

Statement by Bangladesh at the Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect on Wednesday, 06 September 2017

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report with specific suggestions for strengthening accountability for prevention of mass atrocity crimes.

Bangladesh supports the Secretary General's clear-sighted approach to place atrocity prevention as the centrepiece of his prevention agenda.

We see merit in his recommendation to include Responsibility to Protect in the formal agenda of the General Assembly in order to have informed, threadbare discussions on the conceptual and operational issues.

The interactive discussions this morning have been indicative of the possible synergies and complementarities among the UN's humanitarian response, development and sustaining peace initiatives towards atrocity prevention. There is evident scope for better utilizing the various human rights institutional mechanisms for supporting evidence-based risk assessment, early warning and mitigation measures.

We agree with the Secretary General that the Security Council should collectively reflect on its role in atrocity prevention. As a troop contributing country, Bangladesh underscores the importance of clear and achievable mandates for protection of civilians by peacekeeping missions and the provision of corresponding resources and capacity. We maintain our in-principle support for possible suspension of veto in case of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Bangladesh had set a pathway for ensuring justice for past atrocity crimes through our national judicial process, pursuant to relevant international norms. Our National Parliament passed a Resolution last year to declare March 25th as the Genocide Remembrance Day. Bangladesh seeks the international community's support in recognizing the genocide committed during our War of

Liberation, which would be a manifestation of the commitment to recognise past and present atrocity crimes.

Right at this moment, Bangladesh is experiencing yet another massive influx of displaced civilians from the Rakhine State in neighbouring Myanmar, causing a serious humanitarian challenge. The Secretary General has expressed his deep concern over the situation and urged the Security Council to send a clear message to de-escalate tension and ensure humanitarian access to those in need. The international community should join voices seeking the minimum guarantee of protection and assistance for the affected civilians inside Myanmar. For the medium to long term, the Kofi Annan Advisory Commission's report contains many useful recommendations where the international community can extend support to the Government of Myanmar.

The responsibility to protect should have at least some assurance for those desperately seeking refuge along our border.

I thank you.