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Open Debate Security Council

**Statement at the UN General Assembly Informal Interactive on the
Responsibility to Protect**

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**Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United
Nations**

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Mr. President,

Further, speaking in my national capacity, I would like to align myself with the statements of the European Union and the Group of Friends of RtoP.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands would like to underscore three priorities:

1) The successful implementation of RtoP requires national action. States are primarily responsible for the protection of their populations against atrocities and have a wide range of policy options at their disposal. A practical first step for States is appointing a national Focal Point for RtoP.

2) Prevention is key. We call upon member states and other international actors to make increased use of early warning systems, translate these early warnings into early action and make increased use of the UN human rights system to these ends.

3) New challenges must be urgently addressed. The Kingdom of The Netherlands would like to emphasize that non-stated armed groups pose a particular challenge to RtoP. The international community should assist states in their efforts to counter these groups. Bearing in mind that although accountability for the atrocities committed rests solely with these groups, states remain under an obligation to prevent the occurrence of mass atrocities on their territory.

As your partner for peace, justice and development, we would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our strongest support for RtoP.

Thank you, Mr President