

**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB
REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS - NEW YORK**



**بعثة الجمهورية العربية السورية
الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة - نيويورك**



Statement of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic

Delivered by

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in

The General Assembly Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the

Secretary-General on the "Responsibility to Protect"

Please check against delivery

New York, 6 September 2017

Mr. Coordinator/Facilitator,

My delegation takes note of the Secretary-General's report circulated in document (S/2017/556). At the same time, it expresses its position on rejecting the unilateral and unprofessional approach through which some Member States, in coordination with **some** officials in the Secretariat, are attempting to misuse noble humanitarian principles and politicize them in an unfair manner, leading to make the "Responsibility to Protect" a serious controversial concept within the framework of the United Nations. We recall again the catastrophic consequences which have taken place in some countries, as a result of applying the "Responsibility to Protect" unilaterally and selectively by some member states, which prompted the former Secretary-General to acknowledge in one of his reports the concerns raised by the misapplication of the "Responsibility to Protect" in one of these countries.

In this context, my delegation expresses its concern of the retrogression in the new report on the "Responsibility to Protect", as the authors of this report did not observe the minimum standards of transparency, balance and professionalism, by avoiding any indication to a wide divergence of views among Member States on the criteria and guarantees of the application of the "Responsibility to Protect", and by completely ignoring the substantive concerns and criticisms raised by many Member States about the lack of guarantees and restrictions to ensure that the "Responsibility to Protect" is not used as a justification for targeting the sovereignty of member states and interfering in their internal affairs. Indeed, the authors of this report have gone so far as to claim in the report that there is a global consensus that "Responsibility to Protect" has become a recognized principle with its three pillars, which is unrealistic at all. Those who read the minutes of the three informal

dialogue sessions held this year in New York and Geneva, will realize that Member States are still far from reaching real consensus in this matter.

The most serious matter in this regard is that the Secretariat, together with some Member States, are still trying to exploit the Declaration adopted by Heads of States and Governments at the 2005 World Summit, in order to create a non-existent legal basis for "Responsibility to Protect", With the aim of circumventing the informal dialogue sessions and including this idea as an agenda item of the General Assembly.

My delegation, along with many others, believes that both paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Declaration did not adopt or endorse "Responsibility to Protect" as a principle, but emphasized basic and authentic principles included in the Charter of the United Nations, regarding the maintenance of international peace and security, the salvation of future generations from the scourge of war, the belief in fundamental human rights and in the dignity of the individual, the promotion of social progress, the promotion of the standard of living in freedom, and above all the respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Based on these facts, my delegation considers that the request by Australia and Ghana to include "Responsibility to Protect" as an agenda item of the General Assembly during the next session, is a unilateral irresponsible act that breaches the understanding which prevailed among all Member States to continue to consider This issue as a part of the informal dialogue sessions. As a result, they both hold the responsibility to deepen the situation of disagreement and to make this issue a cause of division among member states.

In conclusion, the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need to continue to examine this issue within the framework of the informal dialogue, and refuses to include it as an agenda item of the General Assembly or to include any supplementary item on it, before reaching consensus on the “Responsibility to Protect” and the regulations and guarantees of not using it for political purposes that contradict with the principles and purposes of the United Nations and its Charter.

I also stress that the governments of some member states that support or tolerate with terrorism in my country Syria, and that impose unilateral coercive economic measures on the Syrian people, and that involve in illegal hostile military actions within the so-called "international coalition" which bombs infrastructures and kills civilians in Syria under the pretext of fighting "Daesh".. these governments are ineligible parties to claim defending human rights anywhere in the world, considering the solid fact that they use humanitarian files to justify their interference in the affairs of other States and to legitimize military intervention in these states.

Thank you, Mr. Coordinator/facilitator