

Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect at the General Assembly  
Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

STATEMENT BY DELAGATION OF THE MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We would also like to begin our comments by congratulating the new Special Advisor to the UN on R2P, Ms. Jennifer Welsh. We hope that we will have effective cooperation with her. I'd like to thank the Secretary-General for preparing the normal report on R2P to prevent citizens from genocide, from war crimes, from ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. This year, there were many important aspects seen on these crimes. We consider this document as an important part of the Outcome document of 2005, where we articulated the general concepts and principles that are good to this day on how to protect the population. In this regard, we support the methods prepared by this report, whereby by emphasizing that the states are first responsible for this. And the report talks about the responsibility of states to protect their own populations from genocide, from war crimes, from ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity as a priority. The diversity of risk factors for these crimes in the different states means that it is very important to ensure R2P. To handle this we need a multifaceted and comprehensive approach.

And now I have some more concrete comments. As we have seen from other reports, we have doubts about attempts to implement some of the ideas on preventing the war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and how to we define atrocities, which are not recognized in international law and can be interpreted in different fashions. With respect to the recommendations in the report, in particular regarding some states joining the statute of Rome, in our view, it is not shown that it's a reliable instrument to deal with violence.

Mr. Chairman,

Life once again brings us back to a conversation on the use of force. Unfortunately this discussion is not only theoretical in nature. We're alarmed by what's going on, attempts to put responsibility for this presented in a distorted way in Syria regarding the violence going on. Once again we'd like to note that any violence that's supposed to be protection risks to lead to the appropriate decisions taken by the Council and this decision is to be taken in strict compliance with the Charter. As we said, in the World Outcome Summit document 2005, so we must remember the examples, when we don't think through these acts, then we think that we are trying to protect these that have led to chaos as was the situation of what happened in Libya. In our view, it's fair to talk about the state of [blank] to take responsibility for this as Brazil talked about today in their speech. We cannot agree with attempts to base military action against Syria on narrow concepts of so-called 'humanitarian intervention,' which have no basis in international law, and are not generally recognized and they go against the letter and spirit of the Charter and we are convinced that the Syrian conflict can be resolved only through discussion and good faith work to end the suffering of the Syrian people. There is a potential for political settlement and to that we see the new efforts for example to come to solutions and a way to settle this way that we have undertaken in our country as well.

Thank you very much.