

STATEMENT OF NIGERIA

BY

E. K OJO, *fdc*
MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE

SIXTH INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: FULFILLING OUR COLLECTIVE
RESPONSIBILITY: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

Mr. President,

The Nigerian delegation welcomes the United Nation's Secretary General's Report themed "Fulfilling our Collective Responsibility: International Assistance and the Responsibility to Protect", which addresses the second pillar of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The Report is very incisive and stresses the need to support member nations to be able to actualise their responsibility to protect their citizens from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mr. President,

The world today is faced with diverse security challenges which tend to threaten the right to life and freedom of movement and association. R2P is apt, based on humanitarian and human rights law, representing a global conceptual and policy shift in the notion of sovereignty and security. Recent experiences around the world lend credence to the need for the global acceptance and successful implementation of the Responsibility to Protect. Therefore, today's debate should focus on strengthening the capacities of member nations through training, financing and equipment, to protect their citizens from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Emphasis should be on prevention rather than intervention. The International Community must assist

states with capacity building in areas of the rule of law, good governance, security sector reform to enable them exercise their responsibility to protect.

Mr. President,

At Regional and sub-regional levels, Article 4(H) of the African Union Constitutive Act underscored the position of Africa on the imperative nature of R2P while ECOWAS has been committed to the spirit of R2P even before its initiation. ECOWAS Protocol on Mutual Defense Assistance signed on 29th May 1981, in Sierra Leone and interventions by the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia in 1990, assisted in curtailing the carnage in those countries.

Mr. President,

The Regional Policy Forum on the Responsibility to Protect which was held in Abuja, Nigeria from 11th - 12th June 2012 underscored the need for further conceptual clarity of R2P. It also sought clearer definitions of the roles of regional and sub-regional organisations in the implementation of R2P and solicited strategies to encourage political will and cooperation among member states of R2P. It made proposals for the effective national and regional mechanisms for dealing with perpetrators of mass atrocities, supported capabilities to ensure appropriate national and regional responses to mass atrocities and canvassed

effective tackling of emerging threats in a pro active manner, incorporating principles of early warning mechanism.

Mr. President,

Nigeria is determined to join hands with other member states to ensure a more effective implementation of R2P and calls for more support to assist regional and sub-regional organisations such as AU and ECOWAS respectively, as well as member states, to implement R2P.

Thank you.