

Lebanon

Madam President,

this morning

We thank the panelists for their insightful presentations<sup>↑</sup> and welcome the timely report of the Secretary General.

Paragraph 138 of the 2005 Summit outcome document clearly committed member States to support the United Nations in expanding its capabilities for early warning and assessment of the four serious crimes referred to in the outcome document, namely: genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

As pointed out in the SG report, early warning does not always produce early action. However, accurate and timely early warning always precedes well-informed measures. Therefore, getting the right assessment is essential for better protection of the most vulnerable.

UN country teams, peace operations, programs and agencies operating on the ground could assist in providing firsthand information on events in the field.

It is essential for the UN system to strengthen its authority and capacity to compile and process the relevant information from across different relevant UN departments, agencies and other partners. Therefore strong coordination among relevant entities is required for a functional early warning system.

Each country has a specific historic background and political culture, which should be taken into consideration in the process of information gathering and assessment. Rather than relying excessively on general indicators, an effective assessment should rely on social indicators adapted to a country specific situation. The complexity of such a task requires a clear and reliable focal point.

The joint office proposed by the SG in his report could indeed play this role, bringing together early warning information that already exist within the UN system and make recommendations in cases of imminent risk of R2P four crimes.

It is important for the joint office to fulfill its role impartially, objectively and in a timely fashion. If early warning is the least controversial aspect of the R2P, many other aspects still need to be elucidated. ~~Thus the need to further clarify the R2P concept to avoid its future implementation in a selective manner,~~ which could threaten to undermine its legitimacy. The General Assembly remains the adequate forum for building consensus on how to implement this concept and how to enhance our collective responsibility not only to protect, but also to prevent from mass atrocities.

Thank you Madam President

of this concept