

# The Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

V year edition (2012 - 2017)

## An Effective Coalition for Prevention

Red Latinoamericana para la  
Prevención del Genocidio  
y Atrocidades Masivas 

in partnership with



Developed by the Technical Secretariat of the Network  
The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

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## About This Report

**“The network is a vibrant, solid, committed and leading actor in the global architecture of genocide and mass atrocity prevention.”**

Adama Dieng,  
United Nations Special  
Adviser on the Prevention of  
Genocide, March 2014

It is well known that Latin America has wide-ranging experience in addressing the national-level challenges linked to human rights and that it is also a pioneer in the search for strategic solutions at a regional level. This is reflected in the alliances woven within international forums related to the preparation, negotiation, approval of international human rights instruments, as well as the creation and institutionalization of regional and sub-regional fora with a rights-based approach.

This report reflects the commitments and actions taken by Latin American states since 2012 that give meaning to an incipient but flourishing prevention agenda delineated by the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention.

We appreciate the valuable contribution made by the Focal Points of the Latin American Network for the construction of this report, as well as the Stanley Foundation and the Office of the Special Advisers for the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect of the United Nations, with whom the Auschwitz Institute has been progressively building an effective coalition for prevention over the previous five years.

The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation  
Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network  
for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

## About The Network

### **What is the Latin America Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention?**

The decision to address regional challenges jointly through proactive and creative solutions that incorporate an atrocity prevention approach motivated eighteen Latin American countries to form the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (the Network).

The Network is an informal forum for regional cooperation established in 2012 which consists of eighteen member-states. Network members have prioritized the prevention of atrocities in the development of their public and foreign policies. It is, to this point, the first initiative in the world whose objectives include both increasing cooperation between states and developing a genocide prevention curriculum for public officials with specific responsibilities in the area of human rights.

### **A Bit of History**

The Human Rights Secretariats of Argentina and Brazil, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, led the initiative for the creation of the Network, for which they requested the support of AIPR and the United Nations Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG), and subsequently The Stanley Foundation. Under this leadership, the bases were established to form a regional forum with a particular concrete interest in the development of training tools for public officials in Latin America.

The curriculum was presented at the first meeting of the Network (referred to as the Launch Meeting, held in Argentina in March of 2012), which also provided an appropriate institutional framework through which to agree upon the objectives, goals and structure of the forum and to establish priority thematic areas for the application of a prevention-centric approach.

### **Structure, Principles and Objectives of the Network**

The structure of the Network is based on the identification of national Focal Points, who are individuals in charge of representing their government within the Network. Similarly, and as a result of increased participation, multiple members countries of the Network are working toward the creation of National Mechanisms for the Prevention of Genocide. National Mechanisms are inter-ministerial structures that involve the participation of officials from institutions across different branches of government. In addition to providing representation for their state within the Network, National Mechanisms are responsible for developing a unified and cross-cutting national policy on the prevention of genocide.

Over the course of the preceding five years, the members countries of the Network have achieved the necessary consensus to identify the priority areas of focus, as well as the principles and objectives that inspire the work of the forum.

## Composition of the Network

<b>Argentina</b>	Office of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
<b>Plurinational State of Bolivia</b>	Office of Human Rights, Ministry of Defense
<b>Brazil</b>	Joint representation: Secretariat of Human Rights and Federal Prosecutor for Citizens' Rights
<b>Colombia</b>	Office of Human Rights and International Human Rights Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Office of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
<b>Chile</b>	Office of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Ecuador</b>	Office of the Ombudsman
<b>El Salvador</b>	Office of the Ombudsman
<b>Guatemala</b>	Violence and Crime Prevention Unit, Ministry of Governance
<b>Honduras</b>	Office for the Culture of Peace, Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights
<b>Mexico</b>	Office for International Public Law, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs
<b>Nicaragua</b>	Office of the Ombudsman* *Nicaragua participates solely in training activities of the Latin American Network.
<b>Panama</b>	Office of the Ombudsman
<b>Paraguay</b>	Office of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Peru</b>	Office of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs* *Peru participates as an observer.
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Office of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Uruguay</b>	Office of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>Venezuela</b>	Ministry of Popular Power for Interior Relations, Justice, and Peaces

