor supported, by all members of the United Nations, including Nicaragua. Much less can we accept other elements of this idea, as it could be extremely counterproductive and harmful for states since protection is the responsibility of each state. While the intention is laudable, the implementation has been the opposite of those intentions. The United Nations Charter does not include any type of reference to a right to humanitarian interference, but it does contemplate the issues of sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of states.

From 2013, we have witnessed how by means of manipulating topics like this one, interventionism and violations of sovereignty have disintegrated states and have caused great suffering for populations, including the crisis today of refugees. I would like to reiterate that at no time there has been a real dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect and we do not believe in adopting a topic on which there is no agreement. In the words of our President Daniel Ortega, "Our organizations must respond to the challenges of our time with measures and actions that reflect the supreme interests of the people: respect, the inviolability of sovereignty, the recognition of patrimonial natural resources, the promotion of security, justice, and peace." Thank you.