



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

Thailand's intervention

**At Informal Interactive Dialogue on Responsibility of States to
Protect Their Populations by Preventing Genocide, War Crimes,
Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes Against Humanity through
appropriate and necessary means.**

Wednesday, 11 September 2013

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Wednesday, 11 September 2013
Trusteeship Council, Conference Building, UNHQ

Mr. President,

At the outset, Thailand would like to thank you for convening this important debate and to express our special thank to the Secretary-General for his substantive report on States responsibility and prevention.

Mr. President,

States have the primary responsibility to protect their own people from mass atrocities. Thailand shares this view. However, the issue before us today is how States could carry out this important task. Let me share with you some key points.

First and foremost, States must have genuine **political will**. Mass atrocity is often the result of chronic political, social and economic inequality or exclusion caused by governmental system, weak institutions and unbalanced policy which require structural changes. Without political will, these changes are not possible. States need to address key structural elements and policies, namely impartial constitution, rule of law, good governance, political sector reform and economic development for all.

Another reason behind mass atrocities is the widespread and systematic violation of **human rights**. Therefore, addressing human rights violation is vital to help prevent such heinous crimes. All sectors of the society need to understand, uphold and implement human rights concept. Human rights laws must be strictly enforced. National body on human rights needs to be established to help raise awareness as well as to monitor any violation of human rights. Many states simply lack the capacity to ensure respect for human rights although they have a strong will to do so. Capacity building in human rights promotion and protection, therefore, is another necessary preventive mechanism.

In a pluralistic society, States must give importance to **social and intercultural dialogue** in order to manage and bridge social diversities which will eventually help prevent mass atrocity. States must cultivate the **culture of peace** by enhancing the free flow of knowledge on different ethnics, cultures, religions, beliefs and faiths for better understanding and create respect of shared human heritage among different groups.

States and **media**, both local and international, should work in close partnership. The media can play a constructive role in narrowing gap in a diverse society. A wide coverage and real time outreach make media an efficient tool to bring people with differences closer as well as create better understanding and appreciation among different groups. At the same time, media needs to exercise due diligence not to spread hate speech or distort facts that could mislead their audience and cause deeper divisions in society.

Mass atrocity is often not a **sudden or isolated** event but a consequence of **underlying conflict** or protracted crisis. It can therefore be **addressed more effectively** if an early warning mechanism is put in place, **especially at national and regional levels**. States should also put in place necessary measures to **build national resilience and** contain circumstances that could **lead to** mass atrocities, for instance, regulating and controlling **the** proliferation of weapons, ending culture of impunity, and addressing **discrimination as well as** issues of bribery and corruption. **Prevention of mass atrocities should be viewed in a broader context beyond immediate security to also encompass a range of issues, including human rights and sustainable development.**

Regional and sub-regional organizations as well as the international community can contribute to **technical assistance and capacity building** to ensure that States can fulfill their obligations and protection responsibilities, as highlighted in Pillar II of the R2P. It is also worth sharing experiences and measures taken in other countries in order to prevent mass atrocities.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reiterating that it is unarguable that States have primary responsibility to protect its population by preventing heinous crimes. However, the burden of preventing mass atrocities and building peace falls on every sector of a nation. Collective efforts and shared responsibilities, at all levels, from policy and decision makers, the armed forces, community and religious leaders, academia, medial is necessary. We have already lost too many lives from mass atrocities. We have learned so many tragic lessons. The world cannot afford the recurrence of such crimes. It is time to act and work together.

Thank you
