

Statement delivered by the Delegation of Syria to the United Nations, at the United Nations General Assembly Thematic Panel Discussion "From commitment to implementation: Ten years of the Responsibility to Protect," convened by the President of the General Assembly [Unofficial Transcription]

25 February 2016

Syria would like to say that we are also commemorating the 5th year since the military intervention in Libya. It would be logical that the UN adopt criteria so as to avoid abusive use of the concept of Responsibility to Protect. Mr. Evans knows well that criteria were established so as to use this concept. Now, why have we not heard of these criteria since then?

The Deputy SG spoke of the reputation of the UN and the fact that it was tarnished, but is this not the responsibility of the countries that abused the idea of Responsibility to Protect. This has also undermined international justice and the concept of the impunity of these countries. You referred to the efforts we must make so as to fully define these concepts but these efforts will be useless unless with strengthen the responsibilities of countries themselves in Responsibility to Protect.

The UN should play a role in accordance with its Charter if we truly want to pursue consensus amongst members States on this subject. The UN must be honest, must prove their honesty, they must abstain from any politicization or selectivity any sort of dual standards. The UN must also ensure that it does not lose the trust of countries. The silence of the UN on the Israeli occupation crimes clearly show the policy of dual standards in this organization.

The idea of the Responsibility to Protect is a noble idea, its goal is to save lives, not to spread chaos and destruction, as was the case in Libya. It is also not a tool that would allow illegal interventions or a new means for a new colonization.

We also wish to say that we are in favor of the Russian and American initiative to cease hostilities in Syria. We call on the UN force countries who are looking to increase the conflict to immediately end their actions.