Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC): Community of Commitment, Community of Practice

2nd International GAAMAC Meeting

Preventing Atrocities by Strengthening National Atrocity Prevention Architecture

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WORKSHOP SESSION 3: Successes, challenges and dilemmas, lessons learned, needs and proposed action steps in supporting the development of national atrocity prevention architectures

TOPIC: Sub-regional initiatives as a support to national Architectures

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Introduction:

Regional and Sub-Regional organizations.

- Inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations.
- Promote peace, security and stability, among other initiatives.
- Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations recognizes this role.
- Various regional initiatives continue to emerge.
African Examples of Regional Initiatives:

- The ICGLR, ECOWAS, IGAD (CEWERU), EAC etc.
- Focus on early warning and early response, conflict management and prevention, disaster, etc.
- Membership and collaboration e.g. UN - OSAPG, GMU, AIPR etc.
- The ICGLR Regional and National Committee
Challenges:

• Political contexts of member states.
• Development of sub-regional arrangements Vs national mechanisms.
• Complications in implementation of regional initiatives Member State.
• Universal principals not central sub-regional initiatives.
• Failure of domestication of regional instruments.
• Weak partnerships between regional and national mechanisms/CSOs.
• Lack of complementarity between of justice and accountability.
• Prevention - the most under-resourced peacebuilding initiative globally.
Areas of improvement:

• Integrate confidence building measures in initiatives.
• Sustainable partnerships between regional mechanisms and CSOs.
• Promote strong cooperation across the Global South.
• Utilizing the political will of state leaders, where it exists explicitly, to implement long-term prevention strategies.
• Support and advocate to institutionalize national mechanisms.
• Support capacity building of national mechanisms and local stakeholders - training and other educational programs.
Conclusion:
The foregoing presentation leads us to four observations.

**One** - establishment of regional and national mechanisms and other initiatives for atrocity prevention is a positive development consistent with a number of distinguished international and regional principles and norms.

**Two** - cases of effective collaboration and support to national mechanisms to prevent local level atrocities remain very rare, with few best practices or lessons to learn from.

**Three** - there is urgent need to accelerate capacity building, networking and financial support for atrocity prevention as a global agenda and local priority in victim communities and other vulnerable situations.

**Four** - dialogue between stakeholders at inter-governmental and national levels can open the space for confidence building, more collaboration and sharing of information necessary for effective atrocity prevention, including development of relevant policies and legislations.