

## Strengthening Partnerships and Co-operation

Day Three at GAAMAC2 began with the plenary addressing the challenge posed by Mr. Adama Dieng on the previous evening. Regional groups presented their proposals of what they would do to in terms of concrete action with regard to prevention of mass atrocity crimes. Mr. Dieng had announced a prize for the best proposal.

The first group to present comprised of participants from **African nations**. The African group informed their discussion drawing in the theme of GAAMAC2, with conversations around the challenges of national mechanisms. Their proposal involved the writing and producing a manual that described the establishment, guidance and management of national architectures.

The envisioned this as an African document and the process as consultative to bring on board experienced mechanisms to prevent genocide, especially at the local levels. They proposed creating this document over 12 months, by establishing a task group. They anticipate the steering group of this committee that sits regionally, meeting every 2 months to complete the task. They suggest a series of consultations and workshops to build a community of practice, engaging with partners that will execute these ideas at the national level. The manual will flesh out standard norms of compliance to prevention that can be implemented at the country level and provide guidance to each nation. At the same time, this manual would be flexible enough for each country to tailor it for their specific needs. The group hoped that it would receive input from other countries to formulate this “living” document.

The group of **Asian nations** was next to present their ideas, and it comprised of countries from west Asia (including Iraq), South Asia, South East Asia, and North Asia. This diverse group discussed what GAAMAC was all about and how they can work towards a national architecture. They established in their discussions that GAAMAC’s role as a loose network that was consultative. The proposed to return to their respective countries and each person would leverage their own network to raise awareness of GAAMAC. They also intended to establish a country profile developed by engaging all actors in the discussion and process, including national human rights institutions (NHRI’s), state actors, NGO’s and civil society. This country profile will include economic, physical, geographic, climate information as well as indicate conflict areas and legal infrastructure. It must indicate how many international standards are adhered to and what laws can be shared among the region. The regional collaboration would include the sharing of best practices, to understand what mechanisms have been established and bring these as recommendations. The Asian group had the idea to do things at a realistic pace to create sustainable and stable societies that will build on our humanity.

The **North American and European group** had joint discussions that focused on a dialogue and integrative commitment. They saw the need to exchange and dialogue at various levels, bilateral, multilateral and regional. They are existing mechanisms that can be leveraged, co-operation that can be stepped up and joint actions must be supported. The robustness of national atrocity prevention discussions must be amplified and the group identified a need to take the dialogue to the highest levels. The political profile of the discussion for the prevention of mass atrocities must be raised, including where atrocities have already taken place. Policies that are developed must cover the full spectrum- from prevention to reparation. They must include the ideals of R2P and address the symptoms of mass atrocities and build stronger resilience to withstand stress. Of course, all discussions must include the rule of law, good governance and the reduction of poverty.

The group from **Latin American** nations concentrated their efforts on the importance of regional recommendations. Latin America has the Latin American Network for Genocide Prevention that works within actively within the region, which can be a good starting point and example for other nations that are attending GAAMAC2. Regional tools are importance

as they explore common ground and a common past experience. It is important to foster regional initiatives to create national architecture, wherein each country can define what atrocity prevention means to each country. The regional structures can advance deeper discussions, which can be supported by parallel global discussions. The regional initiatives should meet more frequently, perhaps every six months and every focal point must share their experiences and learning. This along with organization of national level seminars will better inform national initiatives. The four major points proposed by the group were:

1. Use the Latin American Network of Genocide Prevention as a blue print and possibly include a variety of state and non-state actors, depending on the region. Foster regional initiatives and joint collaborations that are pillared in R2P
2. Promote dialogue among networks; regional networks with each other and regional and global networks as well
3. Promote state and civil society collaboration on specific ideas or themes and projects
4. Create a common curriculum for mass atrocity prevention as it is a difficult concept to explain and national contexts are varied. This should also include standardized training for government representatives and focal points on understanding the concept, vocabulary and tools of prevention