

Statement delivered by Paraguay – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2017
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Thank you very much Mr. Moderator,

The delegation of Paraguay is very pleased to be participating once again in this interactive dialogue on R2P. The government of my country has a deep respect for international law and particularly humanitarian and human rights law, and is aware of its obligations to respect, protect and promote compliance with these laws.

We place great value upon the important contribution of the international community in this dialogue. Paraguay has shown its great willingness to comply fully with the international rules and laws aimed at protecting human rights. As proof of this, and regarding the emphasis in the Secretary-General's report on prevention at the national level, we would like to share with this plenary the progress we made in this area.

Recently, in August 2017, our legislative powers approved a draft law on the implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which is currently being considered for an eventual promulgation. This initiative will allow us to establish a cooperation and coordination procedure for the ICC in order to ensure that cases and accountability can be ensured for atrocity crimes under the Rome Statute.

I am also pleased to report that last month, amendments have been considered by our parliament, and this includes the crimes of aggression. With this step, we have thus begun the process for our accession to this instrument. Moreover, in 2015, in a parliamentary initiative, there was a proposal to create a National Convention for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities with the goal of establishing preventive policies establishing a system for early warning mass atrocity crimes. This draft law is currently being debated in the Senate.

I would also like to say that Paraguay is already part of the Latin American Network for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities. This means that on a regional and national level, we promote activities moving towards the eradication of the roots causes that could result into crimes against humanity and against our people.

Paraguay is currently a member of the Human Rights Council and support resolutions aimed at increasing accountability and at ensuring that crimes are not repeated. This is in line with efforts towards R2P. Finally, my country has appointed a R2P Focal Point which is working very closely with the Global Network. The government of the Republic of Paraguay believes it is fundamental and place greatest possible importance on the protection of our civilian population against any form of discrimination.

Our delegation trusts in the mechanisms of the UN to ensure that peacekeeping and international security. We therefore call for further work with existing resources and for continuing dialogue with all relevant parties.

I thank you.