

Statement of Benin – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2016

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Mr. Moderator, my delegation is pleased to participate in this interactive dialogue on the responsibility to protect and wishes to congratulate its organizers. In fact, the promotion and protection of human rights remains one of the essential pillars of the United Nations, so as to preserve peace and guarantee sustainable human development.

Therefore, we must continue to work collectively to protect and effectively empower people everywhere and to ensure their full enjoyment of their rights as well as to ensure that human rights instruments prevent odious crimes and atrocities.

Benin believes that the international community cannot be exonerated from its responsibilities when grave atrocities are being committed against a civilian population. Also, we reiterate our commitment to the rules and principles of humanity, which includes the responsibility to protect, and call for the scrupulous respect of its spirit and implementation. Priority must be placed on the peaceful means to regulate and resolve situations where responsibility to protect can be used.

Actions of the international community must be proportional to the challenges to be resolved visive the three pillars of RtoP. As often as possible, the international community must promote the course of peaceful measures, such as sanctions, investigative committees and the ICC. These are essential instruments for dissuasion which have been proven to work.

If the last resort, that of force, must be used, it must be within a strict framework and there must be in RtoP the unity of the Security Council. This must be a serious issue in the saving of human lives. In this, Benin reaffirms its support for the Code of Conduct promoted by the ACT group in cases of crimes against humanity and war crimes as well as the initiative of France and Mexico for the voluntary refraining of the use of the veto in cases of atrocities. We also support the call of the Secretary-General on states to affirm and intensify their commitment through a new UNGA resolution on RtoP.

Benin wishes to also note its full support to the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide as well as the Advisor on the Responsibility to Protect and values their briefing on the current events on these issues and these issues of mass crimes.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reaffirm the importance of the Kigali principles to protect civilians and will work tirelessly to implement them.

I thank you.