

REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CHARLES T. NTWAAGAE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INFORMAL INTERACTIVE
DIALOGUE ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT**

**"IMPLEMENTING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT:
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PREVENTION"**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 4
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**

**6TH SEPTEMBER 2017
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Mr. President,

1. Let me at the outset join other delegations in applauding you for convening this **Annual Informal Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on the Responsibility to Protect**. The principle of the Responsibility to Protect is of paramount importance to humanity and as such it is endorsed by the General Assembly, Security Council, Human Rights Council, regional and sub-regional organisations, and civil society organisations.
2. My delegation firmly believes that this dialogue will go a long way in addressing the existing gaps that impede the effective implementation of the Responsibility to Protect by suggesting measures to close these gaps and to strengthen accountability for atrocity crimes prevention.
3. I would also like to seize this opportunity to commend our former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and our current Secretary-General António Guterres for producing annual reports on different aspects of the Responsibility to Protect for the nine consecutive years. In this regard, I applaud Secretary-General Guterres for maintaining this tradition.
4. Botswana welcomes the first report of Secretary-General Guterres, which is the ninth since 2009, aptly titled "**Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Accountability for Prevention**" to reflect the primary responsibility of States to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as well as their accountability for atrocity crimes prevention.
5. The Secretary-General's Report highlights the challenges faced in implementing the principle of Responsibility to Protect and recommends measures that Member States, intergovernmental

bodies and the United Nations system can adopt to strengthen accountability for atrocity crimes prevention.

Mr. President,

6. This Report demonstrates that, despite the adoption of the principle of the Responsibility to Protect in 2005, atrocity crimes continue unabated. In this connection, Botswana reaffirms her commitment to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect and pledges her support to the efforts made by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the United Nations General Assembly to advance this principle.
7. We also support initiatives that have been adopted in recent years to strengthen atrocity crimes prevention such as:
 - The Human Rights Up Front Initiative.
 - The Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes.
 - The Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group Code of Conduct.
 - The French and Mexican Initiative on Veto Restraint.
8. We endorse the measures proposed in the Secretary-General's Report, which, *inter alia*, call for:
 - Strengthening accountability for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect and ensuring rigorous and open scrutiny of practice, based on agreed principles.
 - Creating greater synergy among the three pillars of the United Nations system, namely human rights, peace and security, and development.

- Integrating atrocity crimes prevention concerns into the work of national human rights mechanisms.
 - Ensuring accountability and redress for past and present atrocity crimes.
9. To conclude, I am pleased to announce that Botswana has already appointed a National Focal Point for the Responsibility to Protect and an Ombudsman with a human rights mandate.
10. In line with the adage, "Prevention is better than cure," we fully support the Secretary-General that prevention of atrocity crimes should be at the heart of the peace and security agenda of the United Nations.

I thank you for your attention.