
Global Action Agenda for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

First Draft - April 2005

Por GPPAC Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

This first draft of GPPAC's Global Action Agenda is intended for worldwide consultation with all those involved in GPPAC and others concerned to promote prevention, peacebuilding and a more peaceful and just world. It will be revised in mid-May by the drafting task force of GPPAC's International Steering Group. It will then be re-circulated and CSOs will be invited to endorse the final document. It will serve as the basis for the international conference at UN Headquarters, 19-21 July 2005, and help to inform the development of the field and policy priorities for some time to come.

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An explanatory note for the consultation process:

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I. About the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

1. The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is a world-wide civil society-led process to generate and build a new international consensus on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict. While governments have primary responsibility to protect civilians and prevent violence, the complexity, scale and diversity of conflict mean that no single entity, on its own, can ensure peace. A comprehensive network of relationships and actions is needed. GPPAC works on strengthening civil society networks for peace and security by linking local, national, regional and global levels of action and effective engagement with governments, the UN system and regional organisations. This, in turn, supports the potential for solidarity work and global mobilisation to strengthen capacities for peace and justice.

2. GPPAC aims to support a shift from reaction to prevention through the following goals:

- To create a sustainable network of individuals and groups committed to prevention and peacebuilding at global, regional, and national levels. This network will include multistakeholder partnerships involving diverse civil society organisations (CSOs), governments, Regional Organisations and the United Nations to enable effective engagement.

- To develop and work towards the implementation of a policy change agenda, as articulated in this Global Action Agenda and Regional Action Agendas, that will strengthen the effectiveness of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

- To raise public awareness around the world and generate constituencies who actively support human security as an alternative to militarism and are informed about prevention and peacebuilding and the important role of civil society in achieving it. 3. GPPAC was initiated in 2002 in response to the UN Secretary-General's call to CSOs in his

Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict (2001) to organise an international conference on the role of civil society and their interaction with the UN in conflict prevention. GPPAC is organised through fifteen regional processes, each of which have developed action agendas to reflect principles and priorities for their region. In many countries, there have also been consultations organised by national focal points. To date, thousands of people and organisations have been involved in these processes, especially civil society actors from peacebuilding, development, humanitarian, human rights and academic / research organisations. The regional processes are facilitated by regional initiators, who collectively govern the direction of GPPAC through an International Steering Group (ISG). The global process is served by an International Secretariat, currently hosted by the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP).

4. This draft Global Action Agenda has emerged from this process and reflects the themes, priorities and recommendations identified in the regional action agendas. The focus is on promoting human security and making a shift to prevention through effective partnerships, with guiding principles and values that should be at the core of practice. There are recommendations for addressing the conditions that give rise to violent conflict and for systems and practices to respond to it more effectively if it emerges. It concludes with suggestions for specific mechanisms, activities and resources needed to enhance the capacities of CSOs, governments, the UN and regional organisations to pursue prevention and build more just and peaceful societies. While this document is a civil society agenda, it can serve as a framework for developing programmes of action for years to come.

II. Goals for Global Action: GPPAC's Key Messages

Human security: the interdependence of development, human rights, peace & security

5. We are committed to promoting the security of people: their physical safety; their socio-economic well-being; respect for their dignity and political and cultural identity as individuals and as members of communities; and the protection and promotion of their rights and fundamental freedoms in the home, in the community, in their country and in the wider world.

6. We affirm that the security of people is as important as the security of states. We believe that each has the potential to be mutually reinforcing. Promoting human security can lead to a shift from a security paradigm based on the balance of power and military alliances to one based on mutual interdependence and cooperation. We welcome the UN Secretary-General's observation that: "The world must advance the causes of security, development and human rights together, otherwise none will succeed. Humanity will not enjoy security without development, it will not enjoy development without security, and it will not enjoy either without respect for human rights."¹

7. Poverty eradication is essential to achieve human security and dignity. Furthermore, poverty and violent conflict are often intrinsically interrelated. Many conflicts are deeply rooted in social, economic and cultural disparities, especially in the context of unequal access to economic and social power and resources. Violent conflict and war seriously erode and

impede development prospects.

According to the Millennium Project report, of the 34 countries furthest from achieving the goals, 22 are emerging from conflict. Prevention and sustainable peacebuilding are therefore necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; fulfilling the MDGs can, in turn, address some of the root causes of conflict and promote human security.

The responsibility to prevent: making the shift from reaction to prevention

8. The goal of prevention is a world in which people elect nonviolent means to achieve greater justice, better governance, sustainable development, and human security. Nonviolent conflict can be a way of working proactively toward social change goals. It is an intrinsic feature of the struggle for justice. Many activists have sought to surface conflict so that problems that are being suppressed or ignored can be put on the agenda and addressed. We believe in the importance of channeling conflict through peaceful processes capable of delivering constructive change.

9. We aim to prevent the emergence, escalation or recurrence of violent conflict and to foster transformation of the conditions that give rise to it, while at the same time dealing with current conflicts. The key to fostering sustainable peace and security over the longer term is to generate a 'culture of prevention' and 'culture of peace' from the bottom-up as well as from the top-down. A comprehensive focus will require concerted efforts to address both long-term and immediate prevention. Drawing from the Carnegie Commission for the Prevention of Deadly Conflict², we advocate the importance of addressing both:

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Structural prevention, which addresses the economic, social and political forces that animate conflict by working to achieve justice, meet human needs, govern effectively, respect human rights, and develop mechanisms for working with conflicts constructively so as to reduce the likelihood that violent conflict will erupt.

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Operational prevention addresses the more immediate emergence, escalation and/or renewed cycles of violence through conflict resolution and peacemaking.

10. We are concerned with warfare within states, between states, regional conflicts, and violence undertaken by non-state actors on a global scale. Yet armed conflicts are not the only measure of widespread and pervasive violence in society. In many parts of the world, people suffer from structural violence—experienced in the home and in the wider society—generated by inequitable social, economic and political systems that can generate widespread and multilayered conflicts.

Prevention strategies must be able to respond flexibly to each of these situations.

11. As the UN Secretary-General has argued "investment in prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding can save millions of lives."³ We agree with the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty⁴ that states have a responsibility to prevent. The international community should ensure the effectiveness of less intrusive and less coercive preventive measures by devoting more commitment and resources to them. Governments and IGOs need to mainstream prevention and constructive conflict management as fundamental goals of their security institutions and instruments, as well as of their other policies and programmes. This requires looking beyond short-term considerations to ensure a re-orientation towards preparedness for prevention and to addressing basic human needs and human rights. Instead of putting most resources into methods for reacting to crises, when it is often too late to act effectively without the use of force, we should focus on addressing the factors that enable them to become deadly. Historically, the emphasis has been on developing capacity for military response. The emphasis now needs to be on strengthening the institutional

capacity for nonviolent civilian response – and ensuring coherent and predictable support for all phases of peace operations to respond effectively if armed conflict does occur.

