

Statement delivered by Turkey – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2017
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Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

At the outset, allow me to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive annual report on the Responsibility to Protect. We'd also like to extend our thanks to your office Mr. Moderator, for organizing informal panel discussions during the preparation of the report. We believe that this was a useful exercise that availed a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas among the membership.

Mr. Moderator,

Responsibility to Protect is yet to be an established norm of international law. Its scope and application need to be defined and developed. However, the fact that the international community is discussing the implementation of this norm is encouraging. The implementation of R2P should seek to establish a delicate balance between safeguarding the humanitarian concerns of the international community while respecting the principle of national sovereignty. With this understanding, the legal definition of R2P should be based on the consensus of the international community. The concerns of all UN Member States should be taken into consideration. This task should not be carried out to reinterpret the established principles of international law and the existing legal framework on the crime of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing, but to find ways of implementing them in a consistent manner. We welcome the approach of the Secretary-General's report which underscores the important linkage between R2P and prevention. With this understanding, Turkey attaches particular importance to preventive diplomacy, leads mediation support efforts not only in the UN, but also through regional and bilateral initiatives in the wider geography and works actively for the peaceful settlement of disputes. We also agree with the Secretary General that ensuring accountability remains key in achieving progress on the prevention agenda.

Mr. Moderator,

We believe the norm of the Responsibility to Protect could be applied with the close collaboration of the Security Council and the General Assembly. This context, Turkey hopes that the discussions on R2P, and its application will help us to pave the way to restricting the veto power in the Security Council, on matters related to the crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide. Moreover, the Responsibility to Protect should not be restricted to those facing trouble in turbulent countries only. Populations escaping from these crimes to neighboring countries should also be taken into consideration. Bearing in mind often times the limited capabilities of neighboring countries, the economic burden of the refugees or asylum seekers should not be left to their fate.

I thank you, Mr. Moderator.