

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me thank the President of the General Assembly for organizing this interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on the "Responsibility to protect: timely and decisive response". I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his keynote address and greet the Under-Secretary and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng on his appointment. We are grateful to the distinguished panelist for providing interesting insights on the topic.

Mr. President,

The Nigerian delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's Report A/66/874, on "Responsibility to protect: timely and decisive response", which addresses the challenges of the increased application of R2P to conflict situations within the past few years.

The emphatic relevance in the neo-architecture of preventive diplomacy which reduces into insignificance the reliance on coercion with attendant negative tolls on human lives and its preferred option for timely and decisive action, lends credibility to this report.

Mr. President,

The concept of R2P and its three pillars, not only derives its global legitimacy on international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as the World Summit of 2005, It also represents a global conceptual and policy shift in the notion of sovereignty and security, with new emphatic ascendancy on human security rather than on state security. It is in this regard, that Nigeria believes that the *raison d'être* of the state revolves

around the R2P and its essence is that, while the ruled must be obedient to constituted authority, the State, shall in turn act responsibly and accountably to justify the reason for its essence.

However, the recent experiences of Cote d'Ivoire, Libya, and Syria have conveyed clear lessons that the cooperation of, and among, Member States as critically essential to the successful implementation of the Responsibility to Protect. Therefore today's dialogue is very timely for Member States to re-examine our collective role towards the implementation of the vision which gave birth to this concept in 2005.

Mr. President,

Africa has made commendable progress in the implementation of R2P through article 4(H) of the African Union Constitutive Act. Indeed, certain instruments adopted and actions taken by countries within the West African sub-region under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) could be considered as precursors of R2P. For example, the ECOWAS Protocol on Mutual Defense Assistance signed on 29 May 1981, in Sierra Leone and the interventions led by Nigeria through the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia in 1990, helped to stop the carnage in these countries.

Nigeria has undertaken efforts to support peaceful resolution of conflicts in various countries in Africa, especially in the West-African sub-region. The lessons from these experiences motivated Nigeria to convene the open debate on Preventive Diplomacy at the Security Council in July 2010. It

reflected our concern that successful engagements can stop crisis before they spread, reducing the impacts and burdens of conflict.

Mr. President,

A 'Regional Policy Forum on the Responsibility to Protect' was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 11-12 June, 2012. Some of the issues highlighted include;

- The need for further conceptual clarity of R2P;
- Clear definition of the roles of regional and sub-regional organizations in the implementation of R2P;
- Strategies to encourage political will and cooperation among Member States regarding R2P;
- Proposals for effective national and regional mechanisms for dealing with perpetrators of mass atrocities;
- Supporting capabilities to ensure appropriate national and regional responses to mass atrocities; and
- Effective measures in tackling of emerging threats.

Today's debate therefore, should aim at strengthening global commitment towards an effective implementation of the R2P. In this regard, there is the need for assistance for regional and sub-regional organizations such as the AU, the Arab League, ECOWAS, etc.; towards an effective implementation of the R2P. We also call for the strengthening of the Prevention and Early Warning Mechanism in the ECOWAS, with emphasis on conflict prevention, good governance and the promotion of peace and security.

Nigeria remains determined to work in concert with other stakeholders in ensuring a more effective implementation of the R2P.

Thank you.