



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Interactive Dialogue with the UNSG Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide

#HRC59 • 23 June 2025



#### PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE MANDATE

##### Ms. Virginia GAMBÀ, UNSG Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide

Ms. Virginia GAMBÀ strongly believes that the UNHRC remains a critical intergovernmental organ to advance efforts for the prevention of genocide and other atrocity crimes. This goes from building resilience and strengthening prevention institutions, to empowering protection initiatives, to reacting to situations in which there are strong allegations that international crimes might have been committed. Short and simple, the UNHRC is indispensable in the discharge of the **collective responsibility to protect**.

The mandate of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide includes **four key dimensions**, namely collecting information, conducting early warning, making recommendations for prevention, and working with the rest of the UN to strengthen its collective capacity to prevent. The mandate entails two clearly distinct yet connected **priority areas**. On the one hand, it requires conducting assessments on the basis of **risk factors and indicators** contained in the United Nations Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes. Elevating such assessments internally, conducting diplomacy aimed at prevention, and speaking publicly when the Special Advisor feels that such early warning can be conducive to alerting the world of the need to act. On the other hand, the work of the Special Advisor entails developing, supporting,



and sustaining **initiatives and programmes for prevention** with a range of partners within and outside of the UN. This also includes support of prevention initiatives led by the Special Advisor on the **Responsibility to Protect**, with whom the Special Advisor works in a joint office, and whose focus on conceptual development and consensus building will continue being essential to enhance the collective capacity to prevent. What the Special Advisor on the **Prevention of Genocide** cannot do is to conduct investigations or to take any legal determination of whether the crime has been committed. This determination corresponds only to fair, impartial, and independent courts of justice.

The **absence of accountability** constitutes in itself an indicator of risk, especially when venues for accountability for allegations of this crime are closed, be it because the crime has not been domesticated in a country's legal system, be it because the country has no access to international tribunals. Accountability is important for justice, but it is also essential for prevention. Also today, more than 70 years since its adoption, a significant number of member states have **not ratified the 1948 Convention** on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (hereafter referred to as 'the Genocide Convention'). The Special Advisor calls on all of them to take this step, and on all those who have ratified this cornerstone of international law to continue advancing towards its full implementation.

The mandate of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide was established more than 20 years ago. All member states unanimously adopted the responsibility to protect almost 20 years ago. However, the need for enhancing our **collective capacity to prevent** is today even more urgent than before.

In **Sudan**, the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continues to have a devastating effect on the civilian population as the war enters its third year. Thousands of civilians have been killed and over 10.5 million people have been displaced. Both parties have committed serious human rights violations. Of specific concern to my mandate is the continued and targeted attacks against certain ethnic groups, particularly in Darfur and Kordofan regions. The RSF and the Allied Armed Arab Militias continue to conduct ethnically motivated attacks against the Zaghawa, Masalit, and Fur groups. The **risk of genocide**, war crimes, and crimes against humanity in the Sudan remains very high.

In **South Sudan**, growing tensions between the ruling coalition of President Salva Kiir and his first Vice President Riek Machar, following violent clashes between South Sudan's People's Defence Forces and the opposition militia known as the White Army, is threatening to plunge the country into another cycle of civil war. Hundreds of civilians have been killed, including with ethnically motivated attacks. The labelling of ethnic Nuer as enemies is dangerous and can instigate violence against this group. It is important for the parties to immediately cease hostilities and recommit themselves to the revitalised peace agreement.

In the **Sahel region**, allegations of serious human rights violations allegedly committed by the national forces of Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali remain of utmost concern. Reports of killings of members of the Fulani ethnic group by **Burkina Faso's** army and allied militias near the western town of Solenzo in March 2025 is emblematic of the serious concerns in the Sahel region. The situation demands urgent action and attention.



The situation in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** remains precarious, with persistent intercommunal clashes across the country. Attacks of civilians by armed groups, especially in the eastern part of the country, when in recent months the escalating fighting between the Congolese armed forces and the M23 armed group has resulted in widespread civilian suffering. Violence is also being carried out along ethnic lines. Amid the ongoing fighting, hate speech and discrimination has surged.

The situation of the **Rohingya people** remains deeply troubling, marked by ongoing violence in Myanmar's civil conflict and worsening humanitarian conditions in refugee camps. In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, the humanitarian crisis in the refugee camps continues to deteriorate. Meanwhile, in neighbouring countries, rising nationalism and anti-Muslim sentiment have further endangered Rohingya communities.

In the **Middle East** is in a highly volatile situation, in which the most vulnerable continue to bear the most serious consequences of conflict. At a time of escalation of the ongoing hostilities between Israel and Iran, it is imperative that all possible steps are taken to open spaces for dialogue. The **horror in Gaza** continues impacting our collective conscience. The terrible events of 7 October 2023 will never be forgotten, and the continued suffering of the families of the **hostages** must be met with all our possible sympathy and support. Violence cannot be met with violence. Israel's sustained military campaign has since devastated Gaza, killing tens of thousands of civilians and destroying critical infrastructure. The scale of civilian suffering is staggering and unacceptable. The deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure, the widespread destruction, and the denial of humanitarian aid are of utmost concern. The Special Advisor further sees very concerning patterns of increased **anti-Semitism and Islamophobia** worldwide being exacerbated by this specific conflict. The Special Advisor calls for an immediate ceasefire and conditional release of hostages and the immediate restoration of humanitarian access.

In **Syria**, the Special Advisor has welcomed the positive steps taken by the interim authorities on investigating violations and improving the country's human rights record. However, the Special Advisor also raised concerns at reports of summary executions allegedly committed on ethnic or religious grounds in the country. She urges the interim authorities to develop and promote assurance of coexistence among communities.

On 11 July, the world will observe for the first time the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the **1995 Genocide in Srebrenica**. This was established by the UNGG in consideration of the essentiality of remembering the past to ensure that it is not repeated. In the region of the **Western Balkans**, however, the Special Advisor expresses over tensions along identity lines and persistence of denial of past crimes, including those committed in Srebrenica. This year, we also commemorated the 80th anniversary of the **liberation of the Auschwitz** extermination camp. Last year, we commemorated the 30th anniversary of the **genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda**.

All three tragedies have been met with empathy, sadness and support for victims and survivors. They have also been met with hatred, vitriol and denialism. **Genocide denial is real**, is detrimental to reconciliation and constitutes a risk for prevention. It must be addressed and countered. Hatred is expressed very often in the form of hate speech. Today, **hate speech**, which



has been a **precursor for genocide** in the past, is present in far too many situations, often targeting the most vulnerable.

We see it being directed against refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, accompanying them in transit territories and once they arrive at their destination. We see it being directed against **Indigenous peoples**, whose presence in their ancestral lands continues being challenged and who continue being attacked in spite of existing constitutional and legal protections. We see it against **racial, ethnic, national and religious groups**. We see it even against women. The protected groups under the Genocide Convention are all at risk. In 2019, the UNSG launched the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech.

