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**Statement by H.E. Darja Bavdaž Kuret,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia  
to the UN**

***at an informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on the Report  
of the Secretary-General on the responsibility of protect***

**6 September 2017**

Mr Chair,

I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this informal interactive dialogue and the Secretary General for his report on "Implementing R2P: Accountability for Prevention".

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and with the statement delivered on behalf of Group of Friends of the R2P. Due to time constraints my intervention will be shortened but longer version will be made available.

We continue to support the work of the Secretary General and his Special Advisers and welcome their efforts to improve the system-wide capacity of the UN to prevent and respond to serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, especially those violations that may lead to mass atrocity crimes.

In this vein we continue to stress the importance of the 'Rights up Front' initiative as an important effort toward being better alert and effective early on. We agree that more effective prevention is needed in today's changing nature of conflicts. Prevention and the protection of people are at the heart of the R2P concept.

Slovenia once again reaffirms its strong commitment to remain an advocate of R2P and to the wider promotion and protection of human rights. We will continue to contribute further the advancement of human rights in international human rights forums also as an active member of the Human Rights Council and would in this respect support the proposal that the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect brief the Human Rights Council more regularly on situations that give rise to heightened risk of atrocity crimes.

Slovenia hosted this year already for the third time the European R2P Focal Points Meeting and together with the Faculty of law the International Conference "Responsibility to Protect in Theory and Practice". Participants in the Focal Points Meeting discussed how to implement R2P more effectively and has among others, endorsed several recommendations on how best to advance the implementation of R2P.

Mr Chair,

In order to improve the ability of the international community to take timely and decisive early action we support the ACT initiative and the French - Mexican initiative calling upon the Permanent Members of the Security Council to voluntarily refrain from using their veto in situations of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Important aspect of preventing conflicts recurrence is ensuring accountability for all R2P crimes and other serious abuses of human rights and international humanitarian

law. Therefore we continue to express our firm support for the work of the International Criminal Court as well as regional and state mechanisms to counter impunity.

Mr Chair,

We, the Member States, hold the primary responsibility to protect our populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. But as we said it last year in this debate we will say it again and again - the obligations go beyond that. We have to do our utmost to prevent any such actions to occur again. We believe policy approaches on strengthening the resilience of states and societies should be strengthened.

Different views how to achieve this must not inhibit the determination to protect population from R2P crimes in the future. Therefore we once again support the inclusion of the R2P debate in the formal agenda of the United Nations General Assembly to further develop our common understanding on how best to implement the R2P in practice.

I thank you