



ARMENIA

SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

GENERAL ASSEMBLY INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF STATES TO PROTECT THEIR POPULATIONS BY PREVENTING
GENOCIDE, WAR CRIMES, ETHNIC CLEANSING AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY
THROUGH APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY MEANS

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GAREN NAZARIAN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Moderator,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Ms. Jennifer Welsh on her appointment and thank the distinguished panelists for their thoughtful contributions.

We also thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this interactive dialogue on such important topic and on this day of remembrance of the 9/11 vile acts of unbridled hatred and violence.

Mr. Moderator,

Recently the Secretary General released his 5th Report which focuses on the primary responsibility of all Member States to protect populations within their borders from RtoP crimes and violations. It is encouraging to note that the report highlights a number of important measures ranging from institution/capacity building and adoption of legislation to policy recommendations which states are recommended to take to minimize the risk factors for mass atrocity crimes.

We fully recognize the significance of this report which sets out existing research on the causes of crimes against humanity and appropriate prevention measures, and aims to inform the ways in which Member States undertake preventive action.

My Delegation would like to particularly underline the threat of "hate speech" which contributes to the incitement to genocide and other mass atrocities. It is unfortunate to see that nowadays there are still states whose leadership consistently incite and encourage widespread manifestations of intolerance and hate speech against another state, nation and/or persons who consider themselves to be of a different origin, including the propagation of hate speech through social media and education institutions.

Therefore, we welcome the fact the Secretary General's Report considers "hate speech" as a risk factor that can lead to the occurrence of crimes against humanity identifying a range of policy options that states can implement to build a society resilient to the hatred and outbreak of atrocity crimes.

Armenia strongly believes that civil society engagement at national and international levels and strengthening the independence of the media are essential for ensuring accountability and preventing these atrocities. We also recognize the significant role of the fair education that can promote tolerance and understanding of the value of diversity, thus contributing to early warning mechanisms with an atrocity prevention focus.

Mr. Moderator,

In March, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the Prevention of Genocide initiated by Armenia with almost 60 co-sponsoring Member States. The co-sponsors have been in intensive and difficult negotiations on the text of the resolution which included references on responsibility to protect.

Regretting the fact that as a result of negotiations only one such reference (out of eight) has been retained in the final text, we are, however, positive that this resolution is a step forward towards safer world as it emphasizes early warning to prevent genocide and underscores the importance of prevention mechanisms to prevent other types of atrocities.

My Delegation would like to express its gratitude to the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, the Member States and other stakeholders including non-governmental organizations for their collaboration and support to this initiative.

Mr. Moderator,

Armenia strongly supports these deliberations and will continue to utilize her efforts aimed at advocating for preventive strategies, initiatives and mechanisms within the United Nations system by highlighting the role of Member States, regional bodies and other entities in the prevention of genocide and responsibility to protect.

In this context we welcome the intention of the Secretary General to convene a follow-up meeting with the participation of all stakeholders to discuss implementation of this report's recommendations which, we believe, will contribute to advancing the R2P concept based on further elaborations on good practices and lessons learned, and promotion of partnership.

Thank you.