



ITALY

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT**

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to thank you for convening this important debate and the Secretary-General for the advocacy he continues to provide through his annual reports. I would also like to commend the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect for their remarkable commitment to promoting the concept of R2P.

Italy aligns itself with the statements delivered by the European Union and the Group of Friends and would like to make some brief remarks in a national capacity.

The indiscriminate attacks against civilians by State and non-State actors committing unprecedented atrocity crimes we are witnessing today are a stark reminder that we need to strengthen our efforts and hold true to our responsibility to protect, honoring the principles enshrined in international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law.

The high incidence of atrocity crimes has contributed significantly also to the global crisis of forced displacement. There is an undeniable connection between the current massive flows of **refugees** and **migrants** and the failure to uphold the Responsibility to Protect and prevent mass atrocity crimes in many of the countries of origin of these desperate people. Since 2011 Italy has been facing unprecedented and steadily rising mixed migration flows on the Mediterranean central route. We are strongly committed to saving the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people who reach our shores, and we do not and will not forget that our first duty is to protect people.

This is also why Italy, as the top Western Group Troop-Contributing Country for peacekeeping operations, acknowledged the importance of the **Kigali Principles** since the moment they were launched. In fact, the Kigali Principles crucially extended the principle of the Responsibility to Protect to peacekeeping operations, making the protection of civilians their first and foremost goal.

We all know, however, that humanitarian action cannot be a substitute for political solutions. Courageous leadership, early response, investments in stability, and the broad participation of affected people and civil society play a key role in preventing and settling conflicts. In this framework, **prevention** and **accountability** are central.

Prevention is the pivotal word in the safeguarding of human rights: this is why we have supported from the very beginning the creation of early warning mechanisms, such as the Framework of Analysis, to detect abuses or violations. While wishing the best of luck to the new Special Adviser

Simonovic, I wish to assure our full support for his mandate and for his project to follow up and refine the Framework on the basis of empirical testing of risk factors and indicators in country situations where atrocity crimes have been committed.

My last point is that we should invest in the preventive power of justice by fighting impunity and promoting **accountability**. As Vice President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the **ICC**, we believe it would be important to discuss international criminal justice issues in the Security Council in a timely and comprehensive manner. This could include possible interaction with the Court and other Tribunals, always bearing in mind the different sensitivities at stakes, in order to provide inputs that can assist genuine domestic efforts, for example in the area of training and capacity building, and to address early-warning signs and actual crises.

Italy is ready to do its part as a member of the Security Council in 2017, by cooperating with the other Countries – members and non-members alike - to reduce the political divisions that impede decisive action to prevent or respond to a crisis. As the Secretary-General emphasized in his last report, the Security Council may “remain seized” of a matter, but unless concrete steps are taken this is of little relevance to suffering populations.

Thank you.