

Statement by Ambassador Carlos Olguin
Deputy Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations
General Assembly Interactive Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect
8 September 2015

Thank you, Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the convening of this interactive dialogue to discuss the Secretary-General's new report entitled "A vital and enduring commitment: implementing the responsibility to protect".

Chile appreciates the historical and critical balance struck in the Secretary-General's report, as well as the identification of pending issues and the definition of priorities to promote effective implementation of the concept of responsibility to protect.

Chile understands that the responsibility to protect the civilian population devolves firstly and principally upon the State. From an operational viewpoint, we consider the responsibility to protect as a continuum which includes rights and functions of prevention and international assistance, as well as of development and national capacity-building. The responsibility to protect implies the responsibility to prevent and assist. As regards collective action, the Security Council and the regional organizations must act only if the peaceful means and instruments specified in Chapters VI and VII of the Charter are ineffective.

Chile has supported the concept of responsibility to protect from the outset, convinced of the need to promote and protect human rights, which is a fundamental principle of our foreign policy. We have participated actively in the debates in the General Assembly and in the Security Council, when the item on the protection of civilians in armed conflict was considered, and by our statements as a non-permanent member of the Council. I should also highlight our commitment to the dissemination and strengthening of the concept through national and regional seminars. It should be noted that, in June this year, Chile co-sponsored with Spain the Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points held in Madrid.

Unfortunately, in July exercise of the right of veto prevented the Council from adopting a text on the crime of genocide. We again appeal to the Council members with the right of veto to refrain from exercising it in the case of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. We support the Code of Conduct proposed by the ACT Group for this purpose and hope that many other States will join in this initiative and other complementary ones with the same goal.

Mr. President,

Lastly, ten years after the World Summit, we wish to emphasize the need to develop the necessary consensus for implementation of the responsibility to protect, by placing this concept on the formal agenda of the General Assembly.

Thank you.