

Informal interactive Dialogue on the Report of the Secretary General on « Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Accountability for Prevention »

Published Tuesday September 12 2017

New York, 6th of September 2017

Intervention of H.E. Mr. Christian Braun

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor and for convening this Informal interactive Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect, a norm which my country is fully committed to.

Luxembourg subscribes to the statements made by the European Union and by the Netherlands on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect.

I would like to thank Secretary-General Guterres for his report and welcome the emphasis it puts on prevention and accountability.

Luxembourg welcomes the consultative approach for drafting this report and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to pursue an open, frank and inclusive dialogue on the responsibility to protect.

Furthermore, Luxembourg congratulates the Secretary-General for presenting a report that describes the international situation as it is: alarming and frustrating, considering the increasing number of deliberate attacks against civilians, notably women and children, in countries like Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria or Yemen.

Despite welcome commitments by member states to prevent mass atrocity crimes, far more energy is put into dealing with mass atrocities that already occurred than into their prevention. Let there be no mistake: the three pillars of the responsibility to protect aim to prevent atrocity crimes first and foremost. We must overcome the sterile and facile accusations that the point of R2P is to provide an excuse for foreign interventions.

As stated by previous speakers, like the EU and the Netherlands, Luxembourg adheres to the Secretary General's view that accountability for mass atrocity crimes is an effective way of preventing their recurrence. History teaches that a culture of impunity for perpetrators of atrocity crimes leads to the repetition of these crimes. Accountability has to be ensured, be this through national or international criminal justice systems, like the International Criminal court.

Luxembourg acknowledges the important role of the Human Rights Council, and notably the universal periodic review, the human rights treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders, highlighted in

the Secretary-General's report. We urge the international community to make better use of these instruments at our disposal and resist any efforts to weaken and sideline the UN Human Rights system.

Luxembourg acknowledges the central role of the Security Council and aligns with previous member states who urge the Council's members to ensure that its central responsibility for upholding international peace and security is met.

Finally, Luxembourg supports the report's recommendations concerning the strengthening of the General Assembly's role and supports Australia and Ghana's request to include an item on the responsibility to protect on the agenda of its 72nd session.

Luxembourg believes the time has come for the General Assembly to pass a resolution recognising and supporting this indispensable norm for the prevention of atrocity crimes.

Thank you!