

Statement delivered by the Delegation of Nigeria 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

Nigeria notes that, 10 years after the adoption of the WSOD, it is critical that the General Assembly pronounce itself on Responsibility to Protect by adopting since a resolution was adopted in 2009. Given ongoing atrocities around the world, including terrorist actions by NSAs, as indicated by Edward Luck, it is important for member States to reaffirm their core commitment reached at the 2005 World Summit.

Nigeria welcomes the draft resolution on the Responsibility to Protect and affirms support for its balanced nature and focus on strengthening national capacities for prevention, as highlighted by Jennifer Welsh, this is the core of the Responsibility to Protect.

We also call on the General Assembly to adopt the draft resolution by consensus in the first half of 2016. Nigeria sees this as an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of Geneva based institutions and mechanisms, such as the HRC and the OHCHR in moving forward the Responsibility to Protect agenda. We also stress the essence of the UPR processes and special procedures mandate order and early warning for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. In this regard, we note the importance of the links between Geneva and New York.

We also support the work of the UN Secretariat regarding the 'Human Rights up Front' action plan and system wide efforts put in place to improve the capacity in preventing and responding to serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law including those that lead to mass atrocity crimes.

The original policy forum on Responsibility to Protect, held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 11 to 12 June 2012, highlighted, among other issues, strategies to encourage political will and cooperation among member States regarding Responsibility to Protect and the need for effective national and regional mechanisms for dealing with perpetrators of mass atrocities.

Relevant here, is the endorsement of the SG for the appointment of Responsibility to Protect Focal Points as tangible demonstration of commitment to the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. We therefore encourage all member States and regional organizations to become part of this growing global network as Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to the Responsibility to Protect and the need to prioritize the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as contained in paragraphs 138 and 138 of the 2005 WSOD.

In conclusion, we call on all member of the Security Council not to vote against or block credible action aimed at preventing mass atrocity crimes. We support the ACT group's Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes which has received 110 signatures of support, to date, as well as the French-Mexican initiative on voluntary restraint on the use of the veto in mass atrocity situations.

In addition, we express strong support for the work of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect and reaffirm the importance of the framework of analysis for atrocity crimes.

Finally, Nigeria joins others in supporting the inclusion of Responsibility to Protect on the formal agenda of the 71st session of the General Assembly