



STATEMENT

by

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genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this plenary meeting and for your introductory remarks. I should also like to thank the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect Ms. Karen Smith for her remarks.

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union, as well as with the statement made on behalf of members of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect.

Mr. President,

My delegation expresses its support to the draft resolution the General Assembly will consider later today. We are convinced that the Assembly plays an important role in helping to strengthen consensus on the R2P, promote the development of this concept, and understanding by all UN Member States of their individual and collective responsibility to protect all people from crimes against humanity.

We hope that by adopting this resolution, Member States will be able to avoid unnecessary procedural discussions that may detract from the consideration of the substance of this important agenda item.

Mr. President,

Slovakia welcomes the 12th report of the Secretary-General, which focuses on the gender dimensions of atrocity prevention and R2P. We fully concur that inclusiveness must be at the core of the prevention agenda and an integral part of the concept of the R2P. This must include women's meaningful participation, protection and rights.

Mr. President,

In 2005, all UN Member States made a political commitment to the principle of the Responsibility to Protect. However, we witness far too often that the actions of the international community and Member States fall short of adequately deterring or preventing atrocity crimes. More needs to be done to address the preventive aspect of the R2P in this regard in line with the prevention agenda

of the UNSG. After all, there is an overall agreement that prevention is at the core of the Responsibility to Protect.

Moreover, achieving universal access to justice and non-selective accountability is key, if we want to ensure protection of all individuals and groups against discrimination, exclusion and other human rights violations.

In this context, I should like to recall the role of the International Criminal Court as an independent and impartial judicial body stepping in where national jurisdictions are unable or unwilling to address the issue of accountability. In this capacity, it serves as a deterrent and a guarantor of non-recurrence of mass atrocities, while bringing justice to victims of the gravest crimes under international law. Therefore, we call on all Member States who have not yet done so to ratify the Rome Statute and its amendments and thus help achieve its universality.

Lastly, Mr. President,

I would like to underline that applying the principles of good governance to the state's security sector can ensure that the rights of individuals are respected and perpetrators are brought to justice. The enhancement of national capacities and the building of democratic and accountable institutions is therefore key in the pursuit of resilient systems that can prevent atrocities early on.

To conclude, Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate our commitment to the implementation of all pillars of the Responsibility to Protect. Only united action can effectively prevent atrocities and protect innocent populations. Slovakia will vote in favour of the draft resolution A/75/L.82 and calls on other Member States to do the same.

I thank you.