

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

26 February 2016

On 26 February 2016, in New York, the President of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft convened thematic panel discussion on "From Commitment to Implementation: Ten Years of the Responsibility to Protect".

The leaders and eminent experts involved in the creation, development and implementation of R2P participated in the meeting. Panelists included Mr. Gareth Evans, Co-Chair of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and of the International Advisory Board of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Ms. Navi Pillay, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr. Edward C. Luck, former United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the Responsibility to Protect and the United Nations Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect Special Adviser for Ms. Jennifer Welsh. The United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, moderated the discussion.

The event provided an opportunity to mark the first decade of the Responsibility to Protect, and to consider how it can best contribute to future efforts to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in the decade to come. Panelists reflected on the progress made to date, current and emerging challenges, and opportunities to accelerate implementation.

In his statement, Charge d'affairs of the Mission of Georgia to the UN, Mr. Vakhtang Makharoblishvili welcomed the convening of today's panel discussion on the issue, which is even more important, relevant, timely and necessary than ever before. According to him, to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is and should be the focus of international community.

Mr. Makharoblishvili underlined that as a conflict affected country, Georgia is also in an urgent need of international oversight of the enforcement of the R2P and international involvement in the protection of civilians in the occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, where the foreign occupation continues and increasing number of grave human rights violations need to be addressed.

In this context, the Representative of Georgia once again condemned Russia's constant denial to give access to international monitoring mechanisms, including the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, to the occupied regions. In this regard, he recalled that the panelist Madam Navi Pillay had been also denied access to those territories when she visited Georgia in 2014 in her capacity of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights.

In conclusion, Mr. Makharoblishvili underlined that the UN Member States should strengthen their efforts in fulfilling their collective responsibility to protect, do not fail to rise to the challenge of protecting populations in the face of imminent threat and focus on a responsible, collaborative approach to the enforcement of international law.