

Statement by the Mission of Italy to the United Nations
July 12, 2011

Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for convening this informal debate. We wish also to thank the Secretary General and all previous panelists for their insightful interventions. We would like to commend the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect for their commitment in promoting RtoP.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to make some additional and brief remarks.

We add our voice to this debate to reiterate our strong support to the operationalisation and consolidation of the Responsibility to Protect. RtoP is a cornerstone of international relations. It guides our collective efforts to promote peace, security and human rights. It reflects the international community's growing concern towards civilian population, as the crisis in cote d'Ivoire and in Libya demonstrate.

We believe that the role of regional and sub-regional organizations is crucial in the three pillar strategy for operationalising the R2P, but what needs to be especially encouraged and further developed is a wider cooperation with the UN in improving structural prevention and in supporting societies in emerging R2P situations. Indeed, regional organizations possess a wide range of capabilities in the field of mediation and "preventive diplomacy", but also in supporting economic development and reconstruction of governance institutions.

We encourage the United Nations to share with regional organizations their best practices and lessons learned in protecting human rights and humanitarian law.

We also believe that regional organizations can play an important role in promoting a "positive interpretation" of the concept of sovereignty and strengthening the accountability MS have towards the civilian population.