

## **Statement of Iran – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2016**

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Thank you Mr. Moderator. I would like to share my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the responsibility to protect. I extend my appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for organizing this interactive dialogue.

The sad experiences of the past decade in the middle east and north Africa, which have highly contributed to the regeneration and expansion of terrorism and extremism have effected countries and the world as a whole and have exposed the consequences of ‘responsible protection’. We note in the Secretary’s report the recommendations and its accommodations. We agree that the concentration of the international community should focus on prevention of mass atrocities and we support the strengthening of UN early warning system. We also maintain that the use of military means to protect populations from atrocity crimes should be governed by Security Council decision.

However, authorization by the Security Council shall not be understood as carte blanche. The Security Council should monitor the operation on the ground. It is also the responsibility of the international community to assist in the construction process in the post-intervention era.

Mr. Moderator, it remains a matter of absolute concern that the abuse of RtoP may bring more harm than good. Meanwhile, in the absence of a genuine and unbiased functioning structure, there is a persistent tendency towards applying double standards and selecting approaches which grant impunity to favored nations and overlooks atrocities committed by them, no matter how serious and horrific they are. Selectivity, double standards and politicization of the concept make it prone to manipulation & abuse and undermine the integrity of this concept and create the impression that the main objective of RtoP is political agenda or interests rather than saving the lives of people.

The objective of RtoP shall not be regime change but protection of population. This is the major obstacle of RtoP which precludes it becoming effective. Member states should address this deficiency in a serious and effective manner.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.