



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations

at the

Informal, Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on the Responsibility
of States to Protect their populations by preventing genocide,
war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity through
appropriate and necessary means.

New York, 8th September, 2014

Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to commend you for the very efficient time management strategy that you have adopted in this meeting thus allowing a lot of ground to be covered in one day. I hope this strategy will be replicated in similar meetings of the UN.

I also wish to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this informal interactive dialogue on the Responsibility of States to Protect their populations under the Second Pillar, which is anchored on the responsibility of the international community to encourage and assist states to uphold their responsibility to protect their populations from genocide and other violent crimes.

I must also thank the panelists and Jenifer Welsh for their insightful comments which contain elements that have helped to broaden our perspective and enrich our debate on R2P as a global concept.

My delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's Report which lays emphasis on nipping violent confrontations from the bud which may lead to genocide and other violent crimes against people rather than allowing them to nature to full blown conflicts.

Mr. Chairman,

It will appear that the overall objective which prompted the adoption of the outcome document of 2005 to protect the people of the world against genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing remains a farfetched dream as the violent upheavals in Iraq, South Sudan, Central Africa Republic, Syria and Gaza have amply demonstrated. This therefore, calls for a review of strategy and the adoption of a workable approach.

Indeed, the responsibility of states to protect their people is sacred, in fact, it is the very essence of their existence. But where in their request to protect they are overwhelmed by circumstances beyond their control, then it is equally the duty of the international community to assist them to carry out this sacred duty to protect their people against violent crimes. This mutual responsibility between states and the international community to protect people should be based on mutual trust, honesty, devoid of the promotion of national interest and the absolute respect of the sovereignty of states.

Mr. Chairman,

The concept of the responsibility of states to protect will remain elusive if those causes that are responsible for conflict are not seriously addressed particularly in less developed countries like mine by the international community. States where poverty, under-development and diseases are recurrent will always serve as a breeding ground for non-

state actors to wreak havoc of instability and thus jeopardize the safety of the people. It is for this reason that my delegation fully supports those delegations that have already called for the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty by all member States in order to deprive the use of arms and ammunition by non-state actors.

The Civil Society as well as the UN and international financial institutions have a significant role to play as monitors who could sound the alarm bell when situations really begin to get out of control.

One critical way by which the international community could assist states in their responsibility to protect is to help them to reinforce democratic culture through education programmes. Democratic education and respect for the Rule of Law at all levels is critical and states should be assisted greatly to build very strong democratic institutions that disgruntled parties in society could rely on to seek redress rather than resorting to violence to settle their differences.

Mechanisms of regional organizations to assist states in their responsibility to protect should be strengthened. The Peer Review Mechanism in the African Union where the activities of member states in all spheres of human endeavor are thoroughly reviewed in a frank and honest atmosphere with recommendations to improve where states fall short should be strengthened and supported. I wish to pay special tribute to Mr. Jean Ping who is present with us here today and who was very instrumental in the operationalization of this African Union strategy.

My delegation will join those that have called for the full support of the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court established to address impunity for gross crimes of human atrocities. In spite of its numerous challenges, the ICC still remains a bulwark and a legal institution of deterrence against potential perpetrators of terrible crimes against the people.

Finally Mr. Chairman, this delegation wishes to align itself with the views already expressed by other delegations on the suspension of the veto in cases where there is mass atrocities and genocide.

I thank you for your kind attention.