

Statement delivered on behalf of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations

General Assembly informal, interactive dialogue on the “Responsibility to Protect: Timely and Decisive Response”

5 September 2012

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION)

Thank you Moderator,

Thanks go to the President of the General Assembly for scheduling this informal debate and to the panelists for the light they have shed on this very important and crucial issue for international relations.

Our congratulations go to you on your appointment as Special Advisor on Prevention of Genocide.

Moderator, in 2005 there were three decisions taken at the Summit: the creation of the Human Rights Council, the creation of the Peace Building Commission, and the development of this principle of Responsibility to Protect. We think these three elements are linked. The establishment of the Human Rights Council sought to prevent such war crimes, ethnic cleansing, genocide, war crimes and the Peace Building Commission addressed the developmental aspects which are extremely important in the area.

It is undeniable that the fourth report or the four reports that the Secretary General has made it possible to promote common ground, have fostered common ground on these issues and have circumscribed the difference of opinion on the prospects for implementing this intrinsically political principle. Morocco lauds the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations to develop this concept in a context marked by political crisis and conflict. Ever since the 2005 Summit we have regularly examined this principle and it is clear that if there is undeniable convergence on pillars one and two then not only are there misgivings still but also there are clear differences of opinion regarding the third pillar. And it is on this last pillar that we have this initiative from Brazil, the Responsibility while Protecting, which is undoubtedly an asset which will allow us to mitigate the differences of opinion on this pillar. This difference of opinion should not be the justification for inaction of the international community and the council. Where there are decisions where it has been clearly established that a population is facing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, for example, and rightly the fourth report of the Secretary-General places emphasis on preventive dimensions - this is justified and wise. Of course prevention does not preclude the use of force it simply makes it the last resort. We agree with the Secretary-General when he stresses first of all that the most effective form of prevention nationally is to foster good governance and respect for human rights and freedoms. And secondly when he

said the international community is duty bound to make available the means of preventing war crimes through early warning systems and using mediation, in particular, and improving the UN's capacity especially in the field of peacekeeping operations. And thirdly, when the Secretary-General says there is no one size fits all approach for preventing and reacting to grave crimes against the civilian population. The Responsibility to Protect is exercised, when it is exercised it has to be done on a case-by-case basis without politicization and should be done completely impartially. Taking stock of this debate we've had, Moderator, we have to concede that this interaction needs to continue, that this dialogue needs to continue in order to make headway with pillar three. The Secretary-General calls upon us to do this intelligently, smartly. I think it is a felicitous coincidence, a serendipitous coincidence that the 67th session of the General Assembly is to do with the strengthening of pacific settlements of dispute. I can assure you that Morocco remains committed to this debate and will contribute to bringing about greater common ground in order to have a consensus eventually on the basis and implementation of the principle of the Responsibility to Protect.