Prevention and peacebuilding requires effective partnerships.

12. We believe these goals can best be achieved through the creation multi-level partnerships among CSOs, governments and multilateral organizations, among others. We aim to engage with each other and, as appropriate, with governments and inter-governmental organisations, to address the issues and challenges identified in this Global Action Agenda.

13. Over recent decades, civilians have borne the brunt of wars and violent conflict. Men and women all over the world have responded to these challenges with creativity and dedication. CSOs have a broad range of roles from relief and development, to community-building and local conflict resolution, to advocacy and civic engagement, to nonviolent accompaniment. CSOs have engaged in peacemaking by promoting dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflict, as well as taking care of the rehabilitation, healing and reconciliation needs of survivors of conflict. They are often effective in creating safe spaces where people from all parts of society can come together and work in meaningful ways toward a better future. Many CSO actors are close to the conflicts that they seek to address. This proximity affords them access to information and insights that state actors may not have. In some situations, CSOs are more acceptable to armed and opposition groups than representatives of governments and IGOs, allowing them to play a positive role. Furthermore, civil society plays a significant role in building trust and strengthening networks so that this 'social capital' can foster peace and development.

14. Civil society can therefore have a major role in bringing about the shift to prevention. We draw inspiration from earlier civil society initiatives to promote global peace, particularly noting the first Hague Peace Conference in 1899 and the most recent landmark event in 1999 which have set agendas and mobilised attention and action to address them. We aim to both advocate policy changes to address the structural factors that generate violent conflict as well as work in partnerships to respond to specific situations.

15. We affirm the important role of women in prevention and peacebuilding. We advocate the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security and thus the need for increased involvement in roles at decision-making levels.

III. Guiding principles and values

16. The individuals and organisations endorsing this document believe that the following principles and values are of central importance for promoting sustainable peace and justice and endeavour to fulfil them in their practice. The development of professional ethical standards—possibly assisted by a voluntary peer review mechanism—is a challenge for CSOs working with conflict. GPPAC aims to generate consensus around these standards and this will be one of the focal points for the conference at UN Headquarters in July 2005.

17. Achieving just peace by peaceful means. Preventing violent conflict should be pursued to the fullest extent by all peaceful means. We need to develop proactive, nonviolent and cooperative methods of peaceful engagement in response to emerging tensions and crises. Human rights and the quest for justice and dignity are at the heart of our ethical and political standards of action. Prevention and peacebuilding initiatives should contribute to achieving justice in multiple dimensions, including restorative, distributive, gender, and environmental justice. CSOs must lead by example in their respect for international human rights. We should continually engage in critical examination of how our own policies, practices and programs can contribute to fulfilling human rights and dignity. We should strive to act with integrity at all times.

18. Primacy of local participation and ownership. Sustainable and just peace can only emerge when people affected by conflict feel that the process is 'theirs' and not externally imposed. We believe that those involved have primary

responsibility for addressing it. The international community (including foreign governments, multilateral institutions, and international NGOs) should help to create spaces, provide resources and support inclusive processes that enable people to build their own capacity and to make appropriate decisions. Strategies and initiatives should generally be locally derived and internationally supported. They should build on capacities that exist; they should not duplicate or displace locally developed initiatives. 19. Diversity, inclusiveness and equality. We recognise the value inherent in diversity and believe that differences can be a source of strength. We recognize the importance of working towards inclusive, diverse and vibrant civil societies – emphasizing the special needs of vulnerable groups – through the promotion of respect and openness. In our peacebuilding work, we must practice the values of inclusiveness and equality in order to assure democratic process and the participation of all relevant actors. We aim for empowerment of all those who experience political, economic and social marginalisation by supporting the development of capacities at the individual and organizational level, including through local and regional civic networks. 20. Sustainability. Addressing the causes and consequences of conflict requires sustained efforts. We need to focus on the long-term goal of transforming the conditions that give rise to conflict and the relationships that have been damaged by it. Responses to emerging situations should incorporate strategies that lay foundations for processes to move toward medium- to long-term goals. 'Bandaid' solutions should not be pursued at the expense of sustainable peacebuilding. We are committed to ensuring that the time frames implicit in our planning and actions are appropriate.

Our strategies should help to foster social change that will address the structural and relationship challenges that generate systemic conflict and move the situation toward a desired future.

21. Multilateralism. Fulfilling an expanded vision of human security can only be achieved on the basis of a truly cooperative endeavour. Major global problems can only be addressed effectively through the coordinated efforts and policies developed collectively through multilateral institutions. We believe that CSOs have an important role to play in an expanded conception of multilateralism and we aim to strengthen the role of CSO in global and regional organisations. In many parts of the world regionalism, as expressed through regional organisations, offers expanded opportunities for strengthening cooperative responses to common concerns. International norms and standards should apply to all and be complied with by all. We call on our governments to fulfil their commitments and to demand the consistent adherence to these standards by all countries.

22. Dialogue. We promote dialogue as a principle method to respond to conflict and prevent violence at all levels of society – especially when it engages all parties. It can foster participatory processes for common learning and building of capacity to work with conflict constructively. Leadership should be linked to dialogue, rather than the capacity to use violence.

23. Accountability. As the power and influence of CSOs grows so does our obligation to be accountable, especially to the communities in which we work. This is reflected in what we do, how and why we do it, and how we manage the resources that are entrusted to us. We recognise the importance of developing norms of responsibility at all levels and within all institutional settings.

24. Transparency. We are committed to working transparently. Unless otherwise disclosed, we act independently of political parties, donors, or commercial companies for the interest of developing peace within societies. If we have a specific set of interests or allegiances, we will declare them and acknowledge how they affect our priorities and working methods. 25.

Learning from practice. We must aim to be reflective practitioners: aware of our role, mandate, and contribution at every stage. We need to reflect upon and examine the lessons we are learning from our work and to critically assess how we are learning them. We must work closely with partners to jointly develop participatory, inclusive and just processes for planning, decision-making and evaluating our initiatives. Evaluation and strategic learning are essential for developing accountability and outcomes should be shared appropriately. We understand that we have a responsibility to pass on knowledge gained to others who may face similar challenges in the future.