## Objectives and Axes of Work<sup>1</sup>

**“The Latin American Network does not only constitute an example of partnership among States. It is also an example of how different actors can work together to achieve common objectives. The Network constitutes a model that actors in other regions of the world are already looking to, as an example of good practice. This is as much an opportunity as it is a responsibility. Let us together work to make the Network a vibrant, operational and effective platform for atrocity prevention.”**

Adama Dieng,  
United Nations Special  
Adviser on the Prevention of  
Genocide, October 2017

### Axes of Work

- **Memory, Truth, and Justice**
- **Protection of people in vulnerable situations**
- **Promotion of anti-discrimination plans**

The principles of cooperation and collaboration among institutions, good faith, and continuity of the work, have guided the development of the Network since its creation in 2012. Due to the progressive consolidation of this regional approach, these principles continue to be reflected in the document approved at the VIII Focal Points Meeting (New York, October 2017) entitled, “Operating Standards of the Latin American Network.”

### Objectives of the Network

**Objective 1** To provide training to its members, including the development and implementation of a common curriculum in genocide and mass atrocity prevention to be applied to training programs for the institutions of each participating member country.

**Objective 2** To generate spaces for mutual collaboration and regional cooperation on genocide and mass atrocity prevention.

In line with **Objective 1**, major achievements have been made through the implementation of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America. More than 100 public officials have participated in this training, drawn from each of the 18 member countries of the Network, with a high level of institutional representation across all relevant governmental departments. Participants have also consistently provided excellent evaluations in terms of the educational quality of the seminars and the involvement of officials in the national prevention activities that are organized as a result of participation in the Lemkin Seminars.

<sup>1</sup>These priority axes were initially agreed upon during the launch meeting (Buenos Aires, March 2012), though the incorporation of new axes can be seen throughout this report.

## Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Latin America

### What are the Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Latin America?

Inspired by the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Prevention of Genocide developed and organized by the Auschwitz Institute for a global community of public officials since 2008, participants from the Latin American region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Panama) encouraged the implementation of a new series of seminars with a similar approach for the Network. The proposal was accepted by the members of the Network, and AIPR and its partners developed a study program on the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities which retained a global approach to the subject but includes a specific focus on Latin America. This comes in the form of attention to historical events and an assessment of current opportunities to take primary prevention action, among others.

The launch meeting, held in Buenos Aires in 2012, served as a platform for the decision to launch a three-year pilot phase of this curriculum, which was carried out through the implementation of bi-annual seminars between 2013 and 2016 at Auschwitz in Poland. This test phase also included the organization of complementary seminars held in Latin America that facilitated a thorough understanding of past and current phenomena that merit a critical and attentive review with a focus on prevention. The pilot program was reviewed and tested by participants from each member country.

The training process began with the first seminar held in June 2013 in Oświęcim, Poland, which was then replicated in 2015 and 2016. During the pilot phase, the seminar cycles were split into two parts. The first was carried out over five working days in Poland, which included guided study visits to the former concentration and extermination camps of Auschwitz I and Birkenau. Participants engaged with historical questions and learned about tools for the early detection of risk factors that can lead to mass atrocities.

The second part followed up on the experience in Poland with trainings held in Argentina (2014), Chile (2015), and Uruguay (2016). The location of the Lemkin Seminar at Auschwitz-Birkenau as well as at sites of memory in Latin America, allow participants to immerse themselves both emotionally and intellectually in the topic of genocide. Through the “power of place,” participants are provided with an opportunity to make a personal investment and commitment to the field of atrocity prevention. AIPR has learned from previous experiences that only when an emotional connection is made does the motivation to act remain with participants after they have returned home.

Based on the results of the evaluation of each seminar, the members of the Network decided to approve, and continue to develop, the program and thus promote the construction of a common vocabulary and tools in the area of atrocity prevention for public officials with responsibilities in the field of human rights.

### 2013 - Launch of the Pilot Phase of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America

OŚWIĘCIM, POLAND – 16 member countries of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention participated in the Network’s first training seminar in Poland in June of 2013. Of the 18 member countries of the Network, in attendance were representatives from Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Adama Dieng, the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, was also present at the training seminar.



## Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Latin America

### Conclusion of the First Edition (Poland-Argentina) of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America



BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA – The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, in partnership with The Stanley Foundation, OSAPG, and Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, co-organized the second phase of the first Lemkin Seminar cycle for Latin America, which took place from June 17-20, 2014. The seminar provided general tools and concepts about the prevention approach and guided visits to emblematic memory sites in the city (ESMA Site of Memory and the Park of Memory).

### 2014 - Launch of the Second Edition of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America

OŚWIĘCIM, POLAND – The second edition of the Raphael Lemkin seminar for Latin America was carried out from October 12-19, 2014. The seminar maintained its usual format while including a new goal: "To strengthen the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention by creating a communication network of genocide-sensitive policymakers, shapers of political will, who will become agents of genocide and atrocity crimes prevention with a heightened degree of awareness and sensitivity to the role of non-governmental actors in supporting their work in zones of conflict."



### Conclusion of the Second Edition (Poland-Chile) of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America



SANTIAGO, CHILE – From May 25-28, 2015, the second part of the second cycle of the Lemkin Seminar on Genocide Prevention for Latin America. The first two editions of the training initiative functioned complementarily within the context of the Latin American Network. With the support of AIPR, The Stanley Foundation, OSAPG, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, this seminar also leveraged the power of place through a study visit to Villa Grimaldi, a former clandestine detention center located in Santiago which has

been transformed into a site of memory.

### 2016 - Launch of the Third Edition of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America

OŚWIĘCIM, POLAND – AIPR, together with OSAPG and The Stanley Foundation, along with the support of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), began the third cycle of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. The weeklong training took place February 14-21, 2016, in Poland. Preserving the usual format, the seminar welcomed the participation of 21 government officials from the member countries of the Latin American Network. As with previous iterations, participants benefitted from the power of place intrinsic to the Nazi extermination camps in addressing important concepts and key tools for the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities.



## Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Latin America

### Conclusion of the Third Edition (Poland-Uruguay) of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America



MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY – From July 26-29 of 2016, the Lemkin Seminar welcomed 21 officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Education, Defense, as well as national human rights institutions of the member countries of the Network. As part of the seminar, there were guided study visits to the Memory Museum (MUME) and to the Memorial in Recollection of the Detained and Disappeared. Aspects of the history and context of mass atrocities in Latin America were covered, including a presentation on civic-military relations in the region and the examination of a case study

on the military dictatorship in Uruguay. As always, the seminar served to reflect on the role of policies for memory, truth and justice in the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. Likewise, participants benefitted from the opportunity to analyze the situation of indigenous populations in Latin America through two case studies related to Brazil and Bolivia. Finally, the program covered topics such as the protection, teaching, and strengthening of Human Rights in Latin America. This iteration of the Lemkin Seminar was supported by AIPR, The Stanley Foundation, OSAPG, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

**The conclusion of the Pilot Phase of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America, and the unanimous decision to maintain it as a training tool for the Network, confirmed the motivation and interest of regional officials to sustain and deepen spaces for collective work in terms of human rights and prevention of atrocities.**

### 2017- Launch of the New Cycle of Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Latin America

OŚWIĘCIM, POLAND – Between 4-10 June 2017, AIPR held the 2017 edition of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America in Poland, which was supported by OSAPG, IHRA and the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. As in previous versions, the week was divided into thematic axes dedicated to leveraging the power of place of the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camps, an introduction to the concepts of genocide, atrocity crimes and prevention, as well as modules with a focus on learning from atrocities of the past. The seminar also reviewed issues of relevance and relevance in Latin America such as gender violence, transitional justice, and transnational crimes.