As UN system-wide focal point on hate speech, since then the Office of the Special Advisor has continued to coordinate the **UN Working Group on Hate Speech**, allowing this forum to share information on good practises from the field, to develop policy and to promote peer-to-peer learning. The Office also continues to assist field entities in implementing the strategy. Today, 27 UN field presences have context-specific plans of action on hate speech.

Importantly, the Office of the Special Advisor launched in February 2025 an online course to build UN staff capacities to identify hate speech and counter it based on the 13 commitments of the strategy. The Office is currently supporting the Alliance of Civilisations' Office in developing a similar **course on antisemitism**. Just last week, we commemorated the International Day for Countering Safe Speech with a range of events at UN headquarters, bringing together many partners on addressing this issue.

At the **country level**, the UN can leverage its technical strength to support key constituencies in advancing prevention. The Office of the Special Advisor has led **engagement with religious and traditional leaders** and actors in the prevention of incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes, and with women in communities as strong contributors to atrocity prevention. The Office has also worked with **new and traditional media**, as well as with sport teams and athletes. **Education** has continued being a priority. The Office has developed a number of modules on genocide prevention, and it will continue striving to build capacities for prevention.

Advancing prevention also requires deepening partnerships with **regional and sub-regional organisations**. The Special Advisor particularly commends those organisations which have taken the step to designate focal point responsibilities in the field of atrocity prevention or the responsibility to protect, including the African Union, with the recent appointment of a Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and other Mass Atrocities.

In closing, the Special Advisor recalls that she has served in this mandate in an interim capacity for seven months, which has been an honour. This mandate was established in 2004 out of the lessons learned from the collective failure to prevent the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

## **REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS**

On **artificial intelligence and social media**, the focus of last week's International Day to Combat Hate Speech, which was a week-long event with many side events that Ms. Virginia GAMBA had the honour to lead in New York, already identified and demanded that official intelligence be used to identify and block hate speech. One line is on trying to find a proactive use of AI to block. The



other one is a much more in-depth research on the abuse of social media for misinformation and incitement to violence.

Regarding **civil society**, the Office of the Special Advisor works with all civil society organisations, religious organisations, and traditional leaders. There are joint action plans alongside guidelines. To mention one example among many, the West Balkan Social Organisations Networks on Genocide and Atrocity Prevention illustrates this work. Another example is a joint statement, assisting all religious leaders in Iraq to publicly condemn Daesh.

Following a UN system-wide approach, the Office of the Special Advisor works on **internal capacity-building** and with UN resident coordinators **on the ground**. There are 30 national committees and 30 plans of UN country task forces to identify and prevent hate speech to which the Office provides capacity-building. It also provides capacity on how to identify hate speech to all UN staff and leads the UN Working Group on Hate Speech and the Prevention of Genocide.

With regard to the **Alawites** in Syria and the situation in **Sudan**, the Special Advisor in her personal capacity and her Office have been personally engaged for the last six months with diplomatic actions. They are both trying to reach out to the RSF in Sudan and the new Syrian authorities. The government has invited the Special Advisor to visit to Syria and inspect all of the issues, in particular the situation of the Alawites.

On the link between **climate change and genocide**, the Office has identified four early warning indicators, namely hate speech; internal displacement; forcible deportation and repatriation of civilians; and climate change. Hence the Office has made the link as part of early warning.

In closing, the Special Advisor argues that statements alleging the **lack of action** by her Office in relation to **Gaza** are not true. According to the Special Advisor, it is misinformation or ignorance. It is not true because her Office's role is to provide internal advice to the UNSG himself to address the UN Security Council. In the last year, the UNSG has spoken out on the situation in Gaza in every single organisation.

The Office's external role also includes joint statements with key other agencies, which it has done. Lastly, the Office has no prerogative to determine the perpetration of genocide, but does work with the competent bodies of the International Court of Justice.

## INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

### Views Expressed by State Delegations

**Algeria** fully concurs with the Special Advisor's assessment that hate speech is not merely dangerous rhetoric. It is a weapon. Time and again, it has paved the way to genocide, by stripping entire communities of their humanity and justifying mass atrocities. Nowhere is this more tragically and visibly than in Gaza. For months, Palestinians have endured relentless bombing, mass killings, siege-induced starvation, and deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructures. This campaign has been accompanied by open incitement to genocide. Palestinians have been publicly referred to as human animals, their lives deemed worthless, their deaths celebrated. This is not mere rhetoric. It is incitement. States bear a legal and moral responsibility to prevent genocide and other atrocity crimes wherever they occur. This responsibility includes not only



refraining from supporting such crimes directly or indirectly, but also actively working to end impunity, uphold international law, and protect civilians. Silence or inaction in the face of unfolding mass atrocities is complicity. Media platforms bear serious responsibility. They must take urgent steps to prevent their services from being used to spread hate, incite violence, or justify atrocities.

**Armenia** welcomes this dialogue as an inclusive platform both for the UN system and beyond to offer solutions to fight hate speech, one of the precursing and troubling signs for targeting and violence against protected groups. Armenia attaches utmost importance to the prevention mandates and believes that they need to be further strengthened and adequately resourced. The unprecedented rise of the conflict and humanitarian crisis as well as mass atrocities and gross violations of international humanitarian law surely warrant reflection on the effectiveness of early warning and early action mechanisms. There must be better coordination with the bodies invested in human rights and responsibility as well as international security. The recent events in the various parts of the world have shown that prevention is essential. If hate speech is not curbed rapidly, it can lead to an irreparable act. Armenia remains unwavering its commitment to the prevention agenda as a moral duty rooted in human rights and the responsibility to protect future generations from the scourge of genocide, other atrocity crimes and serious IHL violations.

**Azerbaijan** states that genocide and atrocity crimes are often the result of long-standing impunity, hate propaganda, and failure to uphold the UN Charter principles. Timely and impartial response is essential to prevention, and prevention without accountability is incomplete. When atrocity crimes go unpunished, they create fertile grounds for recurrence. For over three decades, Azerbaijan endured grave violations of international law during the occupation of its sovereign territories. These violations included acts of genocide, widespread ethnic cleansing, and the forceful displacement of nearly one million Azerbaijanis from their homes. Addressing such egregious violations requires accountability and justice. Azerbaijan is of the view that accountability, in line with international legal obligations, is essential to ensure redress for victims, prevent recurrence, and uphold the credibility of international rules-based order. Azerbaijan is closely following the developments on the subject matter, and has taken concrete steps to ensure accountability by investigating and prosecuting individuals involved in the crimes against its population. These efforts underscore Azerbaijan's commitment to international legal standards and the rights of victims and their families. Without meaningful accountability, the cycle of impunity continues, undermining peace, reconciliation, and the very foundations of genocide prevention.

