

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: Timely and Decisive Response"

5 September 2012

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION)

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

The Chinese delegation wishes to congratulate you on assuming the function of the Special Representative of the SG on genocide.

China supports further discussion in the GA on R2P and the three pillars. China is of the following three views.

1. Governments bear primary responsibilities on protecting their citizens. International community where necessary can provide constructive assistance but in so doing must strictly follow the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in particular the principles of respecting sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs. In so doing the actions must get a mandate from the council and should be done within the UN framework.
2. The 2005 World Summit Outcome document contains very prudent description of R2P and stipulates that its applicability is strictly limited to the four R2P crimes: genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. No party can unilaterally expand or interpret this concept or impose a regime change or get involved in a civil war under the excuse of R2P.
3. China has always stood for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Actions to protect civilians can only be used after all the peaceful means are exhausted. Actions to alleviate crisis must be based on the UN framework. If enforcement actions are to be taken then there must be a council mandate and such actions must be carried out in prudent manner and on a case-by-case basis.
4. Council resolutions must be strictly and precisely implemented. No party can unilaterally interpret the concept nor can it take any action beyond the mandate. Responsibility while Protecting, proposed by Brazil, is of great significance to the monitoring and enhancement of the implementation of the council resolutions and is worth further consideration.
5. R2P is a complicated issue, its applicability and the real implementation is still a controversial issue. China favors further discussion in the GA on this matter. Before a consensus is reached among the member states the UN should be very careful and prudent in the promotion and the real implementation of R2P.

Thank you Mr. Moderator.