

STATEMENT BY MR. JUSTIN N. SERUHERE, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING THE INTERACTIVE DEBATE ON EARLY  
WARNING AND ASSESSMENT AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT.

NEW YORK, 9 AUGUST 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Secretary General

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this crucial subject The Responsibility to Protect. My delegation and I congratulate you for your election to preside over the session. Indeed, we express our profound appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening the dialogue. I wish at the outset, to pledge our unreserved support to your task and I am confident that with your vast diplomatic experience and skills, you will guide these deliberations to a successful conclusion. We welcome the report of the Secretary General on the matter. It deserves full support and attention by all people who care about the sanctity of life.

Mr. Chairman

The United Republic of Tanzania is fully committed to the Responsibility to Protect civilians of all walks of life from the politically orchestrated vices namely: genocide, ethnic cleansing, and all violations of international law, international humanitarian law, war crimes and all crimes against humanity whether in armed conflict situations or beyond. The argument of acting under the pressure of war-orders from superiors is alien to us.

Mr. Chairman

Since the Responsibility to Protect evolved with the waging of wars in which civilians – especially those considered by warring factions as belongings to army camps, it is only prudent that the causes of war, conflict and hostilities be addressed. That way, the Responsibility to Protect will be eased. Responsibility to Protect tends to address the tail-end of the problem, but “prevention is better than cure”

The twin concepts of “Early Warning and Assessment is correspondingly fitting with the function of “prevention”, and by extension – the Responsibility to Protect.

**Mr Chairman**

Who is best placed to undertake the Responsibility to Protect? All wars, armed conflicts and hostilities have actors qualified as leaders, fighters, and supporters on opposing sides. They know the existence of defenceless civilians in their areas of operations. Pursuant to Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter as well as paragraph 138 of the 2005 Summit Outcome Document, they have the responsibility to protect all populations including their captives from genocide, ethnic cleansing and must not commit crimes against humanity or war crimes against them. My delegation is convinced that war actors are aware of consequences of their actions but lack of the moral ground to protect. /

**Mr Chairman**

Very often, all wars and conflicts including in the African setting are witnessed by neighbouring countries, most of whom are organized in sub-regional organizations. These organizations can act in the interest of peace and security for their nations and the entire sub-regions to stop the wars and assist refugees and internally displaced persons to access their lands and properties, on behalf or in collaboration with the Regional Organization and the United Nations. Experience has shown that conflicts are contagious and their effects reach beyond their national borders.

**Mr. Chairman**

In the Great Lakes Region of Africa – a pact known as “The Pact on Stability, Security, and Development was reached to address the causes and consequences of conflicts and ensure the protection of populations from the scourge of war. To achieve that not only were binding protocols instituted but a centre for Democracy Governance and Human Rights and Civic Education has been established with various monitoring posts to forewarn of any looming conflict. In that regard, such arrangements will go a long way in assisting the UN, the donor community and all affiliated institutions. We encourage other sub regional organizations to take advantage of the existence of these institutions and arrangements in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

**Mr. Chairman**

Under the Great Regions Pact on Stability , Security and Development the result of “Early Warning and Assessment” are reported to the Secretariat which in turn addresses the matter in its own capacity or brings up for the attention of a Council of Ministers and eventually, to a Summit which can be convened at a short notice in case of emergency.

Mr. Chairman

I have brought up the example of the Great Lakes Region to illustrate how sub-regional and regional organizations can assist the United Nations and the International Community in implementing the Responsibility to Protect. IN our view, such Institutions should be assisted and strengthened to ease the work of the United Nations and the International Community. They could prevent or remove any potential mistrust by member states of any would-be intervening parties.

Mr. Chairman

In conclusion, let me say that no party to any conflict should evade the Responsibility to Protect. Peacekeepers likewise have the responsibility to protect civilians in their areas of mandate. This will not only contribute to the success of their missions but also help to boost the image of the United Nations.

I thank you.

