GLOBAL ACTION AGAINST MASS ATROCITY CRIMES

GAAMAC Platform for Prevention

5th Global Forum
AGAINST THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE

STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE TO THE RISK OF GENOCIDE AND OTHER ATROCITY CRIMES

MESSAGE FROM GAAMAC CHAIR
Ambassador Christian Guillermet-Fernández

Mr. Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to send you this video message in my capacity of Chair of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes, known as "GAAMAC".

GAAMAC is a global network of states, civil society and academic institutions that seek to promote the establishment of national architectures and policies for the prevention of genocide and other atrocity crimes. GAAMAC is a state-led initiative composed of 13 Steering Group members, 32 partners, and three informal alliances with intergovernmental organizations, including UNESCO, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

We are very pleased indeed to count Armenia as one of our partners and I would like to reiterate our gratitude for Armenia's continued support and engagement in the prevention of mass atrocities. As such, we salute the convening of this year's Global Forum and support the very timely focus on strengthening early warning and early response as key preventive actions.

Indeed, as we know, Genocide and other mass atrocities do not happen overnight. As indicated in the United Nations Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes systematic and systemic discrimination and a culture of impunity, amongst many other factors, can escalate to violent conflict and atrocity crimes. Therefore, there are many opportunities to set early warning mechanisms and act before situations escalate.

To this regard, GAAMAC aims at contributing to move from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention. GAAMAC is convinced that prevention requires knowledge of underlying causes of

violence as well as learning to recognize vectors of violence and signals of potential mass atrocities before they occur.
To prevent such a process to escalate into violence and atrocities, it is not only necessary to be alert and ready to identify early signs, but indeed to focus on prevention as a permanent endeavor. It is for this reason that the main objective of GAAMAC is to promote the development of permanent national architectures and policies to prevent atrocity crimes. This does not mean that States need to establish additional structures or bureaucracies but rather to ensure that existing policies and early warning mechanisms are coordinated and indeed understood through the lens of prevention. It is in this regard that GAAMAC has been mentioned as a best practice and recognized as a key partner for prevention in several UN Secretary General Reports on the Responsibility to Protect.

I would like to send you our solidarity and we wish you a very fruitful Forum.

Thank you.