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The United Nations General Assembly Plenary Meeting
on
The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the Prevention of Genocide, War
Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes Against Humanity

27 June 2019

Intervention by
Hungary

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to thank for convening this formal debate, it is my honour to speak on behalf of Hungary. While we align ourselves with the Statement of the Group of Friends of R2P and the European Union, I wish to make a few observations in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

We welcome the new report of the Secretary-General and the inclusion of the R2P on the formal agenda of this session. Hungary supports its inclusion as standing item on the agenda of the General Assembly and the adoption of a new resolution to reaffirm our commitment to the principle.

Hungary shares the growing concerns of the Secretary-General with regard to the negative tendencies of increased number of victims of atrocity crimes. We have to strengthen UN response by adopting specific measures to improve internal UN coordination in the area of R2P. This is why Hungary is strongly committed to support the work of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect. We welcome their efforts to mainstream R2P within the UN system, including through the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes.

Hungary also deems it is especially important that States put more emphasis on prevention through various measures, including early warning, political mediation, empowering victims of crimes, enhancing domestic and international capacities for ending impunity and finding new ways for ensuring more effective compliance with the international humanitarian law.

Excellencies,

- As an active member of the Group of Friends of R2P both in New York and in Geneva, Hungary is fully dedicated to raise awareness on the issue at national and international level as well. Hungary hosts the Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, which is dedicated to assist in the construction of a global architecture for the prevention of atrocity crimes, focuses its activities on education and the dissemination of the culture of dialogue.
- The Centre has joined an EU-funded campaign named as “Words are Stoned” to take active part in combatting hate speech occurring online. The Centre will take

the lead in organizing a training course for young social media persons to increase the awareness against cyber bullying for youngsters in Hungary.

- Moreover, Hungary is also committed to strengthen the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, to draw a broader attention to our actions we do under the label “R2P”. We encourage all actors to appoint their Focal Points and join this community.
- We are of the view that the existing human rights mechanisms, together with the Human Rights Up Front initiative can effectively contribute to the timely action. Hungary strongly supports utilizing the prevention mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and as a current member; one of our priorities is work towards the prevention of these atrocity crimes by attributing special attention to the protection and promotion of human rights.
- Finally yet importantly, Hungary annually organizes the Budapest Human Rights Forum for eleven years by now, bringing together governmental representatives and civil society. Hungary also established a Human Rights Working Group in 2012 with the purpose to monitor the respect of human rights in Hungary.

Mr. President,

We believe that actions should be taken not only on national, but on international level as well. Therefore, we support the work of the IIIM and the International Criminal Court (ICC) to end impunity and bring perpetrators to justice. Hungary as an active member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group advocates for refraining voluntarily from the use of veto in case of mass atrocities and we encourage all Member States who have not done so yet, to sign the Code of Conduct.

In conclusion, our ultimate goal should be to ensure the peaceful and secure living conditions for everyone in their homelands without any possibility of being victim of atrocity crimes. We share the opinion that stronger political will is needed to make the R2P a living reality. We can assure you that as of Hungary, we have this will and we further continue to encourage others to implement the principle of R2P.

I thank you Mr. President.