## Focal Points Meetings

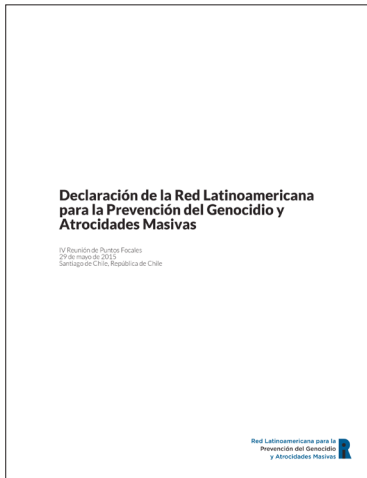
Following the spirit of **Objective 1** and by request of the members of the Network, the Auschwitz Institute has developed a virtual training tool that aims to continue strengthening local capacities in prevention, building a common vocabulary among public officials of the region, and providing an additional space for joint reflection through a digital platform. This initiative allows not only an increase in the number of officials with access to these concepts but also encourages collective interaction in terms of constructing public policies with a focus on prevention. The proposal was presented by AIPR<sup>2</sup> at the VIII Focal Points Meeting of the Network. At this time, the foundations were also laid for the start of the registration process for the Introductory Course on Fundamentals of the Prevention of Mass Atrocities, which began in February of 2018. This is a new proposal for a permanent education offering inspired by, and aligned with, the work of the Network. For example, the second virtual course for Latin America, launched in March of 2018, has a focus on rights of indigenous peoples and prevention.

In compliance with **Objective 2**, which highlights the importance of creating opportunities for mutual collaboration and regional cooperation, the Latin American Network maintains its own space for regular interaction, referred to as Focal Points Meetings. These work as established institutional spaces for decision-making and for an exchange of experiences and best practices in prevention by each member country. During the initial period of consolidation, it was necessary to hold meetings twice annually. With the assistance of the Network's External Partners (AIPR, The Stanley Foundation, and OSAPG) and the sponsorship of a member country, the following meetings were held:

<b>Launch Meeting</b>	March, 2012	Buenos Aires, Argentina (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Secretariat of Human Rights of the Nation), with the support from the Secretariat of Human Rights of Brazil
<b>First Focal Points Meeting</b>	November, 2013	Buenos Aires, Argentina (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
<b>Second Focal Points Meeting</b>	June, 2014	Buenos Aires, Argentina (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
<b>Third Focal Points Meeting</b>	December, 2014	Panama City, Panama (Office of the Ombudsman)
<b>Fourth Focal Points Meeting</b>	May, 2015	Santiago, Chile (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
<b>Fifth Focal Points Meeting</b>	December, 2015	Brasilia, Brazil (Office of the Ombudsman and Ministry of Human Rights)
<b>Sixth Focal Points Meeting</b>	July, 2016	Montevideo, Uruguay (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
<b>Seventh Focal Points Meeting</b>	December, 2016	Quito, Ecuador (Office of the Ombudsman)
<b>Eighth Focal Points Meeting – V Anniversary Edition</b>	October, 2017	New York, United States of America (OSAPG and AIPR)

<sup>2</sup> The presentation was made by Dr. Kerry Wigham, Online Education Officer with AIPR's Academic Programs Department.

## Focal Points Meetings



### What is the Declaration of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention?

The Declaration was adopted within the framework of the Fourth Focal Points Meeting and represented a step forward in the consolidation and formalization of the goals and work axes agreed upon by the Focal Points during the launch of the Network in March of 2012.

### ARGENTINA – First and Second Focal Points Meetings of the Latin American Network in Buenos Aires

The External Partners of the Network and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina co-organized the First and Second Focal Points Meetings of the Network, which took place in November of 2013 and in June of 2014. The meetings encouraged the start of a dialogue among participating countries for the design of joint action plans and strategies for the institutionalization of the incipient regional network.



The Second Meeting was opened by the United Nations Special Advisor Adama Dieng, who took the opportunity to lend encouragement to the regional forum and to make himself available to the Focal Points for future efforts to strengthen national and regional agendas for the prevention of atrocities.

### PANAMA – Third Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network in Panama City



On December 4, 2014, the Third Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was held. At the meeting, co-organized by the External Partners of the

Network and the Office of the Ombudsman of Panama, Focal Points shared updates on the national-level initiatives that they helped to develop in 2014 and discussed proposals for joint actions to be taken in 2015.

For the first time at a Focal Points meeting, a series of thematic segments were dedicated to the discussion and exchange of experiences related to public policies that focus on prevention. These interactive modules focused on the situation of indigenous populations in the region, best practices in the development of trainings for peacekeeping and security forces, and national experiences related to implementation processes for establishing National Mechanisms.