**Bangladesh** is deeply concerned that 77 years after the adoption of the Genocide Convention, the rates of genocide and other atrocity crimes continue to persist. Making reference to the forcibly displaced Rohingya mentioned in the report, Bangladesh draws attention to the fact that it has been providing shelter to 1.3 million Rohingyas for almost 8 years now – which has never been an option for the country. Yet again, Bangladesh did not close its borders when almost 118,000 Rohingya have entered the country from November 2023. Unfortunately, the reference has not only failed to appreciate the unwavering commitment of Bangladesh in this regard, but also hinted negativity based on unfounded and unsubstantiated grounds. Conversely, the perennial Rohingya crisis and their continued exodus to Bangladesh reflects the failure of the international community to prevent the decades-long persecution, systematic discrimination,



ethnic cleansing of Rohingya, and to ensure justice and accountability for such crimes. Genocide is not an isolated event. It is often preceded by decades of deep-seated hatred, abuse of power, discriminatory practises, violation of human rights. It not only results in the loss of country's life, but also leaves profound social, psychological, political scars on the survivors and future generations. It is imperative that the international community act before the genocide is committed.

**Bolivia** echoes the report's findings that genocide has always used selective systems of discrimination based on ethnic reasons, racial groups, or other characteristics. Bolivia fully goes along with the major concern about the use of social networks by political leaders and public figures to undermine democracy, disseminate misinformation, and promote hatred. The use of these technologies and information to disseminate information on the denial of genocide, which is an indicator of future genocides. While prevention and responses are clear, Bolivia is very concerned at how genocide is unfolding against the Palestinian people whilst the international community looks on. Bolivia urges the Special Advisor to place attention on this particular issue and to continue with her work and not to spare any efforts to fight against these crimes. Bolivia made an intervention and a statement before the International Court of Justice in the case of implementing the Genocide Convention in the Gaza Strip. As a state party to the Convention, Bolivia reasserts its very anti-colonial commitment against discrimination and illegal occupation, the right to self-determination, and denunciation of any possible genocide.

**Burkina Faso**, evoking the issue of the harm caused by misinformation on social media, agrees that this can trigger violence and discrimination and lead to genocidal acts. Domestic laws prohibit all forms of discrimination and provide for the strongest penalties for authors of the crime of genocide, which is why the crime of genocide is not subject to any statute of limitations under its domestic law. Furthermore, national courts prosecute and penalise systematically public incitement to discrimination and hatred for whatever reason targeting a person or a group of people. To conclude, Burkina Faso enjoins UN mechanisms to resort to official information sources of member states to avoid being consciously or unconsciously the relays of these criticisms. Venezuela rejects and energetically condemns the genocide which Israel has committed against the Palestinian people. How long will the world just remain a witness of the awful crimes committed by Israel against Palestine? How can you explain that the UN is unable to prevent and to halt a genocide? Venezuela hopes that this arena will contribute to the assessment of concrete actions to prevent genocide and prevent the suffering of millions of persons. In closing, Venezuela reiterates its solidarity with the Palestinian people.

**Cambodia** notes with concern that seventy-five years since the adoption of the Genocide Convention, the world remains haunted by chilling echoes of atrocities that could and should have been prevented. The report on the intersessional meeting<sup>1</sup> reminds us that in the digital age, hatred spreads at the speed of a click, and with it, the seeds of genocide can be sown in moments. We must not allow digital platforms to become a battleground for those who incite division, dehumanisation, and destruction. The states must uphold their solemn obligations

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<sup>1</sup> Intersessional meeting to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.



under international law to prevent and prosecute genocide in all its forms, whether whispered, in private, or broadcast across the digital sphere. Prevention is not its illegal duties, nor is it its expirations. Legal frameworks must be reinforced, eliminating mechanisms of denial and collective commitment to truth, justice, and memories made unburdening. As the Nuremberg Tribunal affirmed – ‘Acts against international law are committed by men, not by abstract unity, and only through individual accountability can prevention be delineated.’ Cambodia, bearing a scar of its own past, knows well the cause of inaction. Through the extraordinary chamber, it has pursued justice, exemplifies why our survivors and works toward reconciliation and non-repudiation. Cambodia underscores the importance of rapid, planned action in guiding efforts to distinguish incitement from legitimate expression.

**Cameroon** shares the concern with regards to the misuse of social media to disseminate hate speech, which are likely to trigger stigma, discrimination, and widespread violence. Cameroon has set up a legal framework to prevent genocide. Article 8 of the Military Justice Code sets out that military courts have jurisdiction for genocide, and Article 241 of the Criminal Code suppresses hate speech because these can be precursors and catalysts of genocide. Institutionally, mechanisms such as the National Commission for Prohibition of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, the CMPBM, and the National Council for Communication work actively to combat hate speech and promote peaceful coexistence. In September 2024, a national symposium was organised on peaceful coexistence and intercommunity conflicts, and more recently, in May 2024, the CMPBM renewed its partnership with the Civil Society Organisations to scale up awareness-raising campaigns. Cameroon reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the Genocide Convention and its availability to cooperate with all stakeholders in the mechanism and the mechanisms of the UNHRC.

**Chile** stresses that dehumanisation over social networks requires to put early warning systems in place. Hate speech online not only leads to genocide but can also be a direct catalyzer. In this respect, Chile draws the Council’s attention to announcements of restrictions on Palestinians online, which worsens the situation in Gaza and increases the risk for mass atrocities. At the same time, Chile condemns online anti-Semitism and offline, as detailed in the report, and this should never be justified. Furthermore, Chile recalls that UNRC Resolution 45/31 on the contribution of the UNHRC to the prevention of human rights violations grants a clear mandate to this Council and international mechanisms and fosters the adoption of a preventive approach to prevent atrocious crimes of genocide.

**China** recalls that genocide is a universally recognised serious international crime, a violation of the fundamental rights and conscience of humanity and a threat to international peace and security. Much of the recent history of the West is characterised by the extinction of Indigenous peoples and Indians in the US due to racism, racial discrimination and other legacies of genocide. China firmly opposes and condemns genocide and supports the UN in preventing and punishing the scourge. The international community has the responsibility to conduct comprehensive and partial and in-depth investigations of all forms of genocide in line with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter to hold the perpetrators accountable. China takes note of the reported use of social media by the Israeli government to incite hatred and of digital means to suppress the Palestinians. The current fighting in Gaza has caused a humanitarian catastrophe



but the US government has once again abused its veto power in the UNSC by exclusively blocking the draft resolution to reach a ceasefire without delay and to ensure the safety of Palestinian lives.

**Costa Rica** welcomes the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Genocide Convention – a celebration that should not be just symbolic, but also foster and encourage us to pool efforts to combat hate speech, particularly those that are disseminated in digital space. Digital platforms play a decisive role in reaching out to citizens. It is vital to strengthen international cooperation to enhance accountability and transparency in those platforms. Costa Rica firmly supports initiatives such as the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes, which incorporate preventive human rights-based approaches. Effective prevention requires robust alliances between states, civil society, international bodies, and private stakeholders. Nationally, Costa Rica has worked actively to amend its domestic legislation with international obligations stemming from the Genocide Convention and the Rome Statute. In closing, Costa Rica restates that prevention starts with political will. No society is immune from hatred, but we all have a responsibility to curb it before it is too late.