IV. Structural prevention: action to generate 'just peace'

26. Equitable and sustainable development

- a) All states must recommit themselves to the goals of eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic growth and promoting sustainable development. Donor countries that currently fall short of the UN 0.7 per cent gross national product target for ODA should establish a timetable for reaching it. Lender governments and the international financial institutions should provide highly indebted poor countries with greater debt relief, longer rescheduling and improved access to global markets.
- b) Some areas of trade policy and investment promotion exacerbate the structural and immediate risks of violent conflict. Economic and social global governance institutions and processes should be reformed to bring better coordination and coherence to policies and programmes on trade, finance and economic development. We support the 'Make Poverty History' campaign's efforts to promote trade justice. Governments and IGOs need to ensure policy coherence to promote development and peace. They should involve CSOs in designing broader policy frameworks that are strategically coherent with prevention and peacebuilding objectives.
- c) Member states should develop standards to regulate and guide the conduct of private companies in at-risk areas, especially those of extractive industries and private security companies. These should reflect and build on existing standards on transparency and accountability in revenue payments (Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative), responsible provision of security (Voluntary Principles on Human Rights and Security) and human rights (UN Draft Norms on the Responsibilities of TNCs and other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights). Additionally, member states should actively promote the positive contribution multinationals can make to peacebuilding by encouraging the adoption of best practice guidelines in investing in 'at-risk' states. Furthermore, there is increasing understanding of the role domestic private sectors can play both in driving war economies but also in making a substantial contribution to conflict prevention and resolution. Member states should explicitly recognise this positive and negative potential and seek to develop integrated policies and strategies which maximise the former and minimise the latter. Ideally, such policies would be a combination of regulation and positive encouragement with 'Smart' sanctions one option for those who exploit and exacerbate war for their own profit whilst other punitive measures can include public 'naming and shaming', with CSOs stimulating consumer action as appropriate.
- d) In countries in transition where state assets are being privatised, mechanisms – such as independent commissions of economists – should be put in place to ensure best value for the public good and promote equitable outcomes for those communities most affected by the privatisation.
- e) Conflict-sensitive approaches and pro-prevention strategies should be mainstreamed into all policy frameworks, especially Common Country Assessments, UN Development Assistance Frameworks, and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. These frameworks are important instruments for addressing the structural causes of conflict and promoting sustainable development. Conflict-sensitivity should therefore be integrated into the policy development process for each country, regardless of whether it is or has recently been associated with a crisis. Ensure effective participation in the policy development process of those who will be affected by decisions, including women, youth and minorities.
- f) More than \$10 billion annually is needed to stem the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Leaders of affected countries need to mobilise resources, commit funds, and engage civil society in disease control efforts, in partnership with the international community.

27. Promoting and protecting human rights. Central to our work are the right to life, right to development, right to security, freedom of association and of speech, equality and nondiscrimination for all, and the promotion and protection of the rights of women, of children, and of all minorities and indigenous people.

a) All States should rededicate themselves to full and consistent compliance with all international norms and standards. They should ratify all human rights and humanitarian treaties and fully comply with reporting requirements. As needed, domestic mechanisms should be strengthened to ensure implementation of international law.

b) States should agree stronger measures to sanction those who violate international laws and standards, including the Geneva Conventions, and insist on a collective security system based on rule of law. Civil society has to bring pressure to bear on states and mobilize public opinion on the need to make international norms applicable in all states so that everyone everywhere can fully enjoy all their rights and fundamental freedoms.

c) We support the Secretary-General's proposal for a new Human Rights Council that is permanently in session. It should

build on existing independent monitoring procedures and must ensure the continued active participation of NGOs. It should have regular scheduled reviews of the human rights accomplishments, shortcomings and capacity-building needs of all countries in respect of all human rights based on an impartial, transparent and objective assessment of the situation.

d) Non-state actors must respect international humanitarian law and ensure that civilians / noncombatants are not targeted or harmed. They should participate in peace talks and live up to their commitments, including respect for ceasefires.

e) CSOs, governments and IGOs should facilitate public dialogue about the most suitable measures and methods to fulfil international standards in their context, in ways that are consistent with the highest standards of practice. Where needed, the international community can provide technical assistance and practical resources to help achieve these goals.

f) CSOs should undertake initiatives in communities to foster human rights awareness. Where needed, CSOs should strengthen regional networks of human rights groups and explore the potential of establishing independent and authoritative regional human rights organizations. They should form national networks across borders for collaboration and sharing of best practices and learning points. They can make 'shadow reports' on the implementation of human rights with recommendations to address shortcomings.

28. Effective participation and equality. A failure to ensure effective political participation is often one of the root causes of conflict. Those who feel excluded may try to defend their interests through other means, sometimes through violence. Strategies to promote effective participation must be rooted in efforts to end discrimination and actively promote equality.

a) Governments must intensify their efforts to comprehensively implement the Beijing Programme of Action to achieve gender equality. We strongly support UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security that specifically addresses the impact of war on women and girls and their contributions to sustainable peace. We call on relevant decisionmakers and agencies to resource its full and consistent implementation. Governments, international organisations and NGOs should ensure equal representation of women and men at all levels and in all institutions.

b) Governments and UN bodies have obligations to ensure the effective participation of minorities and indigenous peoples in decisions that affect them. Where needed, there should be proactive measures taken to ensure their access to consultations and decision-making processes at the local, national and global levels. Measures should take into account diversity within groups and the effective participation of women and girls. The principle of free, prior and informed consent should be at the center of decision making processes involving indigenous peoples' lands, territories and natural resources and their economic, social and cultural development.

c) Governments should develop new democratic institutions that enable direct participation of the poor and other marginalised people in meaningful decision-making and action to eliminate the root causes of violent conflict.

d) CSOs can engage in nonviolent social activism to foster empowerment of excluded groups and to direct attention to legitimate grievances. CSOs can foster public discussion and policy dialogue to clarify perceptions and needs and to develop agreements on ways to address them.

29. Governance and political systems. CSOs should work with all levels of government to strengthen institutional capacity and practices for good governance as a key facet of conflict prevention and long-term peacebuilding activities. They should aim to ensure free and fair elections, accountability, transparency, informed citizen participation, respect for diversity, the impartial application of law, management of tensions through constructive dialogue, and the provision of basic services in an equitable manner.

a) Regional organisations can develop detailed regional guidelines and monitoring systems, consistent with the highest international standards, to regulate the conduct of domestic elections. CSOs, political parties and governments – with support from IGOs – should investigate national electoral process to assess their strengths and weaknesses and develop recommendations on specific measures to enhance the overall democratic process. They should implement public education, including civic education campaigns, to enhance the knowledge of citizens about political and electoral processes and encourage full participation.

b) Governments must commit to fostering and abiding by the rule of law. CSOs can play an important role in promoting public awareness and expectations of rule of law, engaging in policy dialogue to assist its practical fulfilment, and monitoring compliance. We support the UN Secretary-General's recommendation for a dedicated Rule of Law Assistance Unit to be created in the proposed Peacebuilding Support Office and urge that assistance also be proactively offered to

countries potentially vulnerable to armed conflict.

c) Legislation and practice should enable civil society activities, including by fostering the registration of independent civil society associations and 'NGOs'.

