

Statement delivered on behalf of the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations

General Assembly informal, interactive dialogue on the “Responsibility to Protect: State Responsibility and Prevention”

11 September 2013

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION FROM ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

Thank you, Mr. President. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his fifth report that we're examining on RtoP. I'd also like to commend Ms. Welsh, Special Adviser for the Responsibility to Protect. I'd like to assure her of our support while she carries out her role.

Sir, we're all aware that the international community has made many efforts since 2005 in order to achieve a clear idea of the Responsibility to Protect. Thanks to these efforts, we currently have a very well-defined concept and a new principle that has been accepted at the international level, namely, the RtoP. This idea seeks to protect the lives of those people and protect them from war crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. Indubitably, this principle is one of the main successes in the area of human rights in the 21st century.

The Libyan people are grateful to the international community because the it has indeed adopted this principle. Pursuant to this principle, we saw the intervention in Libya, which protected civilians. Thus the lives of millions of people were saved. These people were under threat by a dictator who would not stop despite the numbers of victims and dead.

Despite this success and this excellent intervention in Libya, the international community has not been able to protect civilians in Syria. This failure has led to the deaths of more than 100,000 people and has meant that millions of refugees have been displaced. Day after day, the number of victims is increasing, because this government is clinging desperately to power and is continuing to carry out atrocities in Syria. The Security Council has been inactive and so the international community needs to find new ways to protect civilians and to bring the perpetrators of these crimes before the International Criminal Court.

The Responsibility to Protect is a way of preventing atrocities. This responsibility belongs first and foremost to governments. Protection cannot be guaranteed, however, without good governance and solid institutions. The Libyan government knows that without solid and effective institutions, a government cannot protect its citizens or those from other countries living in its territory. And so, Libya has reformed the security sector, one of the main priorities of our current government. In this regard, we have striven to set up a new national army and also to reform our police and judicial system. This includes the amendment of laws in order to bring the perpetrators of atrocious crimes to justice. Furthermore, the government is seeking to ensure that international law be enshrined into national laws to ensure that justice is brought and to prevent impunity.

The Supreme National Conference, the legislative authority, and the transitional government are ensuring that all conditions are in place to protect Libyans, goods, and foreign citizens and that all those who commit human rights abuses are brought to justice. We are currently setting up a new Constitution and are bringing into force new laws to ensure that all citizens are equal. Thus we are seeking to ensure the independence of each and every person as well as that of the Courts and international bodies, who must be in the position to prosecute criminals. Undoubtedly, the prosecution of criminals is something that is crucial for preventing further crimes from being committed in the future.