

Informal Interactive Dialogue of the UNGA on R2P

Thank you first to the Permanent Missions of Australia and Ghana for leading on this important issue. The United States has participated in these important dialogues since their inception and we are glad to join in today to reaffirm our enduring commitment to preventing atrocities, including genocide.

We very much welcome the issuance of Secretary-General Guterres's first report on the subject of Responsibility to Protect and were pleased with his call to action for States to do more to prevent atrocities. His report included many critical recommendations that member states can consider implementing to protect their own populations from atrocities, as well as steps we all can consider taking to further our commitment to the collective responsibility to protect, in appropriate circumstances.

The United States has undertaken internal steps to build a robust atrocity prevention policymaking apparatus, which has developed prevention policies. These policies have resulted in specific actions, including deployment of UN monitoring and reporting mechanisms, strategic diplomatic engagement, sanctions, the recalibration or termination of foreign assistance, among numerous others.

We have done this together with partner countries who share our commitment to atrocity prevention. The United States remains committed to this model and we will continue refining and developing it. We will continue to work, as well, through multilateral fora, including the United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council, the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect, and close partnerships we have developed with likeminded countries on atrocity prevention.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will continue to examine the Secretary-General's recommendations and explore ways in which we can further work toward atrocity prevention as a core policy priority. We welcome the Secretary-General, in this regard, noting that he intends to maintain this issue at the core of his work and we look forward to learning where he situates the critical roles of his Special Advisor on Responsibility to Protect and his Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide – both essential functions to UN policy.

Thank you.