

General Assembly Debate Statement: Russian Federation

Unofficial Transcription from webcast

We are grateful to the Secretary General on his report on the role of regional organizations in implementing R2P and we are also grateful to you for organizing today's event and the panelists and the information we heard this morning is generally very valuable and there are a lot of new elements for further discussions from this morning. Mr. President we are grateful that regional factors are increasingly important in today's world and that regional organizations have a better place to take the best decisions in the interests of their own regions. We think it is important to fully harness this potential in the humanitarian sphere. We support, in this regard, an active role of sub-regional and regional players in preventing mass atrocities against civilians by identifying incidents of gross violence. We welcome the progress made by regional organizations in regulating crisis situations. At the same time we believe that regional "*pacifists*" should not be used to try to whitewash certain paragraphs 138, 139 and 140 of the 2005 summit outcome, here global partnerships have a responsibility to protect in accordance with the UN Charter and to promote regional dialogue.

We believe that the premier responsibility for preventing genocide and ethnic cleansing belong to states. It is the states that primarily have responsibility for strengthening these preventative mechanisms. In this regard of particular importance and here many speakers have said this, is the development of instruments for early warning and prevention and developing preventive diplomacy and issues of diplomacy are very important. The international community must timely react and give its assessments of events and crimes committed by a given state. Unfortunately this situation doesn't always occur and assessments by the international community are not given or are very much delayed. It mustn't do this.

Everyone remembers three years ago when one of the neighboring states of Russia the authorities of the country in the night invaded a country with their forces and thereby set upon civilians and it is important to protect these civilians in that situation. Russia was forced to use its legitimate right to self-defense in accordance with Security Council Resolutions and to protect its peacekeepers. Mr. President, we also believe that states need significant support from the international community in stepping up their capacities. In our view it is important to strengthen the opportunity for states to independently address their concerns and to defend themselves. At the same time we shouldn't exaggerate the component of defense as an importance of timely decisive measures when there is a lack of resources and a state is incapable of protecting its peoples from preventing genocide and crimes against humanity. Military intervention must be the exception and in strict accordance with international law primarily the Charter of the UN.