

Thank you, Mr President,

Firstly, the Czech Republic would like to align itself with the statement delivered previously on behalf of the European Union.

The Czech Republic, as a Member State of the Group of Friends of Responsibility to Protect, welcomes the initiative of the President of the General Assembly to convene this interactive dialogue. The topic of our session today is most timely and appropriate given the recent events in which the RtoP mechanisms were invoked.

The Czech Republic has been a firm supporter of the Responsibility to Protect from its very inception. It was during our EU Presidency that some key steps were taken to establish the RtoP as one of the leading principles of the EU security policy.

I am happy to confirm the Czech Republic's steady commitment to these ideas. We are trying to do our homework, too. A national focal point has recently been appointed. Our new national Security Strategy, shortly to be published, will feature among its objectives the development and implementation of the RtoP principles both on the ground as well as in the scope of international law.

Mr President,

We highly appreciate the relentless efforts of the Secretary General and of the newly-formed Joint Office in the RtoP operationalisation. We welcome the Report of the Secretary General on the role of regional and sub-regional organisations in the scope of RtoP.

The Czech Republic agrees with the conclusions the Report draws on the positive impact that synergies of these organisations, individual states and the UN may have. This is true in all three RtoP pillars.

We find a greater engagement of all international organisations on the regional level both inevitable and conducive to an effective RtoP implementation. The Report provides many fitting examples of how their active involvement may enhance the legitimacy of various RtoP-

guided actions at all stages of crisis- or potential crisis-management. This is indeed also true about political will generation as well as cross-regional learning, etc.

We welcome the emphasis the Report gives to civil society and its co-operation on regional levels. The role of non-governmental organisations as international whistleblowers has manifested itself on numerous occasions. In this context, the Czech Republic highly values the overarching work of the Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect.

For the next year's interactive dialogue the Czech Republic supports the suggestion made in the Report. A discussion on the tools the Charter provides for the third pillar implementation and an assessment of their usage up until now may bring more clarity to this often misinterpreted area.

Finally, the Report welcomes the formation of the RtoP focal points informal group. We would be curious to hear the panel's views on the role and potential closer co-operation of the focal points within their individual regional organisations, or perhaps even on having RtoP focal points of regional organisations as such.

Thank you, Mr President.