**Cuba** denounces the expansionist and aggressive policy of Israel that, with the complicity and support of the United States, threatens to exterminate the Palestinian population in the face of the lack of action of the international community. Israel is guilty for the commission of the murder of many people of the past 20 years who need humanitarian intervention. This has shown no interest now in protecting the Palestinian people from a massacre. On the contrary, in fact, they have become accomplices with supporting Israel. The double standards and hypocrisy cannot be more obvious. It is clearly demonstrated that the responsibility to protect humanitarian expansion amongst intervention only selectively and opportunistically show that powerful countries disregard the UN Charter and promote agendas for a change of regime and subversion in other countries, which are always in the south. Against the United States, will we ensure that they are accountable to be involved in the commercial financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the US? Every year, the UNGA criminally defines genocide in line with the various articles of the Genocide Convention. Cuba will continue to firmly oppose any genocidal act and support effective mechanisms for its prevention based on the strict respect for the international charter.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** supports the idea that the fight against genocide over social networks requires a global and proactive approach. Combining the deletion of dangerous contact, educating users, transparency of platforms and promoting positive contact, the DRC reasserts respect and the sacred nature of human life as enshrined in the Constitution of the Act of the European Union, the United Nations Charter, the African Charter of Human and People's Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention. The DRC, which decreed 2 August a Day of Congolese Genocide for economic purposes known as the GENOCOST, is faced with a succession of armed conflict and mass violence which has unprecedented brutality and this has deeply affected the civilian population particularly in the east of the country. The prevention of genocide requires a collective awareness of the role of social networks and actions to counter the spread of online hate. The DRC calls for the respect of specific obligations by states and digital companies when it comes to preventing genocide stemming from international law and ethical principles so as to create a safe and respectful space for the community.



**Egypt** reiterates its steadfast position with regard to the Palestinian cause, thereby renewing its commitment to preventing genocide based on the principles of rule of law and categorical rejection of the policy of collective punishment perpetrated against the Palestinians, or those practices leading to their eviction or expulsion from their land, or making their territories unliveable. In addition, Egypt recalls the decision of the March 2025 the Emergency Arab Summit to form a legal Arab Committee that looks into the possibility of considering the forced displacement of Palestinians outside their territories, their collective expulsion and making their daily conditions unliveable part of a genocidal crime. Insisting on the importance of states shouldering their responsibilities to protect citizens and people living on their territory from all forms of war crimes and crimes against humanity, Egypt also insists on the importance of all international efforts to combat genocide as grounded in state sovereignty, and making sure to tackle all forms of discrimination and impunity.

The **Gambia** commends the Office for this timely and forward-looking report marking 75 years of the Genocide Convention. The Gambia particularly welcomes its focus on the intersection of hate speech, digital technologies, and the prevention of mass atrocities being issues of growing and urgent global concern. It agrees with the report's call for enhanced cooperation, robust early warning mechanisms, and stronger accountability frameworks, including responsibilities for both states and digital platforms. As a state party to the Genocide Convention, the Gambia remains fully committed to the Convention's enduring promise of never again. In this regard, the Gambia's relentless pursuit of the genocide case against Myanmar before the International Court of Justice reflects our commitment to the pact under the 1948 Genocide Convention and highlights its universal character. It is indeed sad that 75 years after humankind committed itself to the wars never again, potential acts of genocide are unfolding before our eyes in Gaza. Yet we do nothing to stop it. This is a stain on our collective conscience. International law must be upheld consistently without exception. Selective application of legal norms only weakens our collective commitment to prevention and accountability.

**Ghana on behalf of the African group** thanks the Special Advisor for her invaluable briefing and her ongoing efforts to promote prevention through early warning systems, dialogue, and capacity-building support for her member states. The group reaffirms UNHRC Resolution 28/34, which emphasises the importance of early warnings and preventive action, accountability, and the responsibility of all states and the international community to prevent genocide and related atrocity crimes. The African Union has taken several measures and established mechanisms to prevent genocide. These include the annual African Union Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda, the AU Transitional Justice Policy adopted in 2019, the Continental Early Warning System, and the Panel of the Wise. The group calls on the international community to support national and regional initiatives that strengthen early warning and response systems and foster solidarity to ensure that the never-again promise becomes a reality.

**Iceland** notes that globally, we are witnessing a troubling escalation of discrimination and violence with irreversible consequences. The international community must work to prevent genocide. Indifference and inaction should never be an acceptable response when populations face the threat of genocide and other atrocity crimes. Disinformation and misuse of social media platforms exacerbate hate speech and contribute to polarisation. Ensuring that international human rights norms and standards are implemented in the digital realm can prevent the



dissemination of harmful messages. There is an urgent need for the integration of prevention and protection into peace processes. In line with the prevention of genocide and the responsibility to protect frameworks, Iceland urges all parties to prioritise the protection of civilians and take immediate steps to prevent further loss of life and engage in a solid political solution.

**Indonesia** urges the Special Advisor to give the crisis in Gaza the urgent attention it deserves. Palestinian civilians, including one million children, face an acute risk of starvation, epidemic disease, and death. Such suffering is not incidental. Israel's continued use of starvation as a method of warfare, the destruction of essential infrastructure, and the obstruction of humanitarian aid raise serious concerns of genocidal intent. Indonesia urges the Special Advisor to examine this situation, including the role of third-party states whose complicity contributes to the impunity that enables Israel to carry out such violations. In 2024, the former Special Advisor warned that dehumanising rhetoric fuels violence, and that political leaders have a special responsibility to diffuse tensions rather than inflame them. This warning is clearly relevant to the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, where such rhetoric has preceded and accompanied an act of extreme violence. Moreover, OHCHR's report outlines the resentment towards Rohingya refugees in several destination countries underscores the urgent need for collective action, including in the region, by both states and tech companies to address online hate speech and incitement to violence, and to ensure digital platforms uphold human rights.

**Iran** denounces a report against the Palestinian people. The use of starvation, forced displacement and indiscriminate bombings qualify as genocide under article 2 of the Genocide Convention. The American-Israeli axis of aggression has expanded its campaign beyond Palestine. The long history of Iran is marked by invasions, trials, and wars, but equally by resistance, resilience, and ultimate victory. Time and again, our nation has stood alone against great injustice, and yet it has endured and prevailed. This moment will be no different. Just as Iran has resisted the campaign of genocide against Palestinian people, Iran will continue to stand firm against the American-Israeli axis of aggression targeting our sovereignty and regional stability. Their campaign will not break our will. They will only strengthen it. Those responsible for these crimes will be held accountable, just as others who transgressed against Iran throughout history and faced justice. Iran is not a nation that surrenders to force. It is a nation that resists. Iran will overcome and will resist until our last breath and until the last drop of blood.

**Iraq** has undergone the throes of genocide, be it at the hands of the former regime or be it at the hands of the nebulous terrorist group of Daesh. Digital means were indeed instrumentalised to fuel hate and hate speech and commit crimes against minorities. Iraq voices concern at the exploitation of social media for hatred incitement purposes and racial hatred purposes. Certain sites, particularly the rights of Palestinians, have been gagged, and that can be tantamount to a crime of genocide. Iraq firmly criticises the awful situation gripping the people of Palestine in Gaza - be it in their daily lives or in just the fact that some of their rights have been denied, and that can be tantamount to genocide.

