

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur  
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations



---

**General Assembly  
Sixty-sixth session**

**Informal interactive dialogue on the "Report of the  
Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect: Timely  
and decisive response"**

---

New York  
Wednesday 5 September 2012

***Check against delivery***

E-mail: [nycmis@um.dk](mailto:nycmis@um.dk)  
<http://www.fnnewyork.um.dk>



Denmark aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to make a statement in its national capacity.

For Denmark, Responsibility to Protect is a highly relevant and important issue.

We commend the Secretary-General's report for addressing the third pillar of R2P and the wide range of Charter-based tools contained in the R2P strategy.

Available measures include capacity building, humanitarian action based on the humanitarian principles of neutrality, independence, humanity and impartiality, early warning systems, mediation, arbitration, arms embargoes, sanctions and referral to the International Criminal Court.

Denmark agrees with the Secretary-General that constructive management of diversity, promotion of rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are closely interlinked with prevention of the escalation of situations that may lead to genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

As stated in the Secretary-General's report, preventive and non-coercive measures are preferable options to addressing mass atrocity crimes. Running right through all three pillars is an absolute commitment to *prevention*: Prevention of an initial outbreak of a crisis or conflict, prevention of its continuation and escalation, and prevention of recurrence.

Denmark agrees with the Secretary-General that all pillars can be considered to be prevention and response. Prevention is part of response. Prevention and response are thus mutually reinforcing, and elements of both should be integrated into any effective future strategy.

The Focal Points initiative launched in 2010 by the governments of Denmark and Ghana, with governments of Costa Rica and Australia joining subsequently, is an approach to encourage and assist states in developing their national capacities and mechanisms for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes.

A national R2P Focal Point is a senior official who will facilitate the promotion of policies geared towards mass atrocity prevention domestically, and who will also promote international cooperation on mass atrocity prevention by liaising with United Nations and regional organizations and by participating in a global network of R2P Focal Points.

Appointment of a Focal Point is a step that can be implemented by governments with different levels of capacity in mass atrocity prevention to demonstrate their commitment to R2P.

At the present time 17 countries, representing all regions of the world, have appointed R2P Focal Points within their governments. We hope to see this network expanding with an increasing number of states appointing national focal points.

No country is immune to R2P situations. It is therefore vital that each state works to prevent mass atrocities domestically, as well as in cooperation with neighboring states, with regional organizations and globally.