

Statement delivered by the Delegation of Belarus to the United Nations, at the United Nations General Assembly Thematic Panel Discussion "From commitment to implementation: Ten years of the Responsibility to Protect," convened by the President of the General Assembly [Unofficial Transcription]

25 February 2016

The positions on the substantive issues concerning Responsibility to Protect aren't all in line and we have to admit this. Clearly, everyone can have a different understanding of the Charter and its principles.

Belarus supports the definition laid out within the established procedures by the bodies themselves. We want to concentrate on how to go forward on the implementation of Responsibility to Protect. In this context, first and foremost, we wish to note that it is crucial that today and yesterday there should be an open discussion on how to move forward on this issues. Belarus is not convinced that our understanding of Responsibility to Protect will move forward and will be able to properly implement its principles.

In our opinion, first, it would be beneficial to admit that there are various point of view, both in the conceptual definition of the principle as well as on how to move forwards on this issue. We feel that this could lead not to undermine, but to enrich our common understanding of this issue. Therefore we hope that each opinion, even the least palatable, will be heard.

It seems to us, that at this stage, it would be proper to think about measures to build confidence and trust in the document that is being developed by States, the document that is being developed by the UN Secretariat, trust in the various early warning mechanisms, in which there is sometimes a lack, and trust in the Secretariat of the UN. We believe that only a true creation of this trust, on the basis of open discussion, which sometimes is not pleasant to hear, will allow us to move from words to action.