30. Demilitarization, disarmament and arms control. In fulfilment of Article 26 of the UN Charter, Member States should commit themselves to the least diversion of the world's resources to weapons and military capacities. Resources can be devoted to development and programmes to promote sustainable peace.

a) Governments should agree and comply with an Arms Trade Treaty for conventional weapons, fully implement the programme of action on small arms and light weapons and make significant progress in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

b) CSOs can work with governments and IGOs on practical disarmament, including through community-based programs aimed at reducing the number of weapons among the civilian population, especially in violence-prone societies, and promote disarmament education.

c) CSOs can scrutinise defence policy, budget allocations / military expenditure and purchase of weapons, with the objective of fostering a shift to priorities that promote human security. CSOs can monitor corporations engaged in arms production and weapons developments and discourage their role in political decision-making.

In some regions of the world, normative-legal commitments play an important role in promoting regional stability and increase confidence. For example, Article 9 of Japanese Constitution renounces war as a means of settling disputes and of maintaining forces for those purposes. It has been a cornerstone for collective security throughout East Asia.

31. Strengthening systems to manage conflict peacefully. We aim to create societies where effective conflict management and prevention mechanisms and processes are institutionalised on local, national, regional and international levels

a) Increased attention, technical assistance and funding should be directed toward national capacity building. These can include commissions of inquiry, national reconciliation commissions, and platforms for national dialogue—including through legislative systems—to address larger systemic issues; as well as systems to address specific cases through alternative dispute resolution (mediation, ombudsman and adjudication services) and mainstream state institutions, such as the legal system

b) CSOs can contribute to the development of these capacities by contributing comparative learning, knowledge and skills to make these systems as effective as possible.

32. Cultures of peace: significance of education and media. Efforts to generate a sustainable culture of peace must be rooted deeply in the population. Peace education can facilitate significant changes in personal ways of thinking and behaviour and transform cultural violence. By generating greater understanding of the causes of conflict and for understanding the past, it can help foster greater trust and reconciliation and support democratic cultures and processes. The media is crucial for shaping understanding and responses—indicating the need for highly professional conflictsensitive journalism and peace media.

a) Renewed attention and greater resources are needed implement UN General Assembly Resolution GA/RES/53/243 and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. We appeal to the UN and Member States to fully implement it through adequate policies, funding and cooperation.

b) Peace education should be mainstreamed within multiple institutional and societal settings, including schools, families, communities, media, civil society organizations, public bodies and religious communities. This will require creative and sustained cooperation between formal and non-formal educators. Efforts are needed to cultivate culturally-appropriate conflict resolution life skills. International, regional and national networks of peace educators can help to stimulate innovation and generate momentum for mainstreaming.

c) Governments and CSOs, with technical support and resources as needed from the international community, should implement necessary reforms to the formal educational system, including curricula, textbooks and teacher training.

d) CSOs can develop media strategies as a part of their efforts to promote prevention and peacebuilding. They can link

journalists to peacebuilding stories and to spokespeople from a range of backgrounds who can articulately convey perspectives and innovative efforts. They can monitor the media to assess its conflict sensitivity and work with media organisations on projects and capacity building initiatives. CSOs can also involve media actors directly in prevention and peacebuilding activities, including – when appropriate – in dialogue initiatives.

33. Millennium Peace and Security Goals. Member States should develop and commit to a specific and timetabled set of rights-based and gender-sensitive goals to make achievable the Millennium Declaration commitments to peace, security and disarmament and to human rights, democracy and governance in ways that complement and enhance fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. They should build on the framework of rights, norms and standards previously agreed by governments and focus attention on how to fulfil them, with emphasis on local ownership of their implementation. GPPAC will work with others toward developing a set of goals and will advocate their adoption and fulfilment.

V. Operational prevention: action to prevent violence & resolve conflict

34. Develop integrated early warning and early response systems that maximise local knowledge and build on local capacities. CSOs should further develop their own early warning / early response mechanisms in countries and regions at greatest risk. These should be rooted in the unique knowledge of local groups and complemented regional and international actors.

- a) GPPAC aims to develop an integrated global network based on solidarity of CSOs that can cooperate to identify appropriate conflict prevention responses and to mobilize the political will necessary for timely and effective action, including through the methods identified below.
- b) CSOs in conflict-affected areas should facilitate public discussion of these situations in order to generate ideas for how to address the situation and mobilise creative and constructive responses.
- c) Integrated systems need to be enabled through appropriate technologies – including networked communication systems – and potentially with new institutional mechanisms such as regional observatories.
- d) Efforts and resources are needed to implement Action Plan for the Prevention of Genocide. In particular, the new Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide should be supported with the necessary staffing and resources to be effective in fulfilling his important role.
- e) Member States should support a more systematised approach to collaboration between the UN, regional organisations and CSOs at headquarters and in the field in order to integrate early warning and early response systems. These should involve key stakeholders and others with special expertise to share information, strengthen joint analysis, identify options and opportunities, and support needed to implement strategies. There should be initiatives to:
 - i. Establish regular and transparent interfaces ('contact points') between UN Resident Coordinators / SRSGs and relevant local, regional and international CSOs to exchange information and develop complementary strategies. These could include formal arrangements for cooperation in data collection, analysis and strategy development to ensure that these mechanisms draw on the unique knowledge and capacities of all relevant actors. Existing experiences with these arrangements should be assessed to learn lessons for the future evolution of these systems.
 - ii. Strengthen the capacity of local, national and regional CSOs—including in the media sector— through training and ongoing support to identify and analyse the causes and dynamics of emerging conflicts. This must include training in gender-based indicators and gendersensitive strategies for prevention and peacebuilding.
 - iii. Enhance multi-track network structures that create the social infrastructure for information sharing, collaborative action and solidarity. Well-respected CSOs with specialised skills and capacities may be best placed to develop locally appropriate instruments in cooperation with regional / international counterparts and / or with inter-governmental organisations.

To respond more effectively to the complex array of conflict dynamics in West Africa, a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in early warning analysis has been agreed between the sub-regional organisation ECOWAS, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the civil society network West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

(WANEP). 35.

