



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

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STATEMENT

by

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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

New York, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

*Check Against Delivery*



Mr. Moderator,

I wish to thank you for your <sup>role</sup> ~~part~~ and to commend the President of the General Assembly for convening this informal interactive dialogue on the Responsibility of States to protect their populations by preventing, genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Sierra Leone aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the 47 Members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect.

While commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 2005 World Summit and the 70th anniversary of the UN, <sup>my</sup> the delegation of Sierra Leone wishes to reaffirm its commitment to <sup>^</sup> paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document on the Responsibility to Protect.

My delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's report which lays emphasis on addressing violent confrontations which may lead to genocide and other violent crimes against humanity.

Sierra Leone continues to take concrete steps to accelerate implementation of the R2P in accordance with the six priorities identified by the Secretary-General. To this end, we have quite recently appointed a National Focal Point of the Responsibility to protect our people from crimes against humanity.

Mr. Moderator,

I wish to reiterate that the responsibility of states to protect their people no doubt remains sacred as it is the very essence of their



existence. The responsibility between states and the international community to protect people also remains crucial and should be based on mutual trust, honesty and the absolute respect of the sovereignty of states.

In this connection, regional mechanisms 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 transparent manner with recommendations to improve on the lapses of states should be strengthened and supported.

Mr. Moderator,

Over and above, it is worthwhile for those causes that are responsible for conflict to be seriously addressed particularly in less developed countries. States where poverty, under-development and diseases are recurrent will always serve as a breeding ground for non-state actors to wreak havoc and national insecurity.

One critical way by which the international community could assist states in their responsibility to protect is to help them reinforce democratic culture through education programmes and respect for the Rule of Law.

While recognizing the important role of civil society in supporting the advancement of R2P, let me seize the opportunity to once more pledge the commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone to the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

I thank you for your kind attention.

