

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan at
GA Informal Dialogue on Responsibility to Protect
8 September 2014**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this important meeting on responsibility to protect, with a focus on Pillar II.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document defined general framework for addressing responsibility to protect and the scope of its application. It is also essential that this framework is built on fundamental tenet of international law, which is the principle of State sovereignty, and thus reinforces the letter and spirit of the UN Charter.

The protection of population is among the duties and responsibilities arising from sovereignty. Creation of norms, rules and strong institutions can help advance reconciliation within societies and strengthen national ownership in ensuring the protection of population.

The rule of law and respect for human rights lie at the core of the protection agenda and amount to principal factors contributing to the success of a State's efforts to protect its population from atrocity crimes. However, as past experience of crisis situations suggests capacities of States to effectively respond to them and protect population can be not sufficient, in situation of armed conflicts they are even more restricted.

It is true that not all conflicts give rise to mass atrocities, but armed conflicts do create an enabling context for their commission. Such conflicts tend to have manifold, long- and short term impact on the relevant parties and often on broader regions. In particular, illicit transfer of arms to non-State actors ranks among the factors further fueling the situation on the ground, thus perpetuating a vicious cycle. It is particularly important to ensure that unreported procurements are revealed and prosecuted.

Illegal economic activities in the conflict areas is yet another source of grave concern. Existence of natural resources and other assets in such areas, including those under foreign occupation, is often seen as a factor feeding narrow political and commercial interests of State and subordinate non-State

actors. Unfortunately, businesses involved in illegal activities indirectly contribute to increasing means and capacities of war-mongering actors to consolidate the consequences of the conflict. We welcome the emphasis placed on these issues in the SG report (A/68/947-S/2014/449) and look forward to a stronger voice and active role of the UN system and human rights monitors in halting these illegal detrimental policies and practices.

We cannot agree more with the view of the Secretary-General that a major risk factor for atrocity crimes is the past commission of such acts and a record of impunity. Impunity begets further violence, one slaughter is the parent of the next.

It is critical to make a shift from a culture of impunity to a culture of accountability with no distinction as to the rank and official status of individual perpetrators. Bringing perpetrators to justice and holding them accountable through criminal justice mechanisms are vital to prevent further atrocities, restore the rule of law and help countries to comply with their international human rights obligations.

We favour further discussions and efforts to advance the R2P agenda and continue to consider important the development of the overall strategy for implementing R2P, including through identifying ways in which the UN system can help to ensure the fulfillment of our common commitments made in 2005.

Thank you.