

Statement of the Russian Federation – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P

6 September 2016

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Thank you, Mr. Moderator. We take into account the most recent report by the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect. We note the continued promotion of this issue on specific country subjects, including Syria. The report confirms what many States confirm, that the danger for many citizens comes from their own government. Similar attempts to artificially simplify the situation in black and white terms cannot help but concern us.

In the report there is also a reference to the Libyan situation. As is known, the armed intervention into this country in 2011, under the aegis of protection led to serious worsening of the situation, an increase in civilian suffering, and undermining of the powers of state institutions. A continuation of this conflict led to a number of consequences, from a spread of weapons and instability throughout the region to the migration crisis in the Mediterranean. These and other issues in 2011, once again are recalling the lack of preparation in the decisions that were made in that period.

As a whole, the fragile consensus of 2005 was significantly affected. This example should have led us to think about the fact that there is something not right about this concept of RtoP and how it should not be used for one country's interpretation. It is to be regretted that in the report, there is no note of this issue, as well as the issues that took place in Libya.

In conclusion, we wish to stress that without an honest, multi-lateral analysis of what took place in Libya, both from the Secretariat and from States, discussing any further development of RtoP would be very difficult. Unfortunately, the experience of the previous years has shown that the interactive dialogues on RtoP lead further and further to a monologue of those who are proponents of the concept and who are very sensitive to any criticism of this concept. With this as the background, an increased value of the inclusion of RtoP into the official agenda of the General Assembly and the adoption of a resolution on this topic, for us, is not very clear. We have many more questions on the report but, unfortunately, during three minutes we would not be able to list them all.

I thank you.