



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

July 6th, 2015

**“Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes” (GAAMAC)
TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF
THE GLOBAL ACTION AGAINST MASS ATROCITY CRIMES**

Excellency,
Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

We would like to kindly present the **Founding Document of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes GAAMAC**, as requested by the participants of the first international meeting held in Costa Rica in March 2014.

This document is the result of an interactive and broad consultation among the founding states and civil society organizations that constitute the Steering Group¹. Although it took time, the agreement and consensus achieved are solid and the cooperation looks very promising.

As conveners of the first meeting, we are thankful for the work realized. Indeed, this Founding Document clarifies GAAMAC's added value and complementarity with existing initiatives and networks.

It establishes GAAMAC as a global, inclusive, state-led network of partners cooperating for atrocity prevention to become a reality, as a support for states to develop national architectures and policies for the prevention of atrocity crimes as a space for trusted peer-to-peer support, exchange of experience, cooperation and networking. Finally, all the States and Organizations that want to join the “General Principles of Partnership” are welcome to become partners in GAAMAC.

¹ Argentina, Costa Rica, Denmark, Switzerland, Tanzania, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, Global Centre for R2P, International Coalition for RtoP, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University, School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University, the Stanley Foundation; with the support of the UN Office of the Special Advisers on Prevention of Genocide and the R2P. Some of the state partners are still undergoing their national approval process for official endorsement.

As regarding the next steps,

- This Founding Document is now sent to all participants of the first meeting in Costa Rica for information. It shall be presented formally during the second GAAMAC meeting, scheduled to take place at the end of 2015 or early 2016.
- The Steering Group will now begin to prepare the second meeting and take practical steps in this regard, such as location, date, logistical considerations and agenda.

We kindly inform you that **any state interested and able to host this second meeting** (either at the end of 2015 or early 2016) **is welcome to present a proposal**. Please take initial contact as soon as possible and not later than mid-July with the Coordinator of the Support Team to the Steering Group, Mr. Michel Gottret (michel.gottret@eda.admin.ch)

Allow us to draw your attention to the updated GAAMAC website <http://www.gaamac.org/>, a useful platform for sharing information, lessons learned and exchange of experiences regarding to the manifold elements related to prevention of atrocity.

We warmly thank all the members of the Support Team and the Steering Group for this very useful document.

We also extend our warm gratitude to each of the participants at the first meeting in Costa Rica. Your engagement and commitment is a sign of hope and your presence has made a difference.

No society is immune, prevention begins at home; together we can make a difference!

Sincerely,



THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
COSTA RICA
The Minister



THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SWISS
CONFEDERATION
The State Secretary