

**Informal interactive dialogue on “Early Warning, Assessment and the
Responsibility to Protect”**

9 August 2010

- . We welcome the convening of today’s discussion, as well as Secretary-General’s recent report:
 - our leaders gave the UN a clear mandate in 2005 to establish an early warning capability
 - these are important steps in the UN taking that mandate forward.
- . The Secretary-General’s report provided a frank assessment of the current weaknesses in the UN’s ability to take early action to prevent mass atrocity crimes and outlined two proposed institutional responses: urgent meetings of USGs to identify policy options for the Secretary-General and a joint office of the two Special Advisers.
- . Both proposals seem to us, at first consideration, to be sensible approaches. They are designed to bring together the information coming from the UN system, assess it from the perspective of preventing mass atrocities, and provide considered policy options for the Secretary-General.
- . We encourage the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive proposal for the joint office as soon as possible.

- . We have two questions:
 - . First, given R2P’s focus on prevention, how would the proposed new internal procedures - particularly the meetings of USGs - operate in practice to assist with the prevention of mass atrocities, and not just the UN’s response to them?
 - . Secondly, in relation to the joint office, how would it operate in relation to similar mechanisms at the regional and sub-regional level?