

## **Statement of Turkey – Informal Interactive Dialogue on R2P, 6 September 2016**

[INFORMAL TRANSCRIPTION]

Mr. Moderator, we have aligned ourselves with the EU statement. The following remarks will be in our national capacity. We thank the President of the General Assembly for organizing this meeting. The responsibility to protect has yet to become an established norm of international law, its scope and application need to be defined and developed.

Yet, the international community discussion of its application and the complimentary humanitarian aid is encouraging. RtoP establishes a delicate balance between humanitarian concern and the principle of national sovereignty. Therefore, balanced proposals for RtoP and sovereignty become all the more important in order to achieve the widest consensus among the membership. We believe that preventive policies and mediation efforts should have a prominent role in this regard. It is understanding the attached political importance of preventive diplomacy and how it works for the effective peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. Moderator, the initiative of RtoP should be based on the widest possible consensus of the international community. Open parameters for application also need to be determined. These talks should not be driven by attempts to revisit or negotiate the well-established principles of international law but also the existing legal framework on the crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. RtoP is not only related to Chapter VII of the UN Charter, it's also related to humanitarian and human rights law. Therefore, it should be applied with the close collaboration of the Security Council and the General Assembly in a defined manner.

In this context, we hope the discussions on RtoP and its application will pave the way for restricting the veto powers of the permanent members of the Council in matters related to crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide. On the other hand, RtoP should still take into account populations escaping from these crimes to neighboring countries. In this framework, the scope of RtoP should also cover the populations such as refugees or asylum seekers. Also, from the perspective of burden sharing.

I thank you.