



MYANMAR

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. U KYAW TIN

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR TO THE UNITED
NATIONS**

**AT THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STATES TO
PROTECT THEIR POPULATIONS BY PREVENTING GENOCIDE, WAR
CRIMES, ETHNIC CLEANSING AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY**

(New York, 8 September 2015)

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Mr. Moderator,

May I, first of all, thank you for organizing this informal interactive dialogue to exchange views on this important concept. We also thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report focusing this year on ideas on its possible implementation.

It has been exactly 10 years since the principle of the R2P was recognized by the 2005 World Summit. Despite the decade-long intense debate, we are still far from reaching consensus on how to translate the word into deed. Inability to do so demonstrated the magnitude of complexities and concerns surrounding the advancement of the issue. There remain different understandings and interpretations on this delicate concept, especially on its limits and applications as well as how to pursue this concept in a responsible way.

It is hard to dispute with the concept of collective responsibility to protect populations from real crimes of genocides, ethnic cleansing, crime against humanity. At the same time, it is equally difficult to move forward on ways how to take responsible actions to protect populations in a sovereign state in accordance with the Charter. There remains many important questions as to who and how will decide if a situation is a clear case of looming mass atrocities or when and how R2P should be applied in such a situation.

My delegation abhors and denounces any act of mass atrocities crimes which should recur never again. We share the view that every member State has the responsibility to protect its populations. As such, R2P should be primarily based on the national efforts through capacity building within states to cope with their responsibility and providing assistance at the consent of the countries concerned.

However, when it comes to the third pillar, we need to take a very cautious approach to its application, as it is ultimately aimed at intervention by use of force in sovereign member states in the name of protecting the lives of civilians. It would undermine the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and the existing international law. There is also a clear danger of misuse or abuse of this principle for a certain agenda. A particular situation could be blown up by incessant biased media campaign and wrongfully labeled as

specified crimes without proper understanding of its realities and complexities. In this regard, my Delegation categorically rejects the baseless accusation made by Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, labeling Myanmar as one of the countries, where mass atrocity crimes are taking place.

My delegation therefore wishes to stress here that judgment or categorization of a situation as specified crime or decision to invoke R2P, if ever made, must be based on well-founded, unbiased, factual information with high degree of impartiality, accuracy and objectivity.

Outside intervention by use of force in a conflict could further aggravate already fragile situation. Such intervention by force could sometime become a recipe for disaster. The world has already witnessed that intervention could fuel the flames and be even counter-productive. My delegation therefore believes that this option and its implications must be given a careful and cautious discussions before putting this idea into action.

As the Secretary General has pointed out, no society is immune to the risk of atrocity crimes and thus, prevention begins at the national and local levels who knows the situation best. Therefore, my delegation wishes to stress that national ownership must be ensured in preventing the R2P crimes. The external assistance engagements, must therefore be made at the consent or request of the government and the people of the country concerned.

In concluding, we wish to stress once again the need to cautiously advance this important concept into action only with the unanimous agreement of all member States.

I thank you, Mr. Moderator.

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