**Kuwait** reaffirms its commitment to the principles of international law and the fight against all forms of genocide and crimes against humanity, as confirmed by its ratification of the Genocide Convention in 1995. The State of Kuwait expresses its deep worries concern over the suffering of Palestinian civilians exposed to a military operation on a massive scale with the choice of



imposing a total blockade and preventing the delivery of humanitarian aid as well as proceeding with the massive systematic destruction of infrastructure. Looking back at the suffering of the Rohingya population, we see serious violations and behaviour that can be qualified as genocidal acts, as outlined in the report by the Fact-Finding Mission. Kuwait reiterates the need to fight and prevent genocide crimes, impose compliance with international law, and preventively fight against genocide acts. It is essential that the international community act immediately to prevent injustice, protect civilians, and ensure accountability also.

**Malawi** reaffirms its commitment to the Genocide Convention, whose principles - seven decades later - remain vital. Yet today's global landscape, marked by rising hate speech, xenophobia, armed conflicts, and systematic discrimination, poses grave challenges to genocide prevention. The alarming escalation of identity-based violence, mass atrocities, and the weaponization of social media to spread divisive rhetoric demand urgent, coordinated action. Malawi emphasises the need for robust early warning systems, stronger accountability mechanisms, and international support for states at risk. As a state party, Malawi is strengthening legal and policy frameworks to combat incitement and protect vulnerable groups., Calling for renewed investment in education, reconciliation, and digital governance to counter hate-fuelled disinformation, Malawi urges enhanced global solidarity to address root causes of conflict, including inequality and political instability. The world must not fail its moral duty. Prevention cannot wait.

The **Maldives** agrees with the Special Advisor that new technologies, including social media, have played a significant role in the dissemination of hate speech and incitement to violence that result in genocide. Preventing genocide requires early and proactive intervention by the international community. History has shown that delayed action has repeatedly failed to prevent genocide. Regrettably, the international community has once again failed to take any preventative measures to stop the ongoing genocide being committed by Israel, despite the ruling of the ICJ. Strongly condemning Israel for promoting hate speech and the use of dehumanising language against the Palestinians, the Maldives reaffirms its commitment to the Genocide Convention and underscores the importance of promoting truth and accountability, both online and offline. Through active multilateral engagement, the Maldives has intervened in ICJ cases, South Africa versus Israel and the Gambia vs. Myanmar, advocating for the protection of vulnerable populations. Recognising the influence of digital platforms in shaping public discourse, the Maldives stresses that social media companies have a moral obligation to enforce their policies consistently and without bias, including taking effective actions to de-amplify hate speech that fuels genocide.

**Namibia** recalls the genocide unleashed by the German colonial government on Namibia 121 years ago, from 1904 to 1908, when approximately 100,000 people were massacred during that period. On 28 May 2025, Namibians gathered to commemorate the first genocide of the 20th century, perpetrated against the Namibian people, in particular the Ovaherero and Nama peoples, by the German Imperial Forces. As an occasion of extraordinary historic significance, the commemoration of the event was held at the Parliamentary Gardens, next to the Independence Memorial Museum, which is built at the site of one of the concentration camps where victims were persecuted and executed. The event was attended by descendants of the Ovaherero and Nama genocides. The proclamation and commemoration of Genocide



Remembrance Day is not merely a symbolic act, but it signifies the beginning of an important journey of healing, reconciliation, and reparation. Namibia supports ongoing efforts to promote prevention of genocide through early warning systems, dialogue, capacity building, and equally important is the payment of reparations to victims of genocide. The long-term psychosocial, economic, and cultural effects of this genocide on our people lingers to date.

**Oman** regrets the lack of a report on Gaza which for over 20 months has faced military operations which have claimed dozens of millions of dollars in human rights violations and violations of civilians. This requires urgent action to be taken - not only prevention measures, but also early warning mechanisms and justice and accountability mechanisms. Oman requests a section dedicated to Gaza in next year's report.

**Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** condemns in the strongest terms the genocide committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the expansion of this crime into the West Bank, including Al-Quds. Over the past 20 months, the world has borne witness to an unending campaign aimed at displacing the Palestinian people from the occupied Palestinian territory and creating impossible living conditions, including the use of starvation as a method of genocide. The illegal occupying powers' continued attempts to change the geography or demographics of the occupied state of Palestine are aimed at eliminating the Palestinian cause, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. These egregious crimes could not have happened without a shroud of impunity. The OIC calls on the international community to confront the occupying power and hold the perpetrators to account. The procedures ordered by the ICJ starting from January 2024, findings of the independent international Commission of Inquiry and other mechanisms, and multiple reports and warnings from the UN Special Procedures and mandate holders must not go unheeded. Israel's continued aggression against Iran, Lebanon, and Syria has demonstrated the illegal occupying powers' continued policy of destabilising the region. Recent US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities are a further dangerous escalation. The OIC supports de-escalation efforts to stop aggression against Iran and to achieve a peaceful settlement. The genocide in Palestine must end and the spectre of regional war must be averted.

The **Russian Federation** unswervingly supports efforts to fight the crime of genocide. To prevent and tackle this most serious international crime, an international framework has been created with the 1948 Genocide Convention and the 1968 Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations on War Crimes. In 2014, a regime came to power through a coup in Ukraine, which started to destroy the population based on their nationality, ethnicity and religion. Currently, the ICJ is considering a case of genocide conducted by the regime powers. Russia is convinced that the main responsibility for the protection of the population against genocide is carried by the state. Prosecution of crime should be the highest task of legal systems. Any politicisation of the concept of genocide and efforts to prevent it is not acceptable. Russia supports the Special Advisor's mandate and reiterates the latter is aimed at prevention and building a strong peace and national reconciliation. Facts and qualification of events related to genocide does not fall within the competence of the Special Advisor.

**Rwanda**, evoking the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi people, explains that history continues to shape Rwanda's national and international resolve to uphold the never again imperative. Rwanda



integrates genocide prevention into its broader peace and human rights agenda through inclusive governance, civic education, legal reforms, and community-based reconciliation. Remaining concerned by the rise and persistence of hate speech both online and offline, Rwanda recalls the 2024 UNHRC meeting on digital platforms and recent efforts to engage digital platforms and member states in addressing online hate speech, especially in regions showing early warning signs.

**Sierra Leone on behalf of the group of friends of the responsibility to protect** states that the UN must be equipped for effective prevention and response to atrocity crimes in order to achieve its core purpose, namely to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights. Previous UN internal reviews led to the renewed calls for stronger leadership, improved coordination, and integration of human rights and atrocity prevention in the UN process. The group reiterates the importance of the UN role in preventing atrocity crimes and any institutional changes should be made with this in mind. The responsibility to protect is an essential part of the UN broader protection framework. The work of the UN to strengthen coordination and collaboration around early warning and risk analysis across the UN system is vital to prevention efforts in all phases and especially in early action to prevent mass atrocities. The group believes the reform process offers a valuable opportunity to reinforce the importance of atrocity prevention as well as the promotion and protection of human rights within the UN system. In doing so, the group encourages timely, informed and critical action in the face of atrocity risks which will help the UN to fully fulfil its goals in the future.

