



**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

by Ambassador Pham Vinh Quang

**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
at the General Assembly Interactive Dialogue on Responsibility to Protect
New York, 5 September 2012**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. President for convening today's informal dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect (Rto2P) and to the H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for the Report "Responsibility to protect: timely and decisive response" which again shows their constant concerns for issues of important interests to the international community

Mr. President,

We can all agree on the common goal of preventing and fighting against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Viet Nam strongly condemns such crimes and is always ready to cooperate with the international community in the fight against these crimes.

We all also agree that states have the primary responsibility to protect their own citizens from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, which conforms to the fundamental principles of international law, especially those of sovereign equality and political independence of states. Realities throughout the world show that the key to the effective and sustainable efforts against these crimes resides in national judicial systems and implementation measures.

In carrying its primary responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, states need assistance and cooperation from the international community. For that matter, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document points out that "the international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility". International assistance would be most effective and sustainable on the basis of the needs and wishes of the people of

countries concerned and in accordance with the UN Charter and principles of international law. In this regard, it is immensely important to promote education and public awareness and assist states to strengthen its capacity in preventing and circumventing the occurrence of, or the incitement to commit such crimes.

It is equally important to strengthen the various aspects of the international legal human rights and humanitarian instruments which prescribe responsibilities at both national and international levels. The strengthening of the human rights treaty body system is a welcome process in this direction.

As we discuss these issues at the United Nations, we should always be guided by the overriding purpose of the organization, that is “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” War and conflict also cause untold suffering to people. Hence it is the role of the related fundamental principles of international law about the promotion of peace, friendship and about the use of force as regulated under the UN Charter. We believe that measures undertaken by the international community should be considered from these perspective.

Reality and past discussions have shown that this important issue deserves further consideration and deliberation. Viet Nam highly appreciates the research carried out by the Secretary-General, as well as the comments and proposal presented in the report. Viet Nam is always ready to participate in future deliberative discussion so that we can reach a common ground on this issue.

Thank you./.