

# **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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