**Sierra Leone**, as a post-conflict country, recognises the importance of prevention. Therefore, it have taken concrete measures that are grounded in the country's commitment to accountability, reconciliation, and institutional resilience. At the national level, Sierra Leone created the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion, which monitors tensions, media disputes, and promotes inclusive dialogue. The country established the Sierra Leone National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Coordinating Centre to provide real-time alerts about human rights risks and strengthen our ability to prevent conflicts and atrocities. Sierra Leone commends ECOWAS Early and Warning Response Network and the establishment of the 2020 ECOWAS Centre for the coordination of early warning and response. This centre is responsible for managing crisis and advancing early response strategies. These efforts complement national systems and foster collective resilience across West Africa. Sierra Leone reaffirms its support for the willingness to cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Prevention and Responsibility to Protect, and it urges the international community to increase support in order to strengthen national and regional prevention infrastructures.

**Spain** stresses the crucial importance of preventing international crimes and genocide as well as strengthening a prevention architecture to detect its risk factors and establish early warning systems. This effort cannot be ignored now. Incitement to hatred is not a new phenomenon. Hate speech has paved the way, very often, for violence and atrocities during the darkest chapters in the history of mankind. The rapid digital expansion and that of AI has increased the urgency of this global response. The Global Digital Compact advocates for inclusive and ethical digital governments, which promotes the responsible and beneficial use of AI. The fight against impunity, such as crimes of genocide and protecting the rights of all victims, is also fundamental. Spain supports the work of the IJC and ICC in defence of international law. The extensive



ratification of the Genocide Convention, which has been once reached by the international community, must be used to prevent and tackle one of the most serious crimes against mankind.

The **State of Palestine** denounces that Gaza is being annihilated by Israel with the support and complicity of several member states. What we are witnessing is not a crisis. It is a genocide and it is not safe. Starvation is now being used as a weapon. Israel has intentionally blocked the entry of food, water and medicine. Children are dying from hunger and disease. On top of this, under the guise of providing aid, the so-called GHF has facilitated vast killings. This is not collateral damage. It is a calculated act of violence. It is not brutality. It is complicity. The refusal of the office to acknowledge the genocide in Gaza despite findings by several UN records and a provisional measure by the ICJ affirming the plausibility of genocide signals the catastrophic collapse of a system built to prevent such crimes. This failure emboldens perpetrators and entrenches impunity. Palestine urges the Office on Genocide Prevention to fulfil their mandate and recognise this genocide. Anything less will only confirm that international law was never meant to protect all people equally, that the dehumanisation of Palestinians is tolerated and that never again is a false promise.

**Sudan** renews its full commitment to the Genocide Convention, noting that it withdrew its reservations in 2003. The reservation on Article 9 is a barrier to the upholding of the Convention. The RSF have committed intensive selective and systematic attacks, of which there is evidence of acts targeting and provoking the mass destruction of an entire population. Sudan condemns such acts which took place in a village of the Al-Jazira Governorate. This terrorist group faces silence which encourages it to pursue such activities. There are states supporting it. Thus, Sudan calls upon those countries that provide support to stop carrying out such acts. Sudan calls on the international community to stand side-by-side with the Sudanese people.

**Tanzania** recalls that genocide is an ancient crime. It is disheartening to note that despite almost eight decades since the adoption of the Genocide Convention, almost 23 years since the entry into force of the Rome Statute and despite numerous successful prosecuted cases by the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, acts of genocide are still being committed in some parts of the world, often with impunity. We must continue to pursue preventive measures including curbing hate speech on social media platforms, fighting impunity by ensuring accountability for all perpetrators of genocide without exceptions, raising awareness, acknowledging and remembering past atrocities and supporting survivors as well as communities affected by genocide. Underscore the important role of the Office of the Special Advisor, Tanzania welcomes the UN to consider stationing this Office at the *Lakilaki* facility in Arusha, formerly used by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Tanzania remains committed to the fight against genocide.

**Togo** thanks the Special Advisor for her report on the role of social networks and platforms and how they are used in propagating hatred, leading to discrimination and violence in the real life. These manifestations of hate can contribute to triggering genocide. It is hate speech that has always preceded genocides all through history. Social networks and platforms and new technologies today contribute to propagating, disseminating, and amplifying hatred speech. Sadly, it is harder and harder to establish accountability of perpetrators. Often, such hate speech is disseminated through fake accounts. There is a fundamental responsibility to fight this scourge



on social networks, and there is a duty for public authorities and users. We need to improve international cooperation on the question of moderation, moderating speech online by shoring up cooperation between the United Nations and stakeholders such as social media platforms as a part of defending human rights and the Rabat Plan of Action fighting hate speech.

**Ukraine** stresses that the prevention of genocide requires vigilance long before mass atrocities erupt. It begins with identifying early warning signs, systematic hate speech, denial of identity, and incitement to violence. In Ukraine's case, these signs were evident in longstanding policy of racism aimed at undermining Ukrainian sovereignty, denying the existence of Ukrainian people, and spreading state-sponsored narratives of dehumanisation. What began as ideological aggression has escalated into a brutal, unprovoked war bearing hallmarks of genocide. This is not the first time to erase the Ukrainian nation. The Holodomor of 1932-33, a man-made famine that killed millions, stands as a stark reminder. Today, Russia's war has brought not only large-scale destruction, but a campaign of terror against civilians. Russia continues to discriminate missile attacks, destroy vital infrastructure, and weaponize sexual violence. Despite international demands, thousands of children remain illegally held, subjected to forced ratification, and identity erasure, acts that meet the definition of the Genocide Convention. Alongside physical violence, Russia wages cultural erasure, banning the Ukrainian language, perpetually writing history, and attempting to distinguish national identity. Ukraine urges the international community to intensify efforts to hold perpetrators accountable.

The **United Arab Emirates** reiterates that the serious violations require dealing with the root causes. The UAE endorses a comprehensive approach focussing on three aspects. First, combat hate speech and extremism in all its forms, including through social media, platform media, with a legal framework in place to hold the perpetrators accountable. Second, promote a culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, especially in educational settings. Third, develop early warning systems and rapid response to detect the root causes of extremism and hate speech. Preventing genocide is not a legal commitment, but also a human and ethical responsibility. For these reasons, the UAE considers it important to implement UNSC Resolution on Tolerance and International Peace and Security, sponsored by UAE and the UK, which highlights the importance of tolerance and building peace, and condemns hate speech in all its forms.

