

**Statement by Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, at the Informal Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on the Responsibility of States to protect their populations by preventing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity on September 8, 2015**

**Mr. Moderator,**

Let me thank you for convening today's informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on the 'Responsibility to Protect'. We have benefited from the interventions made today.

2. It would be relevant to recall that this year's discussion on R2P also marks ten years since the 2005 United Nations World Summit, when member states agreed that they have a Responsibility to Protect (R2P) populations.

3. In the context of today's discussion, we would like to emphasize the following:

i) Assistance should always be requested by the concerned state before it is offered. It is our consistent view that the key to R2P must be prevention.

ii) In addition, we are of the view that the United Nations and its Member States, and regional or sub-regional organizations should be ready to offer assistance, as required by the State concerned, to strengthen its policies and programmes, including capacity building, to protect its people from any of the R2P crimes. Such policies and programmes must be nationally owned rather than imposed from outside.

4. We have taken note of the latest report of the Secretary-General (A/69/981) of 2015 on implementing the Responsibility to Protect. In context of the SG's core priorities pertaining to signaling Political Commitment, we would like to mention that political commitment has to be intrinsic and not imposed externally. We also take note the SG's priority related to elevating prevention as a core aspect of the R2P. Another core priority of the Secretary General in context of R2P namely, expanding options for timely and decisive action, needs to be exercised with extreme caution.

5. We need to activate an advance warning system of potential dangers to civilian populations by the UN Human Rights Council when the country concerned is being reviewed in the UPR system. We should not duplicate this task now that we have a functional HRC, created by the 2005 Summit.

6. Another important aspect is strengthening Peacebuilding efforts. Here the emphasis should be on building national capacities and national ownership. R2P has to be understood against the background of the challenge of strengthening Peacebuilding efforts. The review of Peacebuilding structures is underway and needs to take into account this important aspect. This is extremely relevant in addressing risk of recurrence and relapse into conflict. Even the recent High Level Panel on Peace Operations has recommended that lasting peace is achieved through political solutions and not through military and technical engagements alone. In this context, we must not forget what happened in Libya in 2011 when the Security Council Resolution referred to R2P without taking into account how sudden regime change will impact on the protection of population. Any action involving R2P must not be taken outside the UN framework of international law.

7. Finally, we would like to stress that the reform of the United Nations governance system to reflect contemporary realities has never been greater. This was endorsed by the Conference of Parliament Speakers just last week. This will go a long way in ensuring a changed dynamics which is critical for the successful implementation of R2P.

**I thank you.**