

Statement of the Republic of Korea
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Thank you, Mr. Chair,

The concept of R2P has consistently evolved since we adopted the 2005 Summit Outcome Document, where global leaders pledged to enshrine their commitment to protect the world's populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. Since then the Secretary-General's annual reports and interactive dialogues have greatly contributed to raising development and mutual understanding of R2P. We concur with this year's SG report that it's time to make prevention a priority. It rightly indicates that although it's sometimes difficult to demonstrate the added value of prevention, particularly early preventive action, such action will most likely save lives and is less costly and contentious than action taken at a later stage. Addressing the risk factors outlined in the SG's report at the early stages is an important part of this. At first the prevention must also be undertaken while being mindful of the specific realities on the ground. The policy options outlined in the present report can be tailored to the context of each state. We agree that some of these options can be optimized, when undertaken in partnership with the UN, Member-States, regional or sub-regional arrangements, or civil society. In this context we welcome the Secretariat has held consultations with more than 120 Member-States and meetings with various regional groups in NY. We expect these inclusive and active consultations to continue. The government of Republic of Korea, as a member of the Group of Friends of R2P, has been an early supporter of the concept, and has been taking every opportunity on the international stage to highlight R2P and its implementation. Like many other countries the Republic of Korea has also been taking a number of other measures which may contribute to addressing risk factors for atrocity crimes and building state resilience. These include the Act on the Punishment of Crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC, which was enacted domestically in Korea in 2007.

Mr. Chair, the unacceptable suffering endured by victims in some parts of the world, especially in Syria, is a stark reminder of the consequences when the state, and subsequently the international community, fails to find solution that addresses these tragic circumstances. We're deeply concerned about those events and hope that a solution will be found with a sense of urgency.

Lastly, Mr. Chair, we support the SG's proposal to discuss the Pillar 2 Responsibility at next year's dialogue and would like to reaffirm the government of Republic of Korea's commitment to promoting the development of R2P and working towards the cessation of mass atrocity crimes throughout the world.