



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
19 EAST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL. NO. 212-832-1300

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 67TH SESSION: INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT
(R2P). STATE RESPONSIBILITY AND PREVENTION
NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2013.**

**STATEMENT BY WILLIAM A. AWINADOR-KANYIRIGE
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND CHARGE D’AFFAIRES AD INTERIM**

Mr. Moderator,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating the Secretary General for the quality of his 5th Report on R2P. We are encouraged by the focus of the report which adequately reflects the concerns Ghana shares with others regarding the direction of R2P implementation. The key challenge is building prevention capacity at the community and national levels supported by the regional context. It is about urgently mobilising relevant resources for this compelling need.

Responsibility to remember (R2R). On this day September 11th, our prayers go out to those who perished in the very tragic events that occurred in this city and elsewhere in the USA, and we hope that the the wounds of their relatives and friends would be healed.

Mr. Moderator,

The theme for this informal session, **R2P through appropriate and necessary means**, which has been so ably handled by our distinguished panelists, also speaks to the current dilemma of the global community in the face of the unfolding, deplorable and seemingly intractable atrocities and tragedies in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

This is why Ghana has joined others in calling for the de-dramatization of the concept of R2P through a sincere and transparent dialogue in order to allow for general acceptance. This way, our concerted efforts in inclusive national dialogue would be unleashed, backed by regional as well as global solidarity. It is also why Ghana has, like many others, embraced the Brazilian initiated concept of responsibility while protecting (RWP). We wish to reiterate our conviction that this initiative helps clarify the unpacking of the

implementation strategy of R2P particularly as it relates to accountability and transparency. Going by the most recent developments this already appears to be an emerging and promising trend.

We strongly recommend that it is the way to go in helping build consensus in favour of transforming conflicts, including the ongoing processes of building resilient communities, resilient nations and resilient regional communities in support of a resilient global community.

Building resilience involves, in order of priority, developing at the community, national, regional and global levels, functional institutions of good governance. These should necessarily be anchored on the human rights approach and driven by the principles of local ownership, subsidiarity, transparency, dialogue and inclusiveness, respect for diversity, accountability, equity, rule of law and solidarity at all levels, including the global. In our view this rather nourishes stability and peace which in turn promotes state sovereignty and international stability.

It also presupposes the need to cautiously and deliberately balance distributive with restorative justice in order to ensure stability in transitional societies.

National ownership within the context of regional integration strategies is a *sine qua non* for sustainable and transforming R2P action. And what has been playing out in parts of Africa and the Middle East sends out a clear message that acts of omission or commission at the national and regional levels are critical in determining whether prevention and robust *ex post factum* intervention will be effective or undermined.

Mr. Moderator,

It is noteworthy that the African Union at its 50th anniversary summit this year in Addis Ababa undertook to promote a holistic and systematic approach towards attaining the 2020 target of a conflict-free Africa. African states have therefore committed to the speedy implementation of existing instruments of human rights, rule of law, democracy, elections and good governance. On her part ECOWAS, since 2007, has been rolling out the implementation of its Conflict Prevention Strategic Framework in addition to the implementation of the more recent ECOWAS Monrovia Declaration on the development of mediation capacity.

It is in this context that Ghana continues to work very closely with Denmark, Costa Rica, Australia and other like-minded states, to promote both national and regional ownership of R2P, with the support of the joint office of the Secretary General's Special advisers for genocide prevention and the responsibility to protect, the Global Center for R2P, the International Coalition for R2P, and other partners.

Accordingly, in June 2012, ECOWAS in collaboration with the Global Center for R2P organized the first expert level regional consultation on R2P in Abuja Nigeria. Subsequently, Ghana was honoured to host in June this year (2013) at the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Center in Accra, the 3rd Meeting of the Global Network of R2P National Focal Points, organized with the gracious support of Denmark and the technical backing of the Global Centre for R2P.

Only yesterday, the first ECOWAS high level regional consultation on National Infrastructures for Peace ended in Accra. Co-organized with ECOWAS, the African Union and UNDP, the two-day meeting is the first in a series of consultations for African Regional Economic Groupings

being supported by UNDP. Participants in the Accra meeting included West African Ministers for Interior and Internal security accompanied by national CSO representatives, the Accra-based West African Network for Peace Building, ECOWAS Commission, the AU Commission, and UN Resident Coordinators in West Africa.

The meeting provided the opportunity for Ghana to share her modest and promising experience in building resilience. It also enabled ECOWAS member states to plan individual and collective initiatives in building peace infrastructures.

In the particular case of Ghana, the disposition of government towards working with civil society as strategic partners, the non-partisan support in favour of CSO initiatives by various political parties and parliament, as well as the technical facilitation by the UNDP Ghana office, helped create Ghana's National Peace Council as an independent state institution of mediation and peace facilitation. Also of importance to the emergence of this latest national infrastructure for peace, as part of the overall national governance and peace architecture, is the strategic partnerships forged with bilateral, regional and global institutions.

In this light, the recent Supreme Court hearing of Ghana's presidential election petition with the verdict announced on August 29th this year, also helped portray the Judiciary as a viable pillar of governance and peace infrastructures especially in promoting the rule of law and the protection of electoral integrity. Indeed, the interactive complementarity of the different pillars of governance and peace infrastructure came into play in a unique and transparent manner. These were the Judiciary, the independent Electoral Commission, the Inter-Party Committee, the Executive (through its National Security Council), the independent Traditional Authorities, the independent

National Peace Council and the National Commission for Civic Education, faith-based institutions and other CSOs. These nationally owned initiatives in turn attracted the good will of our friends and partners.

Clearly, building capacity for good governance and peace should encompass the institutions promoting development (including political parties), constitution-building and rule of law, accountability oversight, independent watchdog and advocacy, particularly by non-state actors, independent mediation, peace and good citizen education.

It is our hope that the current discourse on the post-2015 development agenda, planned side events on conflict prevention especially by the Non-Aligned Movement (**NAM**), the **G77 plus China**, **Francophonie International**, and the **Commonwealth**, during the upcoming 68th General Assembly high level session, will help deepen solidarity in building national and regional resilience.

In conclusion, the combined effect of responsibility to protect (R2P), responsibility while protecting (RWP) and responsibility to remember (R2R) should help us make progress in building resilience.

I thank you.