

General Assembly Debate Statement: Burundi

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President, thank you.

Distinguished panelists, ladies and gentleman.

The Responsibility to Protect has always lay at the very heart of the creation of the United Nations, unfortunately, for a few decades, as a result of ideological split between East and West the Responsibility to Protect never became a major concern for the international community because they were dealing with other issues, those of war and peace.

The collapse of the Soviet Union at the beginning of the 1990's put an end to this interstate tension, but at the same time it gave rise to conflicts and wars within states, wars which were far worse. Burundi, Rwanda and so forth were the very summit of inhumanity; all these crimes were perpetrated against entire peoples.

And today the Security Council continues to procrastinate when it comes to implementing the third pillar of the Responsibility to Protect, even in conflicts where quite clearly diplomacy is simply ineffective. The United Nations does possess a number of tools including international law, human rights law, refugee law, and also international humanitarian law. The question thus arises whether what we are facing here is perhaps a lack of political will - political will by the international community. However, this exercise in consideration is something which we quickly set aside because peace is the natural yearning of mankind.

The political instrumental organization of human suffering has to be put to an end. When will it be put to an end? The Burundians, the Russians, the Americans, the Palestinians, Georgians, the French, the Congolese, Iranians, Israelis, Cubans, all peoples of the world are all different, and we are different in a number of respects. But from the point of the common emotional heritage of mankind, we have our need in terms of peace, in terms of dignity, in terms of respect.

And the day when the warriors for peace and the enemies of international law will understand this, peace will no longer be a utopia but it will become a reality. And the day of which the members of the Security Council will understand that when faced with mass crimes and atrocities, one cannot simply attempt to act in a strategic way or to brandish ones veto, the Responsibility to Protect will become a full-fledged conflict...concept, I apologize.