



Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations

**Interactive Dialogue of the UN General Assembly
on the Responsibility to Protect
New York, 8 September 2014**

**Statement by H.E. Edita Hrdá,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN**

The Czech Republic wishes to support the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

We warmly welcome the report of the Secretary General and wish to appreciate the efforts by Professor Jennifer Welsh as the Special Adviser on Responsibility to Protect in promotion of RtoP, as well as those of Adama Dieng, Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide, and the work of their Joint Office

The Czech Republic largely concurs with the report and its analysis of Pillar II. It presents a solid overview of means at disposal of international community in capacity building, assistance and prevention. We fully support the prominent link made between building stable and inclusive societies and prevention of atrocity crimes. Good governance, respect for human rights and rule of law are in our view essential components of resilience. Yet the beneficial effects of these are difficult to measure and, as the Secretary General rightly reminds us, States tend to be reluctant to put a country situation on United Nations agenda, unless the crisis has already escalated. Human rights violations, disfunctioning State institutions or ignoring minority groups are frequently deemed insufficient to conclude that there is a growing risk for the country to sink into a spiral of violence, which often leads to atrocities covered by RtoP. This is all the more unfortunate as we see such scenarios materialized as we speak. Therefore we think it most opportune that the report invites us to pay greater attention to what UN institutions specialized in human rights monitoring are saying, with the Human Rights Council, its special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review in the forefront.

The Czech Republic also welcomes that the report looks at specific inhibitors of atrocity crimes in more detail, as our discussions on means of prevention often remain rather general. A professional and accountable security sector and independent and functioning judiciary are perhaps the most important of them. At the same time, both pose quite a challenge for effective international assistance in capacity building. Accountability of police and military forces depends heavily on real willingness of Governments to prosecute eventual trespasses, independence of judicial decision-making is only possible when Governments would not interfere in any manner. The international community therefore has to look carefully how best to

assist in these sectors not only by providing expertise, but also through motivating the respective Governments to appreciate the benefits of a well-functioning State, where all citizens feel they can access the administration, get justice and participate in decision making, including through fair elections.

In our view, these issues and RtoP as a whole merit inclusion on the formal agenda of the General Assembly. The tenth anniversary coming up next year offers a good incentive and we encourage States to endorse the proposal by the Secretary General. We also look forward to a thorough stock-taking of the implementation of all the aspects of RtoP on this occasion.

Thank you.