Strengthen preventive diplomacy, mediation and dialogue processes. Although the

peaceful settlement of disputes before they escalate to violence is the most cost-effective and sustainable method, mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels are typically under-developed and mostly reactive to crises. Greater priority is needed for non-military, noncoercive and cooperative forms of early-stage preventive action. This can include facilitating deescalatory dialogue and reaching agreements to address sources of conflict in ways that are consistent with internationally agreed standards.

a) Measures to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of UN Charter should be strengthened, with greater emphasis on preventive diplomacy as specified in Article

34. This should include situations involving non-state actors. Parties should be proactively encouraged to seek conciliation, arbitration or adjudication on key issues, including through the International Court of Justice if applicable.

b) UN should play a leading role in proactively responding to the potential for conflict by convening multi-stakeholder dialogue. The aim should be to open channels of communication, to clarify issues and develop joint strategies, and to help implement those strategies by mobilising the necessary resources from throughout the international community.

c) UN Secretary-General's good offices role and capacities for preventive mediation and early stage dispute resolution should be strengthened by providing additional resources. Staff experienced in conflict analysis and resolution can offer assistance by:

(a) conducting analysis and developing proposals; and

(b) mediating / facilitating dialogue at early stages of prevention, including through the use of shuttle diplomacy and other formal and informal meetings with leaders of government and opposition factions / militant groups. They should maintain links with CSOs who have complementary capacities.

d) Further support is needed for innovative initiatives like the Joint UN Development Programme / Department of Political Affairs Programme on Building National Capacity for Conflict Prevention to provide timely assistance in at-risk situations.

e) Respected 3rd parties and CSOs can initiate forums for ongoing dialogue, including through non-official Track II dialogue processes, to channel disputes through peaceful processes. They can encourage and support negotiation between hostile parties to prevent escalation to violence and link these to inclusive longer-term processes for addressing underlying challenges. As appropriate, 3rd parties can monitor implementation of formal and informal agreements and recommendations and support relevant implementation mechanisms.

f) Greater resources are needed to provide access to expert assistance on key disputed substantive issues and on confidence-building measures. Respected groups can study the situation, elicit views and ideas from stakeholders, and offer advice on principles, strategies and programmes to address challenges. As appropriate, they can also be involved in monitoring implementation.

g) The international community should have a pool of resources to quickly provide strategically targeted funding and other assistance to rapidly implement initiatives and programmes to address key concerns and build confidence that a better future is possible.

36. Support community-based and indigenous conflict management and peacebuilding. Violent conflicts typically infiltrate all levels of society. The state-based international system is often poorly equipped to engage effectively with people involved in localised armed violence and self-sustaining conflict dynamics at the community level. We recognise the significance of community-based peace initiatives to create 'pragmatic peace' to enable people to co-exist with each other.

a) CSOs should continue initiatives to build understanding and trust and to reach agreements on matters within their control, as well as to influence policies concerning the wider context that affects them. Where needed, they can form national networks or platforms to develop shared strategies and strengthen influence.

- b) Greater effort is needed to learn from the many innovative experiences of community-based peace monitors and mediators who help to prevent violence at the local level, so as to inspire others facing similar challenges. Technical, financial and political resources should be available as needed to support their efforts.
- c) Outsiders can encourage a supportive environment and, as needed, resources to enable these local capacities for peace, while being careful not to overwhelm or displace them.
- d) Action is needed to help increase the basic safety of local peace actors. Greater priority should be given to human rights monitoring presences and protective accompaniment, as well as unified international condemnation of all violators with immediate action to prosecute those responsible.
37. Enhance multifunctional peace operations. To enhance cooperation in impending crisis situations, the UN should work with other relevant actors, including local and international CSOs, to jointly analyse needs, formulate objectives and the strategies to achieve them and develop appropriate operational structures for effective cooperation. These capacities will be enhanced through joint training, scenario planning, and evaluation.
- a) To ensure that the mandate and concept of operation are appropriate to address needs and build on local resources, pre-deployment assessment missions should include systematic processes of consulting with CSOs (including those close to the potential or actual armed parties) both inside and outside the country and actively involve the UN country team.
- b) Mandates must include a commitment to gender equality. Gender experts and expertise should be included at all levels and in all aspects of peace operations, including in technical surveys and the design of concepts of operation, training, staffing and programmes.
- c) We support the Secretary-General's proposal to create interlocking system of peacekeeping capacities so the UN can partner with relevant regional organisations and thus increase rapid response capacity. There should be coherent and integrated mandates and leadership of peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts, which often need to happen simultaneously or overlap. Priority should be given to establishing mechanisms for cooperation and clear channels of communication among national, regional and international organisations working on peace – possibly through the development of regularised multi-track forums.
- d) This system should interlink with civilian peace services: teams of experts with specialised skills who can be rapidly deployed in emerging crisis situations to support local peaceful actors and, where necessary, provide a protective accompaniment for local people. The UN should develop rosters of specialists, and work with existing services make shared lists, taking into account the importance of cultural and gender differences as a key resource of such teams.
- e) Peace operations must ensure the comprehensive protection of civilians and non-combatants, including from sexual violence and exploitation. The Secretary-General's 'zero tolerance' policy on the behaviour of peacekeepers should be rigorously enforced and violators brought to justice.
- f) Responsibility to protect should be pursued in accordance with international law and in a consistent manner, as articulated by the ICISS Commission and by criteria advocated the Secretary-General, consistent with Article 51 of the UN Charter. We note the primary responsibility to prevent, along with the responsibilities to react and to rebuild. Any use of force is only justifiable as a last resort.
- g) Civil society, governments and IGOs should build upon existing programs and develop further initiatives for the comprehensive disarmament, demobilization and social and economic reintegration (DDR) of former fighters. These programmes should be tailored to meet the specific needs of women and men, girls and boys. These programs must be well-planned, adequately funded and sufficiently integrated into the broader post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation process.
- h) The UN should spearhead fundraising for prevention and peacebuilding activities modelled on similar systems for humanitarian response mechanisms.

- i. This should include joint appeals to donors to support integrated programmes of CSOs and international organisations. Governments should create a trust fund for rapid implementation of post-settlement peacebuilding activities.
- ii. As standard operational practice, CSOs from conflict-affected communities should be enabled to participate actively in processes to develop funding priorities and plans, such as the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAPs) and the Post-Conflict Needs Assessment.
- iii. CAPs should explicitly include initiatives to promote 'social cohesion' and 'peacebuilding'. OCHA should be encouraged to use flexible modalities, such as regional CAPS so as to be proactive in responding to emerging situations.