The **United Kingdom** states that effective early warning systems that escalate concerns before they arise are critical for early action in preventing atrocities. The UK continues to support the early warning systems for all principle laid out in the pact for the future. However, we also need to act on early warning signs. Atrocities continue to be committed across the world. In Sudan, particularly Darfur, the reports of violence are deeply troubling. In Myanmar, the military continues to escalate violence, including airstrikes on civilian infrastructure. All parties must protect civilians. In Afghanistan, the Taliban continue to enforce their inhuman restrictions on human rights, especially for women and girls. On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect, the UK urges renewed global efforts to protect civilians and strengthen human rights in environments at risk. UN offices should continue to play a role in enabling the wider UN system in these endeavours.



### Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations and UN Agencies

The **European Union** emphasizes that genocide is one of the most horrific crimes known to humanity, and for that reason the international community as a whole should not spare any efforts to eliminate its perpetration by means of closer cooperation, effective prevention and punishment. The EU remains steadfast in its commitment to protect people globally from atrocities and will continue advancing its efforts to end impunity, ensuring justice for the victims and survivors, and holding perpetrators accountable. Genocide and other crimes under international law must not go unpunished. In its joint fight against impunity for the crime of genocide, the EU reaffirms its unwavering support for the international justice and international criminal justice systems, such as the International Criminal Court, with the stress that national justice systems are also of key importance in this fight. Accountability processes allow nations and societies to heal and remain peaceful and stable. Social media had initially been praised as a tool that could revolutionise advocacy by uniting people worldwide and shedding light on human rights abuses. However, they have also been used to spread disinformation and hate speech that could fuel atrocity crimes, including genocide.

### Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **Ethiopian Commission for Human Rights** explains that over the last five years, it has investigated, documented, and reported on grave human rights violations in Ethiopia, particularly during the Northern Ethiopia conflict. Parts of Ethiopia continue to experience armed conflict, violence, and insecurity, which have made the civilian population vulnerable to serious human rights violations, necessitating urgent and concrete peaceful dialogue. The Commission takes note of the 2022 Agreement for Lasting Peace and Cessation of Hostilities, which seeks to establish a comprehensive transitional justice policy aimed at accountability, ascertaining the truth, rights for victims, reconciliation, and healing. The Commission is encouraged by the adoption by Ethiopia of a national transitional justice policy in April 2024, despite some delays in its implementation. It will continue to provide technical and advisory support to ensure the implementation of a victim-centred, human rights-compliant, and inclusive transitional justice process in Ethiopia. Only inclusive dialogue and the implementation of a genuine transitional justice process can end the cycle of violence and grave human rights violations in Ethiopia.

The **Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights** draw's the Council's attention on the 75th anniversary of the Genocide Convention marked by an urgent threat looming upon Palestinians. Widespread hate speech and incitement on social media spread by both official and unofficial Israeli actors. This dehumanising rhetoric mirrors patterns seen before past genocides, and since October 7, 2023, has translated into acts of mass violence in Gaza, where tens of thousands of civilians have been killed. The incitement goes beyond words. It fuels military policies that include extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrest, starvation, forced displacement, and escalating settler burials. Such hate speech enables grave violations that may amount to genocide and crimes against humanity. Yet technology companies have failed to act meaningfully. The Commission urges the UNHRC to strengthen accountability, hold perpetrators responsible, and press social media platforms to enforce strict anti-incitement measures. Ending the Israeli occupation is essential to protecting Palestinian lives and dignity. Preventing genocide starts with confronting hate.



### Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

**Al-Mezan** Centre for Human Rights points out that the mandate of the UN Office for Genocide Prevention is clear, namely to identify and act upon the early warning signs of genocide and other atrocity crimes, and to mobilise the United Nations system and member states to prevent their commission. Yet, in the face of Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza, the Office of the Special Advisor has blatantly and indefensibly failed to uphold its mandate. Since October 2023, the Office has issued only a handful of public statements regarding the situation in Gaza, none of which have adequately conveyed the gravity of the situation on the ground, nor have they meaningfully warned the international community of its legal and moral duty to prevent genocide. The mandate has not once briefed the Security Council on the risk of genocide and atrocity crimes in Gaza and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory. The mandate has failed to acknowledge the findings of multiple UN independent monitoring mechanisms that have determined that Israeli authorities have committed acts of genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. The office has also repeatedly disregarded communications from Palestinian civil society, including urgent appeals and requests for meetings. Israel is destroying the Palestinian people in Gaza. The scale and intent of this destruction demand that the UN Office on Genocide Prevention speak loudly, clearly, and unequivocally. In the face of genocide, the Special Advisor's silence is a dereliction of duty that disregards the very mandate the Office was established to fulfil. This undermines the credibility of the entire genocide prevention framework.

**Association Ma'onah for Human Rights and Immigration** recalls that the mandate of the Special Advisor were founded from the ashes of two genocides. It is the moral and legal responsibility of both the Special Advisor and the international community to act according to the Genocide Convention. In addition to the obvious situation in Palestine, Sudan, although forgotten by many, is facing one of the most catastrophic humanitarian crises in history, as well as a genocide in progress. Since the outbreak of the civil war, more than 150,000 people have been killed, 12 million have been displaced, and around half of the Sudanese population faces acute hunger. Together with the systematic use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war and the destruction of essential services, these acts constitute a comprehensive and coordinated campaign of annihilation targeting certain ethnic groups. In light of such overwhelming proof of the horrific scale of violence, we remain at a complete loss of understanding. What more evidence must be presented before the international community intervenes to prevent a genocide in Sudan? Amidst the unfolding genocidal acts in Sudan, the Association calls upon the Special Advisor to uphold the duties entrusted to her mandate and to take immediate and appropriate measures to prevent any further violence. If immediate action is not taken to end these atrocities, it will render the historical responsibility and authority of this position meaningless, and we will bear witness to the annihilation of ethnic groups of people in Sudan.

**Al Haq - Law in the Service of Man** points out that the Special Advisor's mandate is not to wait for genocide to be confirmed after the fact. It is to prevent it before it is too late. Yet for over 20 months, the Special Advisor has remained silent as Gaza is obliterated in real time. Over 55,000 Palestinians have been killed. At least 5,000 children have had limbs amputated. Entire neighbourhoods and families wiped out. Hospitals, shelters, IVF clinics and maternity wards targeted. Babies left to decompose under the rubble of bombed neonatal units. Starvation and famine are not collateral. They are tools of extermination. These are not warning signs of



genocide. They are its clearest expression. Despite the ICJ's findings of a plausible genocide and the Commission of Inquiry's conclusion that sexual violence may constitute a genocidal act, the Special Advisor failed to ring the bell. No engagement with evidence, no guidance to member states on their legal obligations under the Genocide Convention, including halting arms transfers, ending complicity and cooperating in accountability efforts. Instead, the Office continues to obscure Gaza behind the vague term Middle East, erasing Palestinians from view. This is not caution. This is complicity with an intensifying and expanding genocide. It dehumanises victims and entrenches a dangerous precedent that genocide against some can be ignored. By refusing to act, the Office weakens the UN's credibility, entrenches impunity and erodes the genocide prevention framework. Failure to act is not neutrality. It is endorsement.

