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**Statement by H.E. Andrej LOGAR,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia
to the UN**

***at an informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on the Report
of the Secretary-General on the responsibility of protect***

6 September 2016

— Mr. moderator, Deputy Secretary-General, distinguished panelists ,

I would like to thank you for convening this informal interactive dialogue and the Secretary General for his final report on "Mobilizing collective action: The next decade of the responsibility to protect".

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

More than 10 years ago we the member states recognized the need to strengthen our efforts to prevent atrocity crimes and to protect all populations from ever facing such reality again. Now we the member states have to recognize the hard reality: we are still faced with images of widespread and systematic violations of human rights and the rule of law, armed conflicts and acts of violent extremism on a daily basis. And the consequences are disastrous: unprecedented humanitarian crises and the largest displacement of people in the recorded history.

It is the responsibility and the need for all states to meet their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law and to condemn any actions which go against norms and principles that safeguard humanity. But the obligations go beyond that - we have to do our utmost to prevent any such actions to occur again.

It has been stated time and again the need to improve the ability of the international community to take timely and decisive early action. While recognizing that this is the primary task of the Security Council, there is also a role for the UN Secretariat and other Member States. We therefore continue to strongly support the Code of Conduct presented by ACT group and French-Mexican initiative that call upon the Permanent Members of the Security Council to agree to voluntarily refrain from using the veto in situations of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

To strengthen early warning and early action mechanisms more can be done at national and regional levels. We encourage the use of every tool available including the "Framework of Analysis for the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes" which can serve as an excellent guide for assessing risks, indicators and triggers of atrocity crimes. Slovenia has recently translated this prevention tool in our national language and is currently exercising awareness-raising activities for different target groups at national level. Human rights education has the same preventive function and can go hand in hand with this kind of awareness-raising. We stand ready to share our best practices and initiatives.

It is also of utmost importance to prevent conflict recurrence and to ensure accountability for all crimes. We continue to express our support for the work of the International Criminal Court as well as regional and state mechanisms to counter impunity.

Coordinated action and preventative measures requires closer and stronger links between nations but also within the UN system. We therefore welcome the growing network of R2P Focal points and encourage all states to join those 55 states and the European Union who already have appointed one. We also welcome the launch of the R2P Group of friends in Geneva, which will additionally contribute to the better understanding of the role Geneva-based institutions in prevention of mass atrocity crimes.

Mr. President, to conclude,

Slovenia once again reaffirms its strong commitment to remain an advocate of R2P and the wider promotion and protection of human rights. We support the inclusion of R2P to the formal agenda of the General Assembly.

We strongly support the efforts of the Secretary General and his team to improve the system-wide capacity of the UN to prevent and respond to serious violations of international humanitarian law, especially those violations that lead to genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity.

We would also like to recognize the invaluable contribution of the former Special Adviser on R2P Ms. Jennifer Welsh and express our sincere gratitude for her personal and professional engagement in not only strengthening the commitment to R2P but also mainstreaming R2P in the UN system. We also express our continuous support to the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Mr Dieng and the next Special Adviser on R2P Mr Šimonović.

I thank you.