38. Foster inclusive and sustainable peace processes. People in war-affected societies are the main stakeholders of peace. They should not be left out of peace processes between government and armed groups. Civil society peacemakers are often strategically located in communities and able to engage diverse constituencies in peace initiatives as independent third-parties.

a) CSOs can engage in processes to identify and debate key issues that should be addressed in the negotiating agenda and, as relevant, to deliberate substantive measures to address them. A range of modalities can be used, including multi-sectoral forums convening diverse civil society groupings that may have differing views on conflict issues.

b) Efforts should be made to strengthen the capacity of CSO representatives to engage effectively in peace talks, including through training in negotiation and policy formulation as well as in the substantive issues that will be addressed in the talks. This can involve resources, skills training, and advisors, as well as opportunities to learn from peace processes elsewhere.

c) The UN should encourage and support CSO involvement and ensure that there are mechanisms for public participation in negotiations over substantive constitutional and policy matters related to the future of the country. International mediators and special envoys should be informed of relevant initiatives and the substantive ideas generated. If appropriate, they should take part in these processes.

d) Renewed efforts and practical commitments should be made by parties to conflict, international mediators, and the donor community to ensure that women are represented equally at the decision-making level in formal peace negotiations.

39. Support reconciliation and transitional justice. Fundamental to the longer-term process of developing sustainable peace and a secure future is to recognize and understand the significance of facing up to the harsh realities of a painful past. We value social reconciliation and the rebuilding of relationships as essential for prevention and peacebuilding, while recognizing the right of every person to choose when and if she/he will reconcile. Modalities for fostering these processes should be supported by governments and fully supportive of all citizens of all ages, in particular victims of mass atrocities and all other violations. This calls for multidimensional systems for reconciliation and trust-building by various actors.

a) There should be strong channels of communication between the range of actors involved – including political, humanitarian and legal-judicial – to develop joint policies and strategies to ensure that the demands of justice and peace do not compete. The wishes of local people must be central in determining the most appropriate modalities. Public dialogue and discussion about these difficult issues should be fostered to develop appropriate responses.

b) In addition to fully supporting overall modalities for reconciliation, governments should strengthen the capacity of national justice systems for war crime trials and cooperate fully with international judicial machinery. Governments should ensure free access to documentation about the past and undertake initiatives for tracing missing persons and mass graves. They should also create the legal preconditions for places of remembrance and memorials. Funding is needed for reparations and support for the victims' families as well as trauma healing and psycho-social support, with special attention given to the special needs of women and children.

c) CSOs play a crucial role in reconciliation processes on local and regional levels. Efforts are needed to further develop capacity and practices to deal with the past in a constructive way on an individual, family and community level in a fully participatory and inclusive manner. They can undertake research and documentation projects to make an independent record to help those in society to engage constructively in discussions about the past. CSOs can work with the media and educational institutions of all levels to generate an environment conducive to dealing with the past.

d) IGOs should support legitimate local actors to engage in reconciliation dialogue in good faith and offer appropriate, sustained protection and support.

40. Historical experiences of violent conflict – particularly when widespread atrocities occurred – can leave legacies that continue to poison contemporary relations and increase the risk of renewed conflict.

a) The successor governments of states involved in these conflicts should recognize responsibility for past acts and demonstrate remorse by making formal apologies and, as appropriate, symbolic and / or material reparations. They should support initiatives to transmit facts and memories to future generations. These can include memorials, peace museums, and commemorative events.

b) Joint commissions of historians should be formed to research the past and develop a common framework of factually-based accounts of disputed histories and contentious issues so as to provide balanced information and analysis for educational material and public debates.

c) Governments, involving relevant experts, should develop education curricula and textbooks that are sensitive to these histories. Where appropriate, educationalists and historians should collaborate on the development of common regional textbooks and materials.

VI. Engaging CSOs, governments, the UN & regional organisations in effective partnerships for prevention and peacebuilding

41. UN member states should develop and implement an internationally agreed programme of action for prevention and peacebuilding that draws on this Global Action Agenda.

a) As an initial step, there should be a series of regional consultations around GPPAC regional action agendas involving senior officials from the UN, regional organisations, governments and the CSO networks to explore challenges and ways of implementing the agenda.

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b) To focus international attention and raise awareness, Member States could consider declaring a UN Decade for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

42. A comprehensive system must include official recognition of the role of civil society in peace and security matters. Governments and IGOs can help to strengthen civil society capacities by providing both practical support and recognition of the legitimacy of CSOs, within a rights-based framework. The participation rights of CSOs in national, regional and international fora must be systematically integrated into prevention activities. These rights should be based on well-defined concepts and frameworks for partnering. The UN and Regional Organizations should accord permanent observer status to CSOs active in peacebuilding and conflict management and prevention; this should include CSO status with the UN General Assembly.

43. Governments and CSOs should proactively seek ways to address the causes and consequences of conflict.

a) Government policies and practices should be informed by the principle that state security and human security are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Governments should strengthen their commitments to making the prevention of violent conflict a national priority. They should integrate prevention into their national security policies and operational capacities, as well as provide increased resources for domestic and international programmes and activities. They should champion the development of domestic legislation and international norms that promote prevention and human security. They must also create and exercise political will and capacity for consistent, early and effective response to emerging crises.

b) Governments and CSOs should cooperate to promote human security through coordinated action, critical dialogue and ongoing monitoring. CSOs should be involved at all stages of the development, design, and implementation of prevention policies and programs. This can be enabled through specialised institutional mechanisms as well as other formal and informal channels for engagement.

c) To engage effectively, many CSOs will need to strengthen their capacities to engage proactively with national policymaking processes. They can engage with parliamentary processes and work with parliamentarians to develop and monitor relevant legislation.

Parliaments should develop procedures to have hearings with a wide range of CSOs to elicit views and ideas on important and sensitive issues.

d) Governments and CSOs can work together to develop effective systems for civilian conflict management, while ensuring that governments live up to their responsibilities and CSOs maintain their independence. National civilian peace services can be created to enable rapid responses to requests for international civilian presence elsewhere.

e) Inter-governmental and international actors can play a key role in facilitating and creating space for constructive dialogue and productive engagement between governments and civil society representatives. Their mandates and operational practices should give priority to enabling this dialogue and, consequently, missions should develop the necessary skills and capacities to do so effectively. Each year, the Canadian government hosts a conference where they can deliberate foreign policy with Canadian civil society. This acts as a consultative mechanism for developing the government's response to both thematic issues and specific situations.

44. Governments and parliamentarians can cooperate with each other and with CSOs to advance prevention and peacebuilding.

a) In the past, governments have formed successful alliances with CSOs to advance such causes as the Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security, the campaign to ban landmines, and to promote human security. Governments should form a 'group of friends' to promote prevention in the international system and in government policies and practices.

b) The Inter-Parliamentary Union and parliamentarian associations can undertake initiatives to focus on prevention and peacebuilding. This could be the focus for an experimental global public policy committee to discuss emerging priorities on the global agenda, as recommended by the Cardoso Panel.

