

**Informal, Interactive Dialogue of the 70th Session of the General Assembly on the
Responsibility to Protect: Mobilizing collective action: the next decade of the responsibility
to protect**

New York, 6 September 2016

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

Background

1. The President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, convened an informal, interactive dialogue on the 2016 Report of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect: “Mobilizing collective action: the next decade of the responsibility to protect”, on 6 September 2016. The dialogue commenced with opening remarks by the President of the General Assembly and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson.

2. H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft opened the dialogue by noting that the meeting provided an important opportunity for the General Assembly to continue its consideration of the responsibility to protect, particularly with respect to advancing its implementation. He observed that there was growing consensus on key elements of the principle including that its scope was limited to the protection of populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; that the primary responsibility to protect populations lies with national authorities, that prevention must remain a priority for all States and the international community, and that implementation must take place in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other established principles of international law. He also alluded to areas on which there is a need for further discussion, including the relationship among the three pillars and the basis for undertaking collective action. He called for practical ways to overcome the obstacles that continue to limit our collective capacity to prevent and to respond to genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

3. The Deputy-Secretary-General reflected on how much has been achieved since the adoption of the responsibility to protect at the 2005 World Summit. This, however, has not prevented unconscionable brutality against civilians around the world, which continues calling for a full operationalization of the principle. In particular, the Deputy Secretary-General raised the need to further integrate a prevention agenda within national and regional frameworks for action, including by strengthening existing institutional capacities. He also encouraged Member States to maximize engagement at the early stages of crises, when the window of opportunity for effective prevention is wider. The Deputy Secretary-General emphasized the need to prevent recurrence by taking concerted action in support of national authorities, most specifically in areas connected to inter-communal dialogue, reform of the security sector, reconciliation and transitional justice.

4. The dialogue was informed by the remarks of a panel composed of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, and the two former Special Advisers on the Responsibility to Protect, Mr. Edward Luck and Ms. Jennifer Welsh. Mr. Dieng summarized the main points in the Secretary-General's report, paying special attention to four areas that require prioritization. Namely, the need to further develop and coordinate effective prevention strategies;

the imperative of ensuring timely and decisive response; the need to further prioritize prevention of recurrence; and the call for renewed institutional capacity. Mr. Luck called for an expansion of the 'political base' of the responsibility to protect, including strengthened action by the Security Council and by the General Assembly. In parallel, he asked for further involvement of regional and civil society actors in situations in which lack of decision-making by United Nations inter-governmental organs results in failure to respond to situations at risk. Ms. Welsh underlined three priorities to support the agenda for prevention. Namely, addressing barriers for preventive action; learning

efforts