

**Statement delivered on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations**

**General Assembly informal, interactive dialogue on the "Responsibility to Protect: State Responsibility and Prevention"**

11 September 2013

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION)

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank President Jeremić for committing to this meeting. We support an in-depth discussion by the General Assembly on R2P. China wishes to state the following on R2P:

- First, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document defines R2P extremely cautiously, limiting its scope strictly to four types of serious international crime, namely, genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. All parties should not expand or interpret this concept at will. At present, there are still differences among Member States with regards to the application and implementation of R2P, and these nations should continue discussions on this concept.
- Second, the governments of various countries have primary responsibility for the protection of their citizens. The international community, when necessary, can provide constructive assistance, focusing on capacity building in various countries while strictly abiding by the UN Charter. These principles and purposes, in particular respect the principle of state sovereignty.
- Third, there is no uniform criterion or model in carrying out R2P. All countries should choose their own policies and mechanisms in light of their own conditions and needs. Various countries should do more to carry out their R2P in the early stages of crisis. Timely, appropriate actions to alleviate disputes and to settle differences through peaceful means of dialogue and negotiations should be an important part of R2P of various countries. They should also be an important part of our international endeavors to prevent serious international crimes.
- Fourthly, China has always maintained that disputes should be settled through political means. Major interventions are often productive. Authorizing the use of force to protect civilians should be the last resort after all peaceful means are exhausted, and should be dealt with cautiously and on a case-by-case basis.

China supports discussions at the United Nations to discuss the R2P.

Thank you, Mr. President.