

## **Ghana's Statement at the 2016 UN General Assembly Thematic Panel Discussion, From Commitment to Implementation: Ten Years of Responsibility to Protect [Transcribed]**

26 February 2016

Thank you, Mr. Moderator, and I wish to express my thanks to the President of the General Assembly for convening this thematic panel discussion. The panelists have provided us very useful insights into the important concept of the Responsibility to Protect.

10 years after the endorsement of all member states of the world summit outcome document, it is important to review and assess how the principle has been operationalized and worked towards addressing challenges and broaden acceptance within the International Community. There is no denying that in the face of the growing conflict and crises in our world today, RtoP remains relevant, both in an expression of political commitment and as a framework for action to prevent genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing. All of our panelists have underscored the importance of the principle of observing the 3 equal pillars, paying due attention to the national and international early warning systems, capabilities, and responses. In general, prevention is the approach to RtoP is pivotal to the success of the principle.

The 10-year anniversary is the opportune moment to take steps forward, and to build on articles 138 and 139 of the world summit outcome document. We share the view that continuing the concentration on the challenges, as well as successes and priorities, is important and has been well elaborated and spelled out clearly by the distinguished panelists. We would like to stress the necessity of widening the network for focal points and strengthening national capacities for prevention. These will be critical to upholding the Responsibility to Protect. The work of the special advisors on the prevention of genocide, and Responsibility to Protect, will be pivotal and must be supported with necessary resources.

Finally, Mr. President, Ghana is a member of the cross-regional group that initiated the zero text of the resolution to commemorate the 10th anniversary of RtoP, and remains supportive of an open and transparent process of consultations with all member states that would enable us to arrive at a consensual approach to the RtoP and acknowledge issues that must be addressed in terms of implementation.

It is our hope that the next decade will witness closer engagement and progress for the sake of humanity. Thank you, Mr. Moderator.