

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

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Thank you Mr. Moderator. My delegation thanks the President of the General Assembly for this informal dialogue and also thanks the Secretary-General on his timely eighth report on “Mobilizing Collective Action: the Next Decade of the Responsibility to Protect”.

We recall the sentiments in the SG’s report that the necessity and relevance of the responsibility to protect is even stronger now in the face of the growing conflict and crisis in our world today, of course to complimented with a political commitment and framework for action to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This is the opportune moment for us to take steps forward and build on Articles 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome Document.

Fiji subscribes to the principles and purposes of the responsibility to protect. We emphasize the notion that it is the primary responsibility of the state to protect its population from atrocity crimes and we call for the full implementation of all three pillars of the responsibility to protect. As a small island, developing state, Fiji looks to the UNSC to fulfill its responsibility to maintain peace and security. We recognize the many challenges the Council faces in delivering on its responsibility but, never the less, the Council along with regional organizations and member states must overcome those challenges in the interest of timely and decisive response to atrocity crimes.

Through Fiji’s contribution to UN peacekeeping operations, we maintain our commitment to global peace and security. We also reaffirm our support and commitment to key institutions globally, such as the International Criminal Court to assure accountability for atrocity crimes and avert their occurrence. The prevention of such crimes, however, is more desirable than addressing them. When we consider that the SG’s report outlines some very useful mechanisms. We recognize the proposal and initiative of some members of the Security Council to convene situational briefings as a means to respond to emerging risks at an early stage of potential crisis.

Mr. Moderator, at the national level we need to build greater harmony and community spirit among our citizens, regardless of race or religion. We recognize that these goals amongst other on the international and regional levels cannot be achieved over night and require perseverance. Indeed, it is our framework for building a resilient society and we will continue to uphold the responsibility to protect our citizens and close attention will be payed to fault lines of our peace and security.