

## SLOVAKIA

### **General Assembly informal interactive dialogue on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect *Mobilizing Collective Action: The Next Decade of the Responsibility to Protect* (United Nations, 6 September 2016 - New York)**

Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this interactive dialogue following the release of the Secretary-General's report entitled *Mobilizing Collective Action: The Next Decade of the Responsibility to Protect*.

While aligning ourselves with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union, there are a few remarks we would like to make from a national point of view.

We stress the need for the General Assembly to continue the consideration of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in line with the principles of the UN Charter and international law with a view to accelerate efforts for effective implementation of the principle.

Prevention is the foundation of the Responsibility to Protect. Thus higher priority must be given to early warning and prevention and other forms of peaceful settlement to address threats to international peace and security and promote peace and reconciliation. The prevention must be central across the 3 pillars of the UN work. The conflict-sensitivity must be increased across the whole UN system.

Peacekeeping operations with protection mandates are crucial when the host Government fails to live up to its responsibility to protect. With the increase of civilian deaths and the changing nature of conflict, we have to make peacekeeping operations more capable of protecting civilians and UN personnel in high-risk environments.

We have to strengthen our support for international criminal justice. The permanent International Criminal Court (ICC), based on the Rome Statute provides an important institutional deterrent by holding those individuals accountable who are „most responsible“ for mass atrocities.

Humanitarian needs are at their highest level since WWII and more than 60 million people have been displaced by conflict. Governments have to strengthen their commitment to obligations existing under international humanitarian law, international human rights law, refugee law and international criminal law.

Strengthening good governance and the rule of law. The Agenda 2030 for the first time integrated the issues of good governance, access to justice and public safety into the development agenda. Goal 16 of the SDGs gives an important emphasis on peace as part of

the approach to sustainability. Here, I wish to underline the importance of developing democratic, inclusive and accountable security institutions for the protection of civilians and the sustainability of the peace.

FINALLY,

We too are supportive of the proposals by France and Mexico and The “ACT” code of conduct aimed at helping to stop genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes. I should also like to express our support for the work of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.