Building National Architectures for the Prevention of Mass Atrocities and Genocide

National and International Justice and Accountability Mechanisms as Keys to Prevention

a) What are the challenges today of building national architectures?

- Action at the national level is the most difficult, getting international and regional buy-in is easier
- Legislative support is necessary but very difficult
- Training for government officials, lack of education for many members of government on mass atrocity prevention issues
- Government and CSO cooperation is very important but sometimes difficult to work together harmoniously
- The issue of accountability is often a major obstacle to successful National Architectures for mass atrocity prevention
- How to sensitize the population to the need for a national mechanism for genocide prevention, this is a major challenge

b) What have we learned about building national architectures?

- Build as much capacity as you can within the national system for mass atrocity jurisdictions – not a good idea to specialize courts that only focus on mass atrocities and disregard terrorism and other transnational crimes...etc.
- Get what you can in the short term and don't be discouraged by not getting everything, often if you hold out for everything you get nothing – important to get concessions one at a time and build upon small victories
- Drawing in the cooperation of multi-national corporations is important
• Important to make use of multiple entry points (judiciary, military and security sector, political...etc.)
• When certain groups feel excluded from the peace process it can be very destructive to the whole process
• Very important that peace processes be all inclusive
• Need to consolidate current national architecture processes and include a constant review of how its working
• Legislative support very important for linking three branches of government in mass atrocity prevention efforts
• Important to include all group in national commissions of truth, even those groups that are not represented by CSO
• Awareness is the central pillar to prevention policies and activities
• Important to take a long term view and consider how to communicate with the public - historical clarification plays a huge role in this process

c) What could be the contribution of GAAMAC to address these challenges?

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d) Other specific and very relevant issue to be recorded?

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