

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

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Thank you. Mr. Moderator, I wish to thank the initiative of the President of the General Assembly for inviting Member States to reflect on the responsibility to protect, which allows us to remain mobilized on this fundamental issue. Here, I wish to welcome the important role of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Dieng, and also to honor the excellent work of Madam Jennifer Welsh, the outgoing Special Adviser on R2P, and to welcome Mr. Simonovic as the new Adviser.

This report will be a basis for our actions to prevent mass atrocities. As the Secretary-General has stressed, we must move from words to action. After the 2005 Summit, if there is a government that is unwilling to protect its population, if there is a leader who is willing to commit massacres, often times the international community is silent in these matters and this is why we must reflect on the means to overcome these actions. The Security Council must cease being paralyzed because these atrocity crimes are either committed or at risk to be committed. This is why France has proposed that the five Permanent Members voluntarily suspend the veto on the issue of mass atrocities. This voluntary action does not require a revision of the Charter, but it requires a political commitment.

We will continue to support the initiatives of refraining of the use of the veto in mass atrocity issues. There is also an initiative alongside Mexico which has been supported by 97 Members. With the Code of Conduct, supported by the ACT Group, that France is also subscribed to, this would show the full interest brought by s to this issue. More than ever, we must state that the Council needs to play its full role in the issue of such grave crimes and it must bring forth the values that we support. Therefore we encourage all Member States who have not done so to support our initiative and the ACT Code of Conduct and I thank you.