**Defence for Children International (DCI)** draws the Council's attention to the situation of Palestinian children, for whom the time to discuss the prevention of genocide is long gone, and the time to end it is now. Israeli forces' clearly articulated campaign of genocide has raged on for more than 20 months. In this time, Israeli forces have killed or maimed more than 50,000 Palestinian children in Gaza, according to UNICEF. Now, every child in Gaza is facing starvation by way of prolonged malnutrition or anti-hydration as a result of Israel's siege. Right now, every child in Gaza is hungry. Their hunger is no accident. Israeli authorities have deliberately blocked access to safe and abundant humanitarian aid, efforts that have ranged from a complete blockade of the Gaza Strip to killing Palestinians attempting to get food and water. DCI condemns the lack of meaningful action from the international community and demand immediate protection for the children of Gaza. DCI demands the Special Advisor, in addition to all states, the following. First, immediately act to break Israel's siege of the Gaza Strip by ensuring the safe and unhindered delivery of substantial humanitarian aid to every Palestinian children in need. Second, call for an immediate and comprehensive arms embargo on Israel and apply coordinated diplomatic and financial pressure to compel Israeli authorities to end the ongoing genocide in Gaza, dismantle the system of apartheid and cease the military occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory. Third, safeguard the independence and integrity of investigations conducted by the ICJ and the ICC, which are essential for ensuring accountability. This includes unequivocally condemning any sanctions, punitive threats or actions directed at members of these courts. Finally, utilise all available mechanisms to demand that Israeli authorities respect and protect the rights of Palestinian children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Israel is a state party.

**Christian Solidarity International (CSI)** is profoundly concerned by the situation in Syria, where between March 6 and 10 pro-government forces massacred hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Alawite Muslim civilians across the coastal region. CSI thanks the Special Advisor for making a statement about this violence on March 11, in which she expressed concern about targeted attacks, including against members of the Alawite community, and stated that the violence must stop immediately. Unfortunately, it has not stopped. Nearly every week there are reports of fresh killings or abductions of Alawites in Syria. Around 40,000 Alawites have fled across the border into Lebanon since March, according to the UNHCR. In addition, in late April, government-aligned forces attacked another religious minority group, the Druzes, in the Damascus suburbs. Then, just yesterday, a horrific suicide bombing at St. Elias Church in Damascus took the lives of 27 people. This violence is driven by an ideology of Sunni Muslim supremacism, which views



Alawites, Druzes, and Ismailis as apostates, and Christians as inferior. Combined with the fragile security situation in Syria, CSI believes the conditions now exist for genocide in the Syria. States must fulfil their obligations under the Genocide Convention and take action to prevent it.

The **Centre for Global Non-Killing** raises two points. First, the Centre asks to the Special Advisor to work on the links between genocide and climate change. In Switzerland, largely because permafrost melted, the mountain fell on a glacier, and on 28 May, the whole glacier fell on a village. Because the Swiss usually care for each other, because the country has the skills and means needed to do the prevention work, thank you, a major catastrophe was avoided. It will not always be so everywhere. Linking climate change and genocide will require a broad interpretation of intent and a large understanding of who the victims are. But recklessness about climate change may amount to genocide, and by far, we prefer prevention over punishment. Secondly, at the last panel on genocide at the UNHRC, early warning was emphasised. The Centre would like more attention and special protection given to the early warners. Those who locally and internationally send these early warning message must be heard, protected, and respected.

**Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer Association** notes with concern violence and hate speech increasing on social media and warns that without adopt a monitoring system, this could lead to prejudice or violence. Supporting any measures to suppress genocide, the Association calls upon the creation of a system that would combat hate speech so that violence is not generated. It also hopes that the social media meet their responsibilities. They need to themselves police their platforms and suppress the speech. The Association launches an appeal to the international community to pay attention to its Convention on Patriotism already supported by over 150 NGOs.

The **International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas**, referring to UNHRC Resolution 48/7 (2021) titled 'Negative Impact of the Legacies of Colonialism on the Enjoyment of Human Rights', stresses that the prolonged occupation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States represents not only a negative legacy of colonialism, but it is also a legacy of genocide. The United States' occupation of Hawaii dispossessed the Hawaiian people of their lands, suppressed their native language and culture, and illegally altered their national identity. Vast amounts of lands were stolen and made into monocrop plantations, causing disruptions to the environment and to the social order. Traditional communal systems of sustained abundance has today been reduced to an economic system of dangerous dependency. Importing virtually all food, energy, and goods from the United States. These abuses portray conditions described as genocide in UNGA Resolution 260/A/3, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Committee calls upon the UNHRC to urge the UNGA to stop these abuses against the people of Hawaii and similar abuses against the people of Alaska by rescinding UNGA Resolution 1469 (XIV) of 2 December 1959.

The **Islamic Human Rights Commission** laments that the failure of this body to properly frame and therefore deal proportionally with the horrors unfolding in the occupied Gaza Strip hold enormous implications not only for the UN but for the future of a rules-based order that can ensure peace for the world's inhabitants. What has been unfolding in Gaza since October 2023 is a full-blown genocide. The stomach-churning images emerging daily from Gaza are beyond horrific and have led all major human rights organisations to designate the Israeli military campaign there as a genocide. Only if we can recognise this can we start to take the action that



is necessary to stop it, hold those responsible accountable, and put in place the sanctions and measures required to prevent a recurrence. As the upholder of international law, it falls on the UN to treat it as such a crime against humanity and not only any ordinary conflict. Shirking or allowing itself to be bullied into failing to respond with the requisite force not just diminishes the body but also sets a terrifying precedent and emboldens the perpetrators. The UN faces a definite moment. Either it rises to its duty to halt the genocide or it stands idly by as a fanatical extremist state tears up international law and sets a precedent for others to do likewise.

**Next Century Foundation** notes with concern that the risk of genocide in Sudan remains alarmingly high. The ongoing conflict has intensified grave human rights violations with mounting evidence of genocidal acts. Following the Darfur War that began in 2003, UNSC adopted several resolutions addressing civilian protection, peacekeeping mandates, and international justice. Notably, UNSC Resolution 1593 refers the situation in Darfur to the ICC to investigate genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Since the outbreak of war in April 2023, mass atrocities including systematic killings, war crimes, and ethnic violence have resurfaced, echoing past horrors. Genocide designations have been issued by local groups, international human rights organisations, and the US government, reinforcing the need for urgent action. However, this time, few calls for civilian protection have materialised. Today, entire communities across Sudan face ethnically targeted violence amid a total collapse of state institutions and justice systems. The Foundation urgently calls for the extension of UNSC Resolution 1593 to cover all of Sudan and the immediate establishment of a civilian protection mechanism. With rising hate speech and the deepening ethnicization of conflict in Sudan, the threat of a Rwanda-like scenario looms large. Let us not wait for history to repeat itself before we act.

### **FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION**

**38** State Delegations

**2** Inter-Governmental Organizations and UN Agencies

**2** National Human Rights Institutions

**10** Non-Governmental Organizations