



# **G E O R G I A**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze  
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations**

**Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the Secretary-General on  
the Responsibility to Protect: “Fulfilling our collective responsibility:  
International assistance and the responsibility to protect”**

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Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Today's discussions on effective implementation of the Pillar 2 of the R2P takes place at a challenging time for the international community: intense intergovernmental dialogue to form the international assistance programs for helping states to fulfill their commitments under R2P are taking place against the background of brutal armed violence, unrests and conflicts in Africa, Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Human rights, rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states - as both, prerequisites and incentives for development - are inseparably linked with prevention of acts of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This is where the R2P comes in by connecting the dots and making clear that peace and safety are important to everyone.

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document: "the international community, through the UN, also has a responsibility to use appropriate [...] means, in accordance with the Chapters VI and VII of the UN Charter to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity." Such involvement entails thorough consideration and timely action. In this regard we would like to voice our support for the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect. Their office should be encouraged to continue to mainstream R2P within the UN Secretariat.

We would also like to stress that with regard to the R2P, international community should pay special attention to the human rights of women and children in crisis areas, as they often suffer the most and their misery is overlooked, with a far-reaching human, social and economic consequences.

Besides international organizations, donor countries should also be encouraged to support countries and programs that seek to enhance prevention and protection of populations from crimes and violations related to the responsibility to protect. As a country that in the last two decades has been exposed to the problem of IDPs and missing persons as a result of armed conflicts, Georgia knows too well how difficult it is to recommence development after a period of discord and conflict. In such occasions, humanitarian assistance, impartially provided, could be of critical importance; assistance in maintaining security, whether through military, police or civilian personnel, could save lives and develop conditions of safety in which negotiations can be held.

We would like to reaffirm the importance of resolute actions by international community to provide sustainable assistance for the restoration of peace in post-conflict situations that give rise to mass atrocities and require such assistance, and allocation of the necessary funds to assist with the reconstruction of countries emerging from the crises of conflicts.

There is a common element in diverse efforts to help States help themselves: they largely depend on civilian, not military, expertise and presence. In responding to situations relating to the responsibility to protect, police and civilian components may sometimes be particularly vital given the priority tasks of restoring order to, and rebuilding confidence in, societies undergoing domestic chaos and strife.

As a conflict affected country, Georgia is also in urgent need of international oversight of the enforcement of the R2P and international involvement in the protection of civilians in the Russian occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia.

In 2009 at the Security Council Russia vetoed the extension of the mandate of the UN monitoring mission in Georgia. Preceded by the cessation of the OSCE mission, it created a total vacuum of international presence in the occupied regions of Georgia. Such moves were obviously aimed at leaving as few international witnesses as possible to those illegal actions, which are taking place on the occupied territories and thousands of cases of human rights violations.

Unfortunately, as a result of artificially imposed obstacles, the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) – the only international monitoring mechanism of a kind in Georgia – also lacks the possibility to thoroughly implement its mandate and monitor the security and human rights situation inside the occupied regions.

In concluding, we would like to once again reaffirm that human development can only be achieved in conditions of peace, respect of human rights and sovereignty of states. It is essential to discourage and counteract all elements that have the potential to generate mass atrocities such as inequalities, discrimination, social, cultural, political or religious constraints; and the role of international community is essential in preventing such violent outrages.

Therefore, based on our own experience and also on the fact that the relevant resolutions aimed at reducing violations related to the R2P have often been blocked at the Security Council, we would like to raise our voice in calling upon to the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council to agree to a voluntary restraint on the use of veto in situations of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in order to make R2P implementation more effective and not dissuasive.

I Thank You.