

Statement of the Principality of The United States – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P

6 September 2017

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Thank you very much Mr. Moderator, I want to thank the permanent missions of Australia and Ghana as well, for their leadership on this important issue. The United States has participated in these important dialogues since their inception and we are glad to join here today to reaffirm our commitment to preventing atrocities, including genocide.

We very much welcome the issuance of the Secretary General Guterres' first report on the responsibility to protect and we are pleased with his call for action for states to do more to prevent atrocities. His report included many critical recommendations that member states can consider implementing to protect their own populations from atrocities as well as steps we can all consider taking to further our commitment for the collective responsibility to protect in appropriate circumstances.

The United States has undertaken internal steps to build a robust atrocity prevention policy-making apparatus, which is develop prevention policies. These policies have resulted in specific actions, including deployment of UN monitoring and reporting mechanisms, strategic diplomatic engagement, sanctions, and the recalibration or termination of foreign assistance, among numerous others. We have done this together with partner countries that share our commitment to atrocity prevention. The United States remains committed to this model and we will continue refining and developing it. We will continue to work as well through multilateral forum, including the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect, and close partnerships we have developed with like-minded countries on atrocity prevention.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will continue to examine the Secretary General's recommendations and explore ways in which we can further work towards atrocity prevention as a core policy priority. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary General's intention to maintain this issue at the core of his work and we look forward to learning how he integrates the critical roles of the Special Advisors on the Responsibility to Protect and his Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, both essential functions to UN policy and its reform agenda.

Thank you very much Mr. Moderator.