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Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations

*Informal interactive dialogue on the role of regional and sub-regional arrangements
in implementing the responsibility to protect*

New York, 12 July, 2011

Mister President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this informal debate to discuss the challenges and lessons learned in advancing the concept of R2P.

The 2005 World Summit recognized the responsibility of states to protect its own citizens from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as well as the responsibility of international community to take necessary measures to protect.

Last reports of the Secretary-General have been devoted to early warning, assessment and the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in implementing the principle. The discussions on these matters have confirmed that the R2P is still an evolving concept.

At present, the principle has gained practical applicability. In the case of Libya, the international community unified around the principle of R2P and took concerted action in protection of civilian population.

Meanwhile, the need to pay closer attention to the proper application of the concept needs to be noted, since the potential for R2P abuse still exists. This is something we all know very well in our part of the world. Just only 3 years ago, the noble goal of R2P was turned down. Citing this principle, the neighboring country has artificially fabricated pretext to carry out unilateral, large-scale military invasion against sovereign UN member state, followed by ethnic cleansing and occupation of parts of Georgian territory. Our case highlights the dangers and risks of misinterpreting international norms unilaterally by individual states, and acting without UNSC authorization.

Before concluding, I would like to emphasize the importance of prevention pillar and support the remarks voiced out earlier by Mr. Vollebaek concerning the need to

strengthen early warning tools and mechanisms. My delegation stands ready to constructively engage in further discussions on this issue.

Thank you.