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**PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by H. E. Ms. Ismat Jahan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
at the plenary debate on the subject of 'Responsibility to protect'  
(New York, 28 July 2009)**

Mr. President,

I take this opportunity to thank you for arranging this timely debate on 'Responsibility to protect'- a concept coming up as a potentially powerful instrument to impede humanitarian tragedies. As an emerging normative framework Bangladesh subscribes to the concept of R2P and believes that its application should conform to the principle of objectivity and non-selectivity. We support the view that the scope of the R2P concept should be limited to the four types of heinous crimes as mentioned in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. We also agree that the three pillars of the Concept are all integral part of the R2P implementation strategy.

Mr. President,

Coming from a country which gained its independence following a genocide, spontaneous and popular uprising, we fully agree that the responsibility to protect the vulnerable population lies first and foremost with the individual state. This responsibility should also stem from the international community's responsibility to ensure right to development for all nations. We would favour exhaustive application of all existing mechanisms for peaceful settlement of disputes using the Charter provisions. This concept should not provide a pretext to intervene in the domestic affairs of member states under the guise of humanitarian assistance.

I would like to place particular emphasis on the second pillar- International assistance and capacity-building. We firmly believe that if we can achieve success in this area we can avoid any looming humanitarian disaster.

Mr. President,

The concept of R2P should also look into the root causes that lead to a situation where a State is said to be 'failing' to protect its own citizens, rather than going for enforcement action after the global community has allowed that State to slide into chaos.

R2P's primary tools should be persuasion and support, not military or other forms of coercion. Only if prevention fails, R2P might draw on other measures - economic, political, diplomatic, or as the last resort military. It, therefore, should develop a preventive framework that would take due note of the warning signs and act instantaneously without prejudice. In this connection, we fully agree that it is very important that early warning and assessment be effected fairly, prudently and professionally, without being motivated by narrow and self-serving political goals and interests. Similarly, as mentioned earlier, its application should be non-selective and devoid of double standards. These are the principles which were well-articulated in para 11 of the Secretary General's report. In the final analysis, we have to make sure that there will be no room for any margin of error.

In conclusion, let me underline that, in the event we reach a stage where the Security Council has to take necessary action, we expect that it fulfills fully its responsibly as entrusted by the entire UN membership. Perhaps, our debate on the Security Council reforms-during its discussion on the 'working methods' and application of 'veto' should take this into account to make R2P more effective

I thank you Mr. President.