

Statement delivered by Costa Rica – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2016
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Thank you, Moderator.

Costa Rica is in agreement with the declaration made by the Netherlands in name of the Group of Friends for the Responsibility to Protect. I'd like to take this opportunity to renew our commitment to this principle, recognized in paragraphs 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome Document. We agree with Secretary-General in that we have a legal, moral and political commitment to achieve the full implementation of this. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General and the ideas in the discussion panel, which do reiterate the relevance and topicality of the principle. These ideas present us with the challenges of a much more complex international situation. Now, state and non-state actors threaten civilian populations and show absolute disrespect for human life and dignity. Millions of people escape daily from violence and sufferings that they're subjected to and thousands more are killed with impunity each day.

We know that the principality of the Responsibility to Protect is linked to a number of important obligations under International law, from both International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law, to not commit systematic violations of human rights and protect civilians both individually and collectively. However, the international community has adopted on a number of occasions for only timorous action or indeed not to act at all. Day after day, the number of victims in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Libya, or the Central African Republic, Myanmar and elsewhere are increasing. Therefore we would call to the members of the Security Council, whether permanent or elected, to comply with the mandate under the United Nations Charter to carry out rapid and effective action in their principal responsibility, which is maintaining peace and international security, and permanent members, to avoid using their veto in situations of genocide, atrocity crimes, or crimes against humanity.

International collective action to prevent massive atrocities should be based upon impartial information collected in a way which avoids any kind of political pressure. So Costa Rica would support initiatives such as the Independent Impartial Mechanism for Syria and the Human Rights Upfront. We would like to also support the Code of Conduct of ATT against Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity. We'd also welcome the recommendations of the Secretary-General which will strengthen internal mechanisms for early warning and prevention of atrocity, taking into account the prevention in all areas of public life. We also need to incorporate our own internal legal systems to international standards and humanitarian standards in order to guarantee accountability of security forces, whether they are military or civilian.

To avoid repetition of atrocities it's imperative to deal with national post-conflict conciliation processes using justice, transitional justice systems, memory and the reconstruction of social peace. In order to do this, it is necessary to do away with impunity and bring those responsible to justice, not granting immunity or amnesty to perpetrators. We would invite all those who have not done so to sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We are party to this and they should all comply with their decisions in compliance with International obligations.

Moderator, it is time to act. Let us go from words to action. We have a moral obligation to future and present generations. Thank you.