

**Pakistan's Intervention during General Assembly's Interactive Dialogue on  
"Role of regional and sub-regional arrangements in implementing the  
Responsibility to Protect" 12 July 2011**

**Mr. President,**

We thank you, the Secretary General and the Panelists for their valuable insights into the theme of today's discussion i.e. the role of regional and sub-regional arrangements in the context of the responsibility to protect.

We hope that today's exchange of views will add to our common understanding of the concept of R2P and its evolution in a manner consistent with the relevant paragraphs of World Summit 2005 Outcome Document. We hope informed discussions will contribute to crystallization of the process in the General Assembly which should decide on various contours of the concept by consensus.

A number of positive and constructive elements have been highlighted in today's discussion. Of special importance are cooperation, due regard and respect to the views of regional bodies and neighbors, importance of regional peculiarities, preparedness assistance, respect for principles of diversity and avoidance of incitement etc. The SG's report rightly highlights that working through regional mechanisms enhances legitimacy of the decision making process. However, it omits mentioning that that failure to do so may yield the opposite result.

**Mr. President,**

Context, undoubtedly, matters. Accordingly, despite being dubbed a universal principle, responsibility to protect has to be applied in the context of paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 Outcome Document. It remains the primary responsibility of the State and cannot be arrogated by or delegated to other actors in defiance of established Charter principles of non-intervention, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Situations have to be dealt with objectively on a case by case basis. Use of peaceful means should always precede actions under Chapter VII with full involvement of regional mechanisms and be used only for the "four specified situations". The commitment in paragraph 139 to "helping States build

capacity to protect their populations” should be viewed through both the political and development lens. By strengthening States’ socio-economic development conflicts which quite frequently are rooted in underdevelopment and poverty can be averted.

**Mr. President,**

Without addressing the existing trust deficit spawned by historical injustices like festering disputes and worst cases of foreign occupation, R2P will remain a hollow concept. Use of regional mechanisms or early warning systems and need for prompt response are equally important for new and old disputes/situations. Addressing all situations in an impartial manner is the key to achieving consensus on this concept.

We have the following additional thoughts on the SG’s report:

- A one-size-fits-all approach in disregard of regional particularities and peculiarities cannot succeed.
- While education is, indeed, important to raise awareness, strengthening development assistance and addressing all disputes in an impartial manner are crucial for universal acceptance of R2P.
- Eschewing incitement and respecting diversity are key ingredients of prevention methodologies. To preserve these valuable principles, the right to freedom of expression must be exercised with responsibility.
- Concept of accountability cuts both ways. While States are responsible for protecting their populations, actions of international community should also be held up to the same criterion to ensure that no harm is inflicted upon those whose protection was invoked to take a specific action.
- Two-way flow of information between regional and global actors can enhance understanding of a situation. However, it is important to guard against selective or false alarms.
- The Security Council should exercise its authority to investigate any dispute or situation judiciously. Politicized decision making has only led to prolonged suffering of peoples under foreign occupation and erosion

of faith in UN's ability to act as an honest broker. Addressing all disputes and situations in an even handed manner is crucial to the credibility of the UN as well as effective and efficient responses on ground.

- The SG rightly states that he does not have all the answers. At the same time the report envisages enhanced collaboration between the UN and regional mechanisms on the subject. We would like to understand as to how a concept which is still evolving both in its legal and operational aspects can be used by the UN in its interactions with regional and other global partners?

We would like to reiterate that the UN is an intergovernmental organization. Before any concept is used by the UN mechanisms on ground, it must have the backing and full support of the Member States to avoid any pitfalls.

**Mr. President,**

Please allow me to conclude by posing two questions:

- a) Would it be correct to say that the Security Council despite being the last resort either acts too hastily or does nothing especially vis-à-vis historical injustices which have festered on for decades?
- b) The second question that flows from the first is that whether R2P should also mean responsibility to prevent unilateralism and hasty interventions motivated by special interests?

**I thank you.**