



*Statement by H.E. Mr. Ferit HOXHA
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Albania to the United Nations*

*Seventh Informal Interactive Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on
the Responsibility to Protect*

New York, 8 September 2015

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Let me express our gratitude for the report of the Secretary General. It contains an ambitious agenda, sets priorities, and it outlines challenges and recommendations for actions at the global, regional and national level. Albania fully supports them.

The RtoP has catalyzed important developments during the last 10-years. Progress has been made in building a global political consensus around R2P, as a very practical and effective framework for preventing mass atrocity crimes. However, developing the norm alone does not provide for prevention or protection.

Gaps continue to exist in the development and implementation of specific strategies and policy interventions to enhance early and effective R2P implementation. There are also significant policy and capacity deficiencies in regional and sub-regional implementation mechanisms. We do believe that the growing support for the normative framework should be matched with the necessary political will, and most importantly resources to prevent atrocity crimes.

The rise of violent extremism and non-state armed groups perpetrating atrocities, particularly against ethnic and religious minorities, continues to be one of the most pressing challenges, and it must be defeated. While confronting this mass killing machine with military means, we need to do more and better, first disrupting recruitment and prevent the flow of fighters, work in community while reflecting on the need to finding the best ways means to strengthening inclusive societies.

Mr. Moderator,

Albania reaffirms its firm position that when resolutions on imminent or ongoing crises involving genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, or ethnic cleansing come before the Security Council's, Permanent Members must not obstruct action to protect populations. The catastrophic situation in Siria and its disastrous human consequences are a strident call in this sense.

Further, Albania reiterates its support to the French proposal and the efforts of ACT for a "Code of Conduct" regarding the use of veto in the Security Council in situations of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

Mr. Moderator,

The RtoP global network has further expanded to include officials from 50 countries, representing a quarter of the UN Membership. We also welcome the fact that the European Union has recently become the first regional organization to officially appoint an RtoP Focal Point. We encourage Member States that have not yet done so, to appoint National RtoP Focal Points and to further join the growing Global Network.

Mr. Moderator,

This Tenth Anniversary of R2P offers an opportunity for all of us to renew and further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

It is with the above understanding that Albania supports the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan, which is an important initiative to enhance the UN's institutional preparedness for situations that may deteriorate into the commission of mass atrocity crimes.

And last but not least: during the 28th HRC session Albania supported the inclusion of RtoP references in the resolution "On the Prevention of Genocide". We also support the UNGA draft-resolution establishing the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide (to be adopted within few days by the GA).

I thank you.
