



CHAIR'S CONCLUSIONS

On the initiative of the Government of Belgium and with the cooperation of the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations, an International Conference on Genocide Prevention gathered in Brussels on 31 March and 1 April 2014, representatives of 125 States and of relevant regional and universal International Organizations, as well as academics, legal experts, representatives of civil society and Parliamentarians.

The participants discussed ways and means to rid mankind of the scourge of mass atrocities and genocides and reached understanding on an impressive number of elements.

The Brussels Genocide Prevention Conference can be summarized as follows:

65 years after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, marking also the end of the Holocaust, on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the twentieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, the participating States, regional International Organizations and the United Nations note that:

1. Genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity are the most serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law;
2. The International Community has made substantial progress in fighting impunity for perpetrators of crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. International legally binding instruments, like the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted on 8 December 1948 and the Statute of Rome, creating the International Criminal Court, remain the legal basis to punish the crime of genocide and to ensure that perpetrators of mass atrocity crimes are brought to justice;
3. The commitment by the Heads of State and Government, as reflected in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document, reaffirmed each state's responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement in accordance with the United Nations Charter;
4. International Human Rights instruments, in particular those related to the incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, play an important role in preventing mass atrocities;
5. Regional Mechanisms like Article 4h of the African Union Constitutive Act that empowers Member States to intervene in situations of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity; and the International Conference on the Great Lakes

(ICGLR) protocol on the prevention and punishment of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and all forms of discrimination, as well as the Latin American Network on Genocide and Atrocity Prevention and the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes, immensely contribute towards prevention and punishment of atrocity crimes.

Participating States, regional organizations, like the European Union and the African Union, as well as the United Nations remain committed to the implementation of relevant international legal instruments and of political consensus agreements, such as the Responsibility to Protect, and express their strong resolve to:

1. Sign, ratify and domesticate the above mentioned international legal instruments and implement the Responsibility to Protect;
2. Ensure that national strategies and policies fully respect the above mentioned international legal instruments, as well as political commitments;
3. Protect and promote the fundamental rights of all populations, including minorities, irrespective of their nationality, ethnicity, race or religion;
4. Take all necessary measures to prevent incitement to violence based on ethnic or religious hatred, including enacting specific laws that prohibit incitement and promote national cohesion;
5. Establish, as appropriate, in conjunction with the Focal Points for Responsibility to Protect, national Focal Points on Genocide Prevention to monitor information about present or future dangers of mass atrocities, and duly inform the national competent authorities on such developments;
6. Exchange such information with the regional organization of which participating States are a member, and thus establish a permanent network designed to inform, consult and take the appropriate decisions for political preventive action in priority, at regional level, while remaining in agreement with the UN Secretary General and the Security Council;
7. Collaborate closely with the United Nations Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect on building capacities, advocacy for prevention as well as information sharing;
8. Remind Member States that under the Genocide Convention, they have an obligation to take necessary measures to prevent genocide, which includes bringing such situations to the attention of the Security Council;
9. Encourage Governments to include atrocity prevention in school curricula;
10. Encourage and develop educational tools to raise awareness of young people and future generations on the fundamental importance of protecting human rights and the values of diversity, with special focus on the rights of minority groups;
11. Encourage research and publications that contribute to the prevention of atrocity crimes;
12. Participate actively in international, regional and national discussions on the prevention of genocide and other atrocity crimes;
13. Consider undertaking national assessments of risk and resilience and voluntary peer review assessments in coordination with regional partners;
14. Include the prevention of genocide as a priority item on the agenda of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly;
15. Remain seized of the matter.