

Statement of the Principality of Ghana – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P

6 September 2017

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Thank you, Mr. Moderator. At the outset let me express the appreciation of delegation to the PGA for convening this interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect. We comment the Secretary-General for his very comprehensive report, with its far-reaching recommendations and proposals. The focus given to strengthening accountability in the implementation of the R2P is timely and welcome. My delegation shares the view that given the current ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis around the world, urgent steps must be taken by Member States to strengthen accountability for atrocity prevention and to enhance national, regional and global collaboration on effective preventive strategies. We agree that the pace of the implementation can be improved through strengthened accountability across the legal, moral, and political spheres associated with the principle, together with clearly defined relationships between the three. Ghana is of the view that, R2P principle remains relevant both as an expression of political commitment and as a blueprint for action to prevent and end genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. We reiterate our support for the framework for implementation of the R2P, based on the three equal and mutually reinforcing pillars of the principle. My delegation reaffirms Ghana's commitments to paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document on the responsibility to protect and join in the call for the consistent and balanced implementation of the principle on the basis of the three-pillar framework.

Mr. Moderator, Ghana shares the view that the ratification and implementation of the core instruments of international human rights and humanitarian law underpin the R2P. In this regard, we call on Member States to meet the obligations under these treaties, and to adhere to principles that safeguard humanity. We also call on national human rights mechanisms to integrate atrocity prevention into their reports to governments as a means of enhancing implementation. The Secretary General's human rights up front initiative which aims to improve the system-wide capacity of the organization to prevent and to respond to violations international human rights and humanitarian law needs to be encouraged and supported. To enhance universal applicability of and address gaps and challenges in implementation, we must also work towards gaining wider global acceptance of the concept.

My delegation wishes to use this opportunity to thank the government of Qatar and the Global Centre for hosting the 7th meeting on the global network for R2P, held in April 2017 in Doha. The meeting afforded national focal points, including my country and the 58 Member States from every region of the world, the opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities for accountability for mass atrocity crimes, the global rise in hate speech and xenophobia, and the refugee crisis as well as their collective impact on efforts to prevent genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such dialogue must be encouraged to build consensus and capacity for effective R2P implementation. Mr. Moderator as we take stock of how far we've come in the last 12 years in our collective efforts towards the implementation of the principle, my delegation acknowledges the efforts of your good self, we also comment you for the wide consultations that were held prior to the preparation of the report and also for engaging with Member States, parliamentarians, global and regional networks of national human rights institutions and ombudspersons as well as other stakeholders. It is Ghana's view, that more dialogue is necessary and specifically we wish to urge Member States to support the request jointly made by Ghana and Australia for the inclusion of an item on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly for a formal debate on R2P and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The arguments have just been clearly made and strongly made by the permanent representative of Australia and Ghana adds its voice to her statement, we strongly believe that sincere transparent and constructive dialogue will help us find more common ground.

In our condemnation of atrocity crimes, crimes against humanity, war crimes, my delegation calls on the permanent members of the Security Council to exercise good leadership and to refrain voluntarily from the

use of the veto in such situations. Finally, we encourage member states that are yet to ratify and to begin implementation of the core instruments of international human rights and humanitarian law to do so.

I thank you Mr. Moderator.