Statement

by

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Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations

Intervention by Thailand at the UNGA informal interactive
dialogue on the report of the SG on R2P:

Fulfilling our collective responsibility:

International assistance and the R2P

New York, 8 September 2014
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At the GA informal interactive dialogue
on the report of the SG on R2P: Fulfilling our collective responsibility: International assistance and the R2P
By PR
8 September 2014, Conference Room 3, Conference Building

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to express our appreciation to you for convening this informal interactive dialogue and also to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report which focuses on the Pillar II of Responsibility to protect. As invited to do so, Thailand provided inputs to the said reports. Allow me now to highlight certain key points as follows.

First, in many cases, it is the lack of capacity, not the lack of political will that prevents States from fulfilling their sovereign responsibility to protect its population. International assistance and capacity building is therefore essential to assist States in this regard. However, individual States need to identify priority areas that need assistance in order to properly develop its capacity.

Second, Thailand agrees with the Secretary-General that heinous crime prevention begins at the national and local levels. Respect, promotion and protection of human rights are effective tools to prevent mass atrocities. States need to understand their obligations under relevant international human rights instruments and have adequate capacities and resources to carry out their responsibility.

Mr. President,

In our view, various human rights mechanisms under the Human Right Council, such as, the Universal Periodic Review, technical cooperation and capacity-building under item 10 of the Council, can do much to help strengthen prevention capacity and should be fully utilized.

Thailand has invested heavily in building capacity for its national authorities and relevant bodies in human rights related fields. This is being done through a wide range of activities including raising awareness, civic education and duties, training programmes, exchanging best practices and lesson learned, at national, regional and international levels. We also value the constructive cooperation with civil society and NGOs whose specific expertise and networking can contribute to the building of the State’s capacity.
Third, women can play a crucial role in conflict prevention and conflict management. States should therefore focus more on women’s empowerment and provide capacity building support to enable them to fully realize their potentials. Here, let me take this opportunity to express our appreciation to UN Women for providing training programme for our female police cadets on gender sensitivity as part of our initiative to build capacity among women.

Fourth, regional mechanisms can contribute significantly to capacity building for States. The understanding of political system, culture and situation of countries in the region enables regional organization to effectively design capacity building programmes that best fit the profiles and needs of States that require assistance. Each State needs to exert its utmost efforts to implement each targeted area. National ownership is key to success.

Regional Organizations and the UN should develop systematic capacity building programmes in relevant fields and make such programmes widely known. This will help in matching demand and supply for training programmes. Training and capacity-building needs assessment as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanism in order to reach optimal outcome for all parties involved.

Last but not least, Thailand would like to reiterate that international assistance and capacity building for States should be based on constructive engagement and consent of the host government. It should not be an imposition of values or pretext for interference into a State’s internal affairs.

Thank you Mr. President.