## Focal Points Meetings

The adoption of the Declaration was recognized by the UN Special Adviser for Genocide Prevention, Adama Dieng. In a letter addressed to the Member Countries of the Network, he says:

**“After more than three years of experience, the Network has become into a world model of good practices. Not only it is an example of State cooperation. It also represents an example of how different actors can work jointly, aiming to achieve a common goal. The Network is also a reference model for a variety of actors in other regions of the world. The Network’s progress constitutes an opportunity as well as a responsibility. Let’s continue the joint work to make the Network a vibrant, operative and effective platform in atrocity crimes prevention.”**

### CHILE – Fourth Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network in Santiago

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, the Technical Secretariat of the Network/AIPR, The Stanley Foundation, and OSAPG co-organized the Fourth Latin American Network Focal Point Meeting, held on May 29, 2015 in Santiago, Chile. The meeting allowed Network Focal Points to engage in discussions on the effectiveness of their ongoing practices and initiatives planned for the second half of 2015. In terms of thematic projects, the Focal Points followed up on the research project, “Human Rights related to Indigenous Populations and Atrocity Crimes” and AIPR announced the fundamental parameters of a project entitled “Education for Mass Atrocity Prevention in Latin America.” During the meeting in Chile, Focal Points stated their commitment to continue contributing to the strengthening and institutionalization process, which was reflected in the adoption of the Declaration of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. The Declaration reaffirms the established consensus regarding the history, objectives and spirit of the Network’s endeavors since 2012.



### BRAZIL – Fifth Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network in Brasilia



On December 3, 2015, the Fifth Meeting of Focal Points of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention began, taking place in the city of Brasilia. In its role as Technical Secretariat of the Network, AIPR

co-organized the event with the Office of the Federal Attorney for Citizen’s Rights and the Secretariat of Human Rights, OSAPG, and the Stanley Foundation. The meeting continued on December 4 and functioned as a platform for publicizing the national initiatives developed during the year of 2015 and those planned for 2016. Additionally, participants discussed and established a procedure for projects being developed under the framework of the Latin American Network and agreed upon future joint actions for the progressive consolidation of the body.

Within the context of this meeting, the Focal Points issued a joint communiqué for the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime established by the UN General Assembly (Resolution 69/323). The text of this statement follows:

## Focal Points Meetings

### **69/323. International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime (Resolution approved by the General Assembly on September 11, 2015).**

Latin American Network or Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention

Echoing the spirit of the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations which established December 9 as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, meeting in Brasilia during its V regular meeting, joins in commemorating the victims and reiterates its conviction that the preservation of historical memory and work towards the prevention of this crime are effective means to honor and commemorate the memory of all those affected.

Brasília, Brazil, December 4, 2015.-

### **URUGUAY – Sixth Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network in Montevideo**

Alongside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, the External Partners of the Network co-organized the VI Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention on July 25, 2016, in Montevideo, Uruguay. The meeting worked toward five concrete objectives related to the development and expansion of the Latin American Network's activities. The occasion also served as an opportunity to promote collaborative efforts between member states, present initiatives that had been planned and/or implemented since the previous meeting, and facilitate the continuation of major projects.



### **ECUADOR – Seventh Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network in Quito**



The External Partners of the Network, jointly with the Office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador, co-organized the VII Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in Quito, Ecuador. As with previous editions, the VII Focal Points Meeting served as an opportunity to promote collaborative efforts between member states, introduce new topics, and facilitate the continuation of major projects towards the consolidation of the Latin American Network. Similarly, this meeting allowed for follow-up on initiatives carried out by the member countries at the national level and represented an opportune moment to take significant steps

towards the progressive consolidation of this regional space.

As in the past, the Network's Focal Points moved to issue an official joint message with respect to the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime:

Sharing the spirit of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution which established December 9 as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, assembled on the occasion of its VII periodic meeting in the city of Quito, reiterates its conviction that continuing work in prevention mobilizes continued reflection on past atrocities, honors victims and their family members, and strengthens commitments to reinforce and provide increasingly concrete actions in the human rights and atrocity prevention agendas.

