

## **Statement of the Principality of Thailand – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P**

6 September 2017

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Mr. President, it is my honor to represent my delegation at the informal, interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on the responsibility to protect today, I wish to also thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on this issue which focuses on the accountability for prevention of the atrocity crimes. This dialogue could not be more timely. Patience, intolerance, insecurity, and violence are on the rise. Thailand reaffirms its support on the general concept of the responsibility to protect, that each and every state has the primary responsibility to protect its own population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. The wider international community also has a responsibility to assist individual states in ensuring that this norm and its true purpose which aims to safeguard humanity is upheld. Thailand also attaches great importance to the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law. They must not be put at risk, nor become target of violence. Mr. President, R2P is still often misinterpreted and misused because of the lack of conversions of a common understanding, especially on pillar three. As a result, the international community often fail to take the necessary steps to prevent or stop those horrible crimes. This forum, therefore, provides us a good opportunity to continue our deliberations. A clear criterion for invoking collective action in a timely and decisive manner when a state manifestly fails to protect its own populations is necessary. Prevention of atrocity crimes is fundamental to achieving the sustaining development goals, especially goal 16. In this regard, strengthening accountability both at national and international level can significantly contribute to the promotion just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. Last, but not least, Thailand strongly believes that prevention and capacity building are central to effective implementation of the three-pillar strategy. The responsibility to protect and collective action undertaken under-taken by the international community can be achieved not only through humanitarian intervention alone in time of conflict. As a starting point, we should work together to prevent these atrocity crimes by empowering people to become resilient, rendering long-term assistance with an aim to fostering sustainable development, inclusive growth, and stability, closing down gaps and eliminating inequality and ensuring respect for fundamental freedom and human rights.

I thank you.