45. Strengthen the capacities of the UN's deliberative organs for leadership of prevention and peacebuilding and effective engagement with civil society.

a) The General Assembly should be revitalised, as outlined by the Secretary-General. Its substantive agenda should give prominence to developing and agreeing a programme of action for prevention, including through the development of Millennium Peace and Security Goals. It should establish mechanisms to engage fully and systematically with civil society.

b) The Security Council should implement the recommendations of the Cardoso Panel to strengthen the Council's engagement with civil society. It should improve the planning and effectiveness of the Arria formula meetings by lengthening lead times and covering travel costs to increase the participation of actors from the field. UN country staff should assist in identifying civil society interlocutors. Security Council field missions should meet regularly with appropriate local civil society leaders, international NGOs and perhaps others, such as business leaders. Security Council should continue thematic seminars to discuss issues of emerging importance to the Council that include presentations by civil society and other constituencies as well as UN specialists, such as special rapporteurs. The Security Council should convene independent commissions of inquiry after Council-mandated operations.

c) The Economic and Social Council should also be revitalised to strengthen its leading role in development and

economic cooperation and linking the normative and operational work of the UN. ECOSOC should give prominence to promoting structural prevention and human security, as outlined in this Global Action Agenda, as well as post-conflict peacebuilding. It should cooperate closely with civil society in developing both thematic and situation-specific responses.

d) UN Peacebuilding Commission should be created, as outlined by the Secretary-General, to mobilise resources and enable coherent and sustained peacebuilding through informationsharing, planning and monitoring. The Commission should have systematic measures for consulting with relevant CSOs – especially those from affected communities – to ensure that strategies are responsive to the long-term needs of the society, in fulfilment of international norms. The Commission can also proactively encourage Member States and others to request its advice and assistance at any stage, including before violence has emerged. The proposed peacebuilding support office should have a dedicated and highly qualified staff with extensive practical experience in working with conflict, including in facilitating dialogue and mediation. It should have close cooperation with the operational agencies of the UN and regional organisations. There should be direct links with the regional and in-country mechanisms for working with conflict-related issues, specified in points 46 and 47 below. It should engage proactively with CSOs and develop partnership agreements where relevant.

46. Strengthen UN in-country capacities for prevention and peacebuilding through engagement with civil society. Member States and the Secretary-General should collectively affirm the importance and expectation of UN engagement with the diverse elements of civil society within a country as a part of its ongoing work in human development and preventing armed conflict and fostering sustainable peace. UN officials should prioritise maintaining the space needed for CSO activities and work to promote their safety.

a) There should be a focal point for prevention and peacebuilding within the UN Country Team to channel effective information flows and be a catalyst to help coordinate appropriate responses, possibly building on the role of UNDP peace and development advisors. S/he should foster a framework for engagement with local civil society and serve as a link between governments and CSOs working on prevention and peacebuilding.

b) The Resident Coordinator / SRSG can establish advisory councils. Such bodies – comprised of women and men from different social groups and possibly representatives of government, local authorities and regional organisations – could work toward the development of joint strategies to promote social cohesion and human security and help to ensure that the overall strategy adopted by international actors is sensitive to local needs. Ideally, these councils would model multi-stakeholder dialogue-based approaches for working with tensions. In larger countries, councils could be established in different regions, especially conflict zones, to more effectively engage people outside the capital. In countries at-risk of escalating conflict, these councils should funnel early warning information, analysis and ideas, as well as strategies emerging from local processes, into national deliberations. Where relevant, such councils could serve as part of the architecture to promote implementation of the terms of peace agreements through independent monitoring and mediation, as well as providing advice on peacebuilding strategies.

c) Create opportunities for engagement for UN staff and local people, including those based in CSOs and other social leaders, to get to know each other and experience working together. Training and induction events can provide good opportunities, as well as other experiences for interaction such as seminars, receptions, and cultural events. UN local staff should reflect the full diversity of the local population. It is particularly important to promote contacts with civil society interlocutors representing the various conflict-affected elements of society.

47. Strengthen the capacities of Regional Organizations to operationalize prevention and peacebuilding in cooperation with the UN and CSOs. These organisations are critical actors close to the settings of conflicts. They typically have better knowledge of the issues in their locality and a strong interest in preventing the spread of destabilising violence. They provide an intermediate forum removed from immediate state level yet rooted within the regional reality.

a) Regional organisations should recognise the legitimate role of CSOs in inter-governmental structures and mechanisms for prevention and peacebuilding. Efforts are needed to institutionalize engagement, including through providing CSOs with consultative status within these structures.

b) Regional organisations should develop their normative standards connected to human rights, security, governance and development in ways that promote prevention. They should develop regional action plans for the implementation and enforcement of standards and resolutions.

c) Regional organisations should increase their capacities to engage effectively with the range of issues related to prevention and peacebuilding. They should develop their operational prevention capacities, as outlined in Section IV, possibly managed through conflict prevention and peacebuilding units. They should also establish mechanisms that

interlink with international and local systems for early warning and early response.

d) Efforts should be made to develop or strengthen appropriate mechanisms to address the crossborder and regional dimension of factors that cause conflicts or that enable them to become deadly. These can take place under the auspices of a regional organisation, under the UN, or as a joint instrument, depending on the existing multilateral arrangements in the region. Where no such organisations exist, the UN can convene relevant actors. Consistent with the subsidiarity principle, the UN should fill in gaps in a complementary and additive manner. Funding streams should be available for (sub-)regional level initiatives. Priority should be given to engaging local and regional CSOs to explore mechanisms for ongoing cooperation and partnerships. Where existing regional organisations are more closed, the UN can open space for CSO involvement.

In Eastern Africa, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has advanced regional early warning systems through the creation of CEWARN in close collaboration with CSOs. It has played a key role mediating conflicts in Sudan and Somalia. With more resources and capacity, a transformed IGAD could become an African Union specialised agency capable of drawing from governmental and CSO resources towards early warning and peacemaking in the region.

