



REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY



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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. GÁBOR BRÓDI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

TO THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP
TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS
IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS, AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME
OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT
(IMPLEMENTING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT)
(agenda item 44 and 107)

NEW YORK, July 24, 2009

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Mr President,

The Republic of Hungary welcomes this opportunity for a broad based debate on the implementation of the principle of the responsibility to protect. My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

It is undisputable, that the main challenge of mankind has always been to learn from the mistakes of the past, especially to prevent the repetition of the crimes of the previous decades and centuries. That is why it is particularly significant that the Heads of State and Government have unanimously reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. At the same time they underlined, that the most important task of the international community is not only to punish the perpetrators of the most serious crimes, but not to let these crimes to ever happen again.

In this process the first report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the responsibility to protect has a crucial importance. The Republic of Hungary warmly welcomes the report, and finds its analysis remarkable and well balanced. The report gives a clear guidance to the Member States in the implementation, and identifies the ways and means to achieve our common goal, the fullest protection of the population. We concur with the Secretary-General's conclusion, that the three pillars of the responsibility to protect, as described in the report, together constitute the complete implementation of the concept. No pillar can be singled out as the ultimate solution to all problems.

There is equal emphasis on the shared responsibility of each individual state and the international community to avert any kind of violation of international law. It is evident, however, that the primary responsibility is on the states to protect their populations. Notwithstanding the basic principle of state sovereignty, it is hard to contest that state sovereignty implies not only rights, but also responsibilities and obligations under international law, especially the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Therefore, if a state has manifestly failed to do so, the international community has the moral obligation to give a timely and decisive response.

Depending on the particular circumstances, the international community has to act efficiently, by assisting states in fulfilling their responsibility and in building their protection capacities. In this regard the international instruments and mechanisms for early-warning, conflict prevention, mediation and crisis management shall be further improved. Based on the current experience in this particular field the potential and the significance of regional organizations shall not be underestimated. In those cases, when despite all these efforts, a state is manifestly failing to meet its responsibilities, the response of the international community shall be prompt, and even the necessary action of the Security Council might be taken, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that one particular goal can clearly be found in each individual pillar of the report, and that is the importance of prevention. Recent researches show and make it evident that the progression of events towards genocide is gradual, and that the period from initial threat to full genocide offers ample warning time for the international community to take preventive action. The international community should make use of this fact to enhance the efficiency of its activities in this field.

When it comes to the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities, one of the major impediments to act efficiently is the lack of institutional capacity. We strongly believe that there is a clear and urgent need for further institution-building in this respect. That is the reason why last year Hungary has decided to prepare a Feasibility Study on the establishment of an International Centre for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities to be located in Budapest. Such a Centre could stimulate worldwide cooperative efforts in the next few years to establish a well functioning system of prevention of genocide and mass atrocities, through a dynamic and systematic approach of early action mechanisms. The Centre is envisaged to work in close cooperation with the UN, with the Office of the Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as with other UN Bodies.

It is our hope that the Centre will become a catalyst of information and early warnings coming from various sources, and a research mechanism to elaborate and transform them into relevant policy recommendations for the international community. To achieve this goal, we are soliciting the invaluable support of the United Nations, and its Member States in the establishment and operation of the Centre.

Thank you, Mr. President.