

General Assembly Debate Statement: Andrea Bartoli

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I think it is very important to speak of methods and to recognize that we are in a phase in which we're creating a system. It's very important that we understand that dialogue is a method. The very work that was done between 2005 and 2011 is key and this interactive dialogue is a demonstration that in 6 years we have an extraordinary change and I do want to stress the work of Mr. Deng and Luck in shaping a secretariat investment in dialogue with the general assembly in matters that are clearly evolving.

So I think there is a first observation on my point of progress. Progress in this area that has indeed been remarkable. What is more astonishing is if we look at the long term investment – the last century was particularly violent and bloody – the first 10 years of this century have been difficult but there is a collective learning trajectory that is emerging. When we see that collective learning what we see what is happening in Europe. Let's not forget that Europe is a place of much genocide. The learning is coming out of huge human loss.

I think it is important for us to see the trajectory after the Stockholm conference, after regional forum in Tanzania that Switzerland and Argentina organized. When we see the many communities ready and much more committed against genocide and crimes against humanity. And especially when we see so many learning from the past we have now available on the internet the voice of hundreds of thousands of victims, hundreds of thousands of victims who have told their story.

Dealing with the past is truly part of this collective enterprise. The system we are creating is very precious but I agree with Ireland that the challenge is the integration of the international, regional, national and local levels. And I think it is impossible for us to have these conversations unless we share a vision of a genocide-free region exactly in the places where genocide was so intense, in the same way we have a polio free world. We need to have a dream together of a four crimes free world.

It is possible to engage nation states in arrangements that were previously unthinkable and it is possible indeed to involve the village level so I simply have an observation that puts the protection and the rights of minorities at the center of a security construct. It's important for us to recognize that to take this concept seriously is to build a state that is dignified and to recognize human dignity. Indeed we are in a system creation phase and to make this process further we must recognize committed leadership.