VII. Strengthening civil society roles & capacities

48. Strengthen CSO capacities prevention and peacebuilding through global, regional and national networks.

a) CSOs must build more effective mechanisms – and possibly institutions – to improve communication, coordination and mutual assistance between groups with different approaches to conflict prevention. The aim should be to increase capacities and develop shared and complementary strategies with groups working in similar geographic or substantive areas for prevention, responsive initiatives, and /or peacebuilding. Networks can help to enable coalitions and resource sharing strategies.

b) Local networks can help to empower the collective of indigenous organizations to become active in the field by tempering or transforming perceptions of conflict prevention and peacebuilding as a foreign or external concern. In many regions, perceptions of the role of violence as a means to solve problems is being challenged and questioned. Providing conflict prevention practitioners with a platform to freely discuss their experiences and concerns can help to tip the balance in favour of broader application of already existing nonviolence and peaceful conflict resolution traditions.

c) Networks need to function well at a sub-regional and cross-border level to enable joint CSO efforts for preventive diplomacy and initiatives to address cross-border factors that cause and exacerbate conflict. As appropriate, they can create CSO-initiated regional conflict prevention centers to monitor potential conflict and respond in timely and innovative ways.

d) Networks should contribute to deepening partnerships and widening the network of local and regional CSOs with whom international organizations can engage. This will also allow greater integration of southern perspectives in regional and international fora.

e) Platforms of CSOs dedicated to prevention and peacebuilding should establish links with other CSOs, such as churches, business associations, unions, and universities. Active steps should be taken to cooperate with networks focused on related matters, such as human rights, development and environmental issues. Further analysis is needed of existing networks to identify ways in which they can better serve the functions they are organised to address.

f) CSOs should work with governments, regional organisations and the UN to address those restrictions to freedom of movement that impede cross-border regional and global networking and cooperation, in ways that are consistent with international norms.

g) Create electronic forums to exchange ideas, to promote dialogue among CSOs interested in preventing armed conflicts and in peace-building, as well as in communicating information.

h) Prepare a directory of CSOs engaged in conflict prevention, with details as to the specific areas in which they operate. It should include organizations, networks, research and academic centers working in the field of armed conflict

prevention and peace-building.

49. Greater resources and attention directed toward gender perspectives and women's networks for peacebuilding.

a) Regional platforms for peacebuilding should develop strategies for implementing gender perspectives. The networks should include both women and men and be drawn from women's groups, civic initiatives, institutions, international organisations, and other NGOs whose work is not focused exclusively on gender awareness

b) Women's networks and the donor community should build capacity of CSOs – especially women's organisations – to advocate and lobby for women's involvement in conflict prevention management and resolution process. All organisations must increase the level of knowledge and awareness of gender perspective within their own structures.

50. Youth and children's initiatives. Young people are the future. They must be central to any longterm strategy for prevention and peacebuilding. They have tremendous capacity for change and energy to contribute to activism. Yet youth are often excluded from effectively participating and contributing to structural or systemic reforms in their countries and regions.

a) Young people can become powerful peace workers with encouragement and support. In consultation with youth, governments and international organisations and agencies should develop youth policies with minimum standard of ways to ensure the inclusion of youth in their activities and to address their needs. Such policies should include a focus on youth skill development for conflict prevention, management and resolution. CSOs should lobby governments and IGOs to adopt the policy and support and monitor its implementation at the community level.

b) CSOs, IGOs and governments should provide support to enable national, regional and global networking among youth to share experiences and develop innovative initiatives for responding to conflict. Strengthen existing networks of youth organisations in order to address issues affecting the youth, as well as to co-ordinate efforts aimed at building the capacity of youth structures to contribute to the prevention of violent conflict.

51. Support the prevention and peacebuilding capacities of faith-based organisations and religious leaders and mitigate against faith-related violence.

a) Peace and conflict-prevention oriented CSOs should work with faith-based organizations to facilitate the formation of inter-faith councils that will include women and youth.

b) Drawing on the respect that religious communities often enjoy in all societies and nations all over the world, networks of inter-faith councils should organize joint activities to promote mutual understanding, peaceful coexistence and – where needed - peacebuilding.

c) Regional inter-faith councils should collaborate with national governments, regional organisations and the UN to influence policies at the national, regional and international levels and to prevent faith related violence.

d) Increase inter-faith understanding by providing courses and other educational processes for young people and other groups about their own and others religious tradition.

e) Undertake strategic programs of empirical research, discussion and education into the political and social role of religious communities, the distribution of power, their role in the armed conflicts, and their general influence on society. Bring together experts and leaders of religious communities, peace-oriented CSOs, and government officials to discuss research results and their own experiences in order to develop concrete proposals for action.

52. Strengthen the capacities of traditional leaders to promote peacebuilding initiatives.

a) Specialist CSOs can work with traditional leaders to enhance their capacity in conflict prevention and peacebuilding at community, national and regional levels. In addition they can help to facilitate the establishment of council of traditional leaders. Members of such councils can serve as eminent persons in mediating in conflicts.

b) Furthermore, there is a need to better understand and learn from the experiences of indigenous knowledge systems for strengthening community organization and peacebuilding.

VIII. Funding and resources

55. Prioritising prevention and peacebuilding will require more resources, more effectively administered. We need more effective funding modalities that combine reliability of supply and funding streams that can be quickly administered for flexible rapid response initiatives. Coherent framework strategies are required to achieve long-term conflict transformation and guide the effective allocation of resources to meet that goal.

a) When donor governments organise for conflict prevention and peacebuilding within or across relevant government agencies they should involve CSOs in situation analysis, planning and implementation. Government-CSO interaction should be based on transparent policies, agreed standards and verifiable benchmarks, and ultimately aim for co-ordinated coherent government policies, joint initiatives and strategic partnerships.

b) Sustainable peacebuilding partly depends on financing facilities for post-conflict reconstruction. Consistent with the Secretary-General's recommendation, donors should create a trust fund to support reconstruction in countries emerging from conflict. As appropriate, access to the reconstruction fund should be linked to the adherence by all parties to the agreements which they have signed. Through this facility, governments recognise, invite and facilitate the contribution of CSOs in post-conflict peacebuilding, especially in such areas as trauma counselling, reconciliation and healing processes, and community regeneration.

c) Governments and international organisations should invest in longer term civil society activities in order to enhance sustainability.

d) CSOs and donors should jointly examine the medium- to longer-term consequences of the modalities of funding relationships. There are a number of challenges that can be explored. In some cases, donors tend to define the priorities that become the focus for most aid recipient activities. Some of the methods used to allocate funds tend to fragment the development of more integrated and comprehensive strategies. Furthermore, in some societies, the rapid emergence of externally-funded NGOs may have resulted in a situation in which civil society initiatives have become overly 'projectised' and inhibit spontaneous responses to emerging situations, including crises.

e) NGOs focused on working with conflict should consider developing independent funding streams for their activities. They can develop strategies to generate resources from private donors. They can create membership organisations that derive with independent funding and other support from members. Eliciting support from the general public could parallel the emergence of greater public awareness of the value of conflict prevention and support for CSO roles in promoting it.

NOTES:

1 In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All. Report of the Secretary-General. 21

March 2005. A/59/2005. Available on <http://www.un.org/largerfreedom/contents.htm>

2 Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict. 1997. Preventing Deadly Conflict: Final Report with Executive Summary. Available on <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/subsites/ccpdc/index.htm>

3 In Larger Freedom, op. cit., p.26 4 The Responsibility to Protect. Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. December

2001. Available on <http://www.iciss.ca/menu-en.asp>

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