



Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations

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Statement

by

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at the

**United Nations General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)
and the Prevention of Genocide, War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes Against
Humanity**

United Nations
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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Czech Republic **aligns itself** with the statement of the EU and the **Group of Friends of R2P**.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General António Guterres for his valuable report and commitment to implementation of the agenda of R2P. We broadly share your conclusions. As member of Group of Friends of R2P, **the Czech Republic remains fully committed to R2P**. We call for a full and consistent implementation of all three pillars according to paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. The Czech Republic stresses the need to prioritize and to meaningfully invest in prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Let me thank Finland and Mexico for having recently convened the 8th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points, as well as the Global Centre for R2P for their hard work. In line with the SG's report, **we encourage all Member States to appoint their national R2P Focal Points** and join the growing Global Network of R2P Focal Points.

All Member States must **uphold their obligations under international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law**, which underpin the commitment to the Responsibility to Protect. We condemn the growing number of deliberate attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers, journalists and peacekeepers, hospitals, schools, places of worship or cultural sites.

The Czech Republic **stresses the need for the Security Council to act effectively and consistently when faced with mass atrocity situations**. In this regard we welcome the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group's Code of Conduct regarding the Security Council action against genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity, and the French and Mexican Declaration on voluntary restraint on the use of the veto by the Permanent Members of the Security Council to support a timely and decisive action by the Security Council to prevent atrocities.

Ensuring **accountability** for mass atrocity crimes is one of the best ways to prevent their recurrence. National accountability efforts should be strengthened **since it is the States that have the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute crimes committed within their jurisdiction**. The International Criminal Court remains the most important institution in the battle to end impunity for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The **Czech Republic continues to support the International Criminal Court** and provides financial support for accountability mechanisms established by the UN, including the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism established by the UN General Assembly to assist in the investigation of atrocities in Syria.

The Czech Republic is concerned that sexual and gender-based violence is increasingly employed as a deliberate strategy by state and non-state perpetrators. **The Czech Republic remains determined to help combat sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict**

countries. In the partnership with non-governmental organizations the Czech Republic implements projects aimed at preventing sexual violence and abusing women and girls, including setting up centres for the marginalized and abused girls and IDPs health care and hygienic needs in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, South Sudan, Iraq as well as in Pakistan, Jordan and Bangladesh.

Mr. President, as **a candidate country to the Human Rights Council**, the Czech Republic remains committed to the R2P. We encourage the preventive role of the Human Rights Council in accordance with its mandate. **We stress the important role that Geneva-based institutions and mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review and Special Procedures mandate holders,** can play in preventing and responding to mass atrocity crimes, as well as the importance of regular UNSC briefings on mass atrocity situations by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mr. President, let me assure you that the Czech Republic is ready to explore all possible ways of how to translate the R2P concept into concrete actions.

Thank you, Mr. President.