



BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMB. SAMUEL MONCADA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

“RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT”

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

**67° SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President,

I have the honor to address you in relation to the Report of the Secretary-General A/67/929, entitled "The Responsibility to Protect: State Responsibility and Prevention". Our delegation considers that this Report and its recommendations go beyond the mandate established in Resolution 63/308, according to which the General Assembly must continue to consider the proposal of the Responsibility to Protect and its implications.

The recommendations contained in Paragraphs 71 through 77 of the Report, concerning the steps for future work in this subject, have not been accepted or adopted as valid by the Member States, nor have they been discussed in any intergovernmental framework. Therefore, the call for States to fulfill these recommendations goes beyond the mandate of the Secretary-General, and cannot be accepted.

The announcing of Follow-Up Meetings with Member States, Regional Organizations, and Civil Society for receiving information on the progress of the implementation of these recommendations – which are only a proposal by the Secretary-General – is also unacceptable.

Mr. President,

There are still mixed feelings and thoughts concerning the Responsibility to Protect. We can say, with certainty, that there are serious questions among the Member States on how the Responsibility to Protect has been used to justify coercive measures and interventions in the internal affairs of States, which have nothing to do with the prevention of the four crimes established in the Final Document of the 2005 World Summit.

Questions such as: Who determines that a State does not protect its population, and on what basis? Who, and under what criteria, determines the way to act? How to ensure that there will be no selective implementation of the Responsibility to Protect? How to ensure that the Responsibility to Protect will not be used as pretext for imperial powers to intervene weak countries due to political and economic motivations?

These questions must be addressed in the context of a formal intergovernmental process within the General Assembly of the United Nations. However, the discussions on this subject have been exclusively taking place in

informal meetings, like the one that brings us together today. Therefore, we are concerned that UN authorities may be moving ahead, using resources from the Organization for implementing measures that have not been agreed by Member States.

Mr. President,

For the sake of transparency, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supports the establishment of an intergovernmental process within the General Assembly for this issue to be formally discussed. We are sure that the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the respect for sovereignty and non-intervention, will be there reasserted. And it will not be allowed that the concept of the Responsibility to Protect be used to invade developing countries and to cause more deaths than the ones it supposedly seek to protect.

Mr. President,

As for the current situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela reaffirms its support for the quest for a negotiated political solution that maintains the territorial integrity, political independence and unity of the Syrian people, in accordance with the principle of self-determination. For this reason, Venezuela deplors the attempt by some States to carry out a military aggression in Syria, which would only multiply the number of innocent victims and increase the risk of spreading the terrible effects of the conflict to the entire region of the Middle East.

I thank you, Mr. President.