

General Assembly of the United Nations
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**Informal interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General
on the "Responsibility to Protect: State responsibility and prevention"**

**STATEMENT BY
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President,

- 1 . The recent news of massacres in Syria, including chemical weapons, challenges the international community on the Responsibility to Protect populations exposed to war crimes.
- 2 . The interactive dialogue that gathers today offers my delegation the opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of Côte d'Ivoire to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect, as expressed by the 2005 World Summit held here in New York.
- 3 . Indeed, during the violent post-election crisis faced by my country in 2010-2011, causing thousands of deaths, we came close to the genocide and ethnic cleansing, given that the victims were targeted based on their ethnicity and their connection to a political camp.
- 4 . The decisive and timely response of the international community through Security Council Resolution 1975 (2011) stopped the mass atrocities, illustrating the operationalization of the third pillar of the R2P in the Ivorian crisis.

Mr. President,

5. Let me reiterate what I said last year in the same context, by saying that the need to consider activating the third pillar of the R2P is actually the consequence of the failure of the implementation of the first two pillars which are: the primary responsibility of the State to protect its population, and the international cooperation in order to strengthen the capacity of States to prevent mass atrocities.
6. To us, countries emerging from conflict, prevention is at the heart of the principle of R2P, as prevention is central to all our sites including post-crisis reconstruction, including the reform of the security sector, as well as Disarmament/Demobilization/Reintegration (DDR) process in order to strengthen security and stability.
7. At the social, political, institutional, and economic levels, we must build strong institutions that promote good governance, the rule of law, respect for freedoms and human rights, national reconciliation, an independent judiciary, and economic and environmental framework that ensures human safety. It is in this manner the societies resilient to mass atrocities build their foundations, and that the horizon of stability and lasting peace will be within our reach.
- 8 . In pursuing these objectives, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the Ivorian civil society organizations join their forces to advance national reconciliation, to promote human rights and to integrate the rule of law in daily lives of people. Not a week goes by in Côte d'Ivoire, without either seminars, workshops, and conferences on these topics. Prevention of the root causes of conflict and mass atrocities is reflected at the center of these efforts.
- 9 . The Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR), set up in the aftermath of the post-election crisis, has made an exhaustive inventory of the root causes of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire through seven sub-committees on the following topics :

- Land tenure,
- Citizenship, nationality and democracy,
- Communication and society,
- Justice and security,
- Gender,
- Education, training and youth ,
- Poverty.

10 . The Ivorian civil society organizations, such as the National Commission on Human Rights in Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI) , the Ivorian League for Human Rights (LIDHO), the Ivorian Movement for Human Rights (MIDH), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding in Côte d'Ivoire (WANEP-CI), to name but a few, are doing a remarkable work on the field, denouncing abuses against vulnerable segments of the population, but mostly striving to raise awareness and training of the different layers of society, particularly for the purpose of prevention against conflicts and mass atrocities.

11 . The Ivorian Parliament has adopted two very important laws, respectively on the issues of rural land tenure and statelessness, which will permanently resolve land disputes and problems related to nationality.

12 . The Government, from its side, is focusing on the promotion of human rights, including the insertion of human rights in the curriculum from primary school.

13. In addition, the Government has launched a project to build a training center for Human Rights in the Armed Forces.

14. Further, after a recent mission to Côte d'Ivoire by a delegation of the Global Center for the R2P, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has appointed a national Focal Point for R2P who is located at the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

15 . Finally, Côte d'Ivoire has become since February 5, 2013, State Party to the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court.

Mr. President,

16. My delegation would like therefore to express its satisfaction with the holding of this fruitful dialogue on prevention in the context of R2P. We take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Jennifer Welsh on his appointment as Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser to the Secretary General on R2P, and ensure herself and her distinguished colleague, the Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Adama Dieng, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, that we will spare no effort to provide the necessary support to fulfill their missions, so that the issues they are responsible for be mentioned among the priorities of the agenda of the United Nations .

Mr. President,

17. **IN CONCLUSION**, We believe, along with the Secretary-General Ban Ki -Moon, that the principle of the Responsibility to Protect has matured, and the time has come to make it operational. This is why we ask the Secretary General to develop an action plan for the purpose of further institutionalizing R2P in all the United Nations system.

18 . Finally, in order to maintain the momentum, we hope that the next interactive dialogue on R2P take place in the period May/June 2014.

THANK YOU