



MYANMAR

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Statement by

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Deputy Permanent Representative

of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations on

Agenda Item 44 and 107:

**"Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit: report of the
Secretary- General"**

**in the General Debate of the 63rd session of
the United Nations General Assembly**

New York

23 July 2009

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his report on Implementing the Responsibility to Protect. Taken together with Secretary General's presentation on 21 July, his report outlines the scope of the specific activities that may need to be discussed during the debate. We are confident that by doing so, effective prevention and response to genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity could be ensured.

The concept of the responsibility to protect originates from tragedies occurred throughout the world after the 2nd World War. These tragedies were occurred in states where national governments failed to fulfill obligations to protect its own people. Therefore, the world leaders in 2005 at Millennium Summit agreed that when a state is manifestingly failing to protect its own citizen, the international community must act to halt or prevent such atrocities. They also agreed that it is a collective obligation and not an individual right to act.

And that obligation is not to intervene but rather to take timely and decisive steps to save human lives when such atrocities have occurred. It was envisaged that international community is obligated to act on four specified crimes and violations. They are genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. In accordance with the leaders' decision in 2005, their obligation does not apply to other calamities such as HIV/AIDS, climate change or the response to natural disasters.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General has rightly noted in his report and presentation that the R2P has a clearly delimited scope. The norm cannot be used to address all social ills but rather is narrowly focused on prevention of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. While prevention is at the heart of the concept of the R2P, states may invoke R2P rationale for intervention of international community when prevention fails. As such, the Secretary General suggest in his report that the General Assembly focus attention on ways to develop strategy in implementing R2P to define what are to be protected and what are not to be . In this context, my delegation wishes to express our view that the General Assembly is indeed the right venue for such a dialogue.

Mr. President,

The Secretary General in his report underscores that all member states which are serious about preventing atrocities should avoid any effort to renegotiate at a text already agreed by the world leaders in 2005. Therefore, finally, my delegation would like to state that we fully agree with the Secretary-General that it is important now for General Assembly to consider proposals and to determine how the United Nations can fulfill the commitments world leaders have made in 2005.

Thank you.