

Statement of the Principality of Saudi Arabia – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P

6 September 2017

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Mr. Moderator,

I would like to thank you for facilitating this meeting and I would like to thank the president of the GA for convening this informal dialogue. I also would like to thank the Secretary-General for his annual report on implementing the responsibility to protect and accountability for prevention.

Well, the Secretary General report this year focused on the accountability for prevention and has touched upon the challenges faced to fulfill this responsibility to protect. We believe it's necessary to agree on the conceptual framework before discussing any practical aspects. Since the 2005 Summit, when member states collectively took an initial step together committing to the concept of the responsibility to protect. We still see today a major gap between the moral concept of the responsibility to protect and its relevant principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, where legal accountability falls under national and international obligations. We believe a major step towards accountability for prevention should start with a collective effort in the direction of a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council. As the United Nations certainly has the necessary tool to aid member states in maintaining international peace and security in the world. However they are sadly confined in the veto system and the restrictive membership of the Security Council.

My country and other member states have repeatedly protested the Security Council continued failure to adequately address the situation in the Middle East, specifically the issue of the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories, an issue under Security Council consideration for more than six decades. Not to mention the recent situation in Myanmar, which is another example of where the Security Council falls short to protect in this case the distressed Rohingya people. Although we acknowledge the imperfect system of the United Nations, which is sometimes caused by either the lack of political will or selectivity and double standards, we still believe we should focus our attention on utilizing all of its available resources to maintain international peace and security.

Mr. Moderator, in conclusion, we don't question the importance of the noble concept of the responsibility to protect, but the standards of the international law and the Charter of the United Nations codified legal framework for the international cooperation in solving international issues of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character. As well as state obligations to promote and protect human rights. Therefore, one can understand previous and current raised skepticism pertaining the scope of the concept of the responsibility to protect and the implementation thereof. Thank you.