

7th Forum on Minority Issues

Intervention of the Delegation of Mexico in the session on the improvement and prevention of violence and atrocious crimes.

Geneva, Switzerland, November 25, 2014.

Mr. President,

My delegation considers appropriate the discussion about the methodologies for assessing existing risks and the mechanisms for early warning, and in particular the means of communication and the exchange of information at the national, regional, and international level to prevent in an effective manner and at an early stage the occurrence of violence. This is linked to the collective nature of responsibility that the international community has to contribute to the safeguarding of definitions of acts considered as international crimes, that given their nature and seriousness, threaten peace and international security, just as it was signaled in the most recent report by the Secretary General on the second pillar of the responsibility to protect (S/2014/3449). The UN should function as the focal point of assistance for States in matters referring to the second pillar of the responsibility to protect.

On the other hand, the Action Plan “Rights Up Front,” which seeks the full protection of human rights through the coordination of the whole UN system, can function as an important mechanism of early warning and prevention. This initiative represents an opportunity to bolster the capacity of entities and structures of the UN system to act in a coordinated, preventative, and immediate manner when it confronts situations of conflict or other massive atrocities, including against minorities.

Mr. President,

The Council on Human Rights is an ideal entity to promote the dual cooperation between the States and the international system, and to give technical assistance that results in the strengthening of national structures, and promote in this manner the resilience of society as an important mechanism of protection. The Special Proceedings of the Council and its Mechanism for Universal Periodic Review, as well as the Treaty Bodies, are key tools to identify human rights violations that could constitute risk factors towards massive atrocities, as well as to find early and opportune solutions, or contribute towards solutions within the work of other UN entities, such as the UN Security Council.

On the other hand, it is also important to highlight the key role that regional organizations play and the alliances between neighboring countries, both of which could undertake important work as early warning mechanisms in the prevention phase since they are more familiar with the situation and risk factors. In this sense, we welcome the recommendation of the Secretary General for the necessity to

develop a more extensive and effective collaboration between regional organizations and global ones with the goal of implementing the responsibility to protect.

Mexico considers that this collaboration between regional and international organizations is crucial for peacekeeping operations and stabilization missions. The mandates of the great majority of peacekeeping operations include in an explicit manner the protection of civilians. We consider that an ideal way to make the protection of civilians effective is to take advantage of the knowledge of the landscape that international organizations and regional and sub-regional alliances have, which can assist, along with the UN, in the concrete understanding of the risk factors involved in a determined country and the best strategies to neutralize these factors. Thus, a response to the crisis is not only achieved, but active work to prevent new crises is promoted.

For Mexico, the key is to achieve the full articulation of all the pillars of the responsibility to protect in the first stage of a conflict, when the risk factors are identified. We consider that technical assistance and the development of national capacities in the sphere of the Rule of Law are fundamental, through legislative harmonization and the strengthening of judicial institutions.