



STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations**

**Informal interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on the
responsibility to protect**

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Mr Chairman,

First, I would like to thank Mr. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his introductory words. I would also like to thank Special advisors Jennifer Welsh and Adama Dieng for their briefings and insightful thoughts.

At the outset, I would like to align myself with the statement presented earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

This year we are commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document which laid down the foundation elements of the Responsibility to Protect. The creation of the concept was a reaction to the genocide in Rwanda and Srebrenica. At least in these two cases the international community failed to prevent probably the worst atrocities committed after World War II.

In order to evaluate these ten years and setting the priorities for the future, we welcome the insightful report prepared by the Secretary-General taking stock of the implementation of the three principles of the concept in the past decade and outlining challenges that are still ahead of us.

Mr. Chairman,

To advance the implementation of R2P, six priorities as listed in the Secretary General's report are very important.

To address issues and concerns some may have on the concept of R2P, we should adhere to agreements achieved, utilize experience including lessons learned, thoroughly consider applicability of recommendations in basic UN documents and SG reports and endorse trust building. As we recall it was the African Union in 2000 that pioneered the concept that the international community has a responsibility to take action in crisis situations if a state is failing to protect its population from mass atrocity crimes. The AU adopted the Ezulwini Consensus in 2005, which welcomed R2P as a tool for the prevention of mass atrocities. In both cases it was key to understand how important is **national ownership and regional cooperation**.

In this context **building national capacities** is essential to fulfilling national obligations to prevent mass atrocities. Building good governance, the rule of law, and **effective judicial and security sectors** all goes towards building a preventive environment in which RtoP crimes would be less likely to take place. We are of the view that Security sector reform is a very important part of overall stabilization and reconstruction in transitional societies as well as a necessary condition for democratization processes. Peacebuilding effort and the national reconciliation could prevent the recurrence of atrocity crimes.

We should encourage Member States to implement measures with primary focus on **prevention and early warning mechanisms**. Rather than addressing past crimes, any encouragement, capacity building or protection assistance should aim to prevent atrocity crimes from being committed. To this end, several precursors of an arising conflict can be identified. The extent to which Human Rights standards are upheld in a host state may serve as an effective indicator of a forthcoming conflict.

Unfortunately, in these days, conflict situations and the suffering of innocent are more widespread than 70 years ago when we have created this Organisation in order to maintain lasting peace. Examples of violent extremism, collapsing capacities of some states to prevent and avoid mass atrocities, radical movements such as Boko Haram and ISIS call for an immediate and decisive response.

Although we have noted increasing inclusion of R2P in Security Council's resolutions through strengthening the mandates on protection of civilians, there are also cases where the Members were not able to act adequately.

Mr. Chairman,

To ensure accountability, the **role of the International Criminal Court** is indispensable. It serves not only as an independent and impartial judicial body prosecuting situations where national jurisdiction is unable or unwilling to address the issue of accountability, but through its authority has a preventive impact. Learning from the past it is our task to enhance its effectivity, build the trust in its work, role and endorse the universal acceptance of its impartiality. In this regard, Slovakia encourages UN member states to ratify the Rome Statute and its amendments and thus help achieve its full universality.

To conclude Mr. Chairman,

Paragraphs 138 and 139 of the Summit Outcome represent a remarkably good outcome, which well serve the ultimate purpose of the responsibility to protect: to save lives by preventing the most egregious mass violations of human rights, while reinforcing the letter and spirit of the Charter and the abiding principles of responsible sovereignty.

10 years is a short period in the UN resolution live. Nevertheless, we have managed to strengthen the concept and institutionalized it across the various UN bodies. Now the time has come for consistent implementation and more decisive actions. I am confident, that with your commitment Mr. Secretary-General and with the support of the Offices of the Special Advisor on Genocide and Responsibility to Protect we would be able to prioritize the prevention of the mass atrocities.