

Statement by Chad at Security Council Meeting on: Threat to International Peace and Security:
Prevention and Fight Against Genocide

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(Unofficial Transcript)

I thank you, Madam President, for having convened this meeting of the Council on threats to international peace and security and the fight against genocide. I also thank Mr. Jan Eliasson and Ambassador Colin Keating for their statements.

The world is commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, which cost more than 800,000 human lives. It was a massacre that shocked the conscience of the entire world in its brutality and scope. Chad remembers all of those who lost their lives and expresses its support to the survivors and relatives of the victims who continue to seek the truth. Chad welcomes the efforts of the Rwandan Government and its reconciliation and peacebuilding policy, which has enabled the country to restore stability and pursue its economic recovery.

The world is increasingly threatened by conflicts within States arising from multiple and varied causes. Given its inability to end conflicts, the international community must use all the tools necessary to anticipate conflict and thereby prevent its tragic and incalculable consequences, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other types of atrocity.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) places the prevention of mass crimes — genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity — at the core of the responsibility of States to protect civilians. The lessons learned from the genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda call upon the entire international community to reconsider its means of action and capacity to act when faced with such mass atrocities. In that context, the international community should not only continue to assess the effectiveness of its measures, but also and above all to provide itself with an early-warning mechanism to detect situations that are likely to lead to crimes on a mass scale.

While the genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda escaped the vigilance of the international community at the time, my country notes with great concern that, unfortunately, the latter remains powerless in the face of mass crimes perpetrated in some parts of the world.

Although the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic Operation Sangaris has saved thousands of lives and set in motion a stabilization process in Central African Republic, the international community remains paralysed when it is faced with other situations of grave violence perpetrated against civilian populations. Confronted with large-scale atrocities, States — and the United Nations — must above all meet their responsibilities to end them before it is too late.

Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in a statement he made at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, said,

“We have little hope of preventing genocide, or reassuring those who live in fear of its recurrence, if people who have committed this most heinous of crimes are left at large, and not held to account. It is therefore vital that we build and maintain robust judicial systems, both national and international, so that, over time, people will see there is no impunity for such crimes.”

We therefore cannot speak about reconciliation or lasting peace in Rwanda without raising the question of justice for the victims and their families and the impunity that certain perpetrators of genocide and their accomplices enjoy. Indeed, only an independent and impartial justice system can make a significant contribution to healing wounds and mending broken hearts. In that regard, we welcome the work done by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in arresting and prosecuting perpetrators of genocide and their accomplices. That initiative sounded the end of impunity and sent a strong signal to all those who might be tempted to commit mass crimes. The ICTR has shown that strengthening international criminal justice could go beyond playing a deterrent role to efficiently contributing to prevention.

The United Nations, whose principal role is the maintenance of international peace and security, must strengthen its cooperation with the regional and subregional organizations to be even more effective before, during and after conflict throughout the world. In that regard, we welcome the current partnership between the African Union and the United Nations and call for it to be strengthened. Concerted action between the United Nations and the African Union has allowed, despite the lack of resources and some difficulties in coordination, to contain and/or push away serious threats to peace at various levels in certain African countries, including Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, to cite but a few.

In conclusion, we believe that the Security Council should react with urgency in the event of mass crimes based on its responsibility to protect. The resolution that we have just adopted (resolution 2150 (2014)) translates, we hope, our shared determination and will to continue to fight against the crimes of genocide and serious violations of human rights.