Quito, Ecuador. November 29, 2016.-

## Focal Points Meetings

### United States – Eighth Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network in New York – V Anniversary Edition

AIPR, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat, co-organized the VIII Focal Points Meeting of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in collaboration with the other External Partners. The meeting, which took place on October 16 and 17, 2017 in New York City, maintained its standard dynamic of work and dialogue while also incorporating a spirit of assessment relative to the Network's advances and the objective of providing visibility for the Network's progress and accomplishments in such a relevant international forum as the United Nations.



Convened on the occasion of the Network's fifth anniversary, the VIII Focal Points Meeting served as an opportunity to promote the collaborative efforts undertaken between member states and to present national initiatives originating from the previous Focal Points Meeting (Quito, November 2016) that are being planned and implemented. The VIII meeting also worked to reinforce the momentum of long term projects being carried out within the context of the Network.

At the margins of the Focal Points Meeting, two events were organized to further discuss prominent issues on the Network's agenda and to raise visibility of its ongoing efforts to prevent genocide and mass atrocities. On the afternoon of October 16, a panel discussion entitled "Current challenges in matters of mass atrocity prevention in Latin America" was held. The panel was composed of Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the UN Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mr. James Turpin, Chief of Prevention and Sustaining Peace of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Dr. Galis of AIPR, and was moderated by Ms. Jai-Ayla Quest, Program Officer at the Stanley Foundation.



On the evening of October 17, AIPR, OSAPG, and the Argentinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship organized a side event that was held at United Nations Headquarters to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Latin American Network. A panel discussion opened the event, featuring remarks from three Focal Points of the Latin American Network: Maria Gabriela Quinteros, Director for Human Rights at the Argentinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Marlon Weichert, Deputy Federal Ombudsman in Brazil's

Office of the Ombudsperson, and Mariana Salazar, Director of International Humanitarian Law in Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were joined by Dr. Galis of AIPR, Mrs. Quest from the Stanley Foundation, and Ivan Šimonović, the United Nations Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect. Following remarks from the panelists, Focal Points and those involved in supporting the Network's consolidation and initiatives made interventions reflecting on the successes of the body's successes over the past five years and their hopes for the future.

## Mentions and Activities

Commemorating the 2017 International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime (Resolution approved by the General Assembly on September 11, 2015), Network Focal Points included the following message:

On the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention encourages the international community to reflect on the atrocities of the past, as well as as to honor their victims and families.

Additionally, we invite the international community to join efforts so that, under the banner of “Never Again,” more and more voices and resources can be made available for the design of a global agenda that consolidates visions and efforts in the area of human rights and atrocity crimes prevention.

Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention  
December 9, 2017.-

**Objective 2** also reflects the collective will of the Focal Points towards the consolidation and efforts to raise awareness of the Network at the local and international levels as a best practice of regional cooperation for atrocity prevention. Because of this, with the support of the Technical Secretariat/AIPR, the Network participated in various initiatives through which they were able to raise awareness about the scope of the body’s efforts and use it as a reference for joint work.

### **Side Event During the 25<sup>th</sup> period of UN Human Rights Council Sessions**

On March 4, 2017 a side event was organized by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the UN with the support of the governments of Chile and Argentina. The activity allowed to raise awareness about the history and achievements of the Latin American Network among civil society organizations and representatives of the international community. The event had the participation of representatives from Mexico, Cuba, Uruguay, Peru, Paraguay, Belgica, Australia, Canadá y Montenegro, among others, in addition to delegates from non governmental organizations. The activity served as platform to inform about the advances in matters of the creation of national mechanisms for prevention and early warning and to provide exposure to the Latin American Network as a regional institutional tool and forum of cooperatiion and for the exchange of experiences and good practices.

### **Conference on Genocide Prevention**

A special mention to the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention was included in the Chair’s concluding remarks at the International Conference on Genocide Prevention, held from March 31 to April 1 of 2014. The Chair’s final report summarized the proceedings of the recent two-day conference, where representatives of 125 countries, the majority of which at the ministerial level, plus dozens of relevant regional and international organizations, academics, legal experts, and representatives of civil society, gathered to set the agenda for the international community on prevention.

### **Mention of the Latin American Network in the Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Within the framework of the document (A/HRC/27/4, June 30, 2014), a summary of the debates from the high level round table dedicated to the 65th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide – reflected one of the interventions made by the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide in which he mentioned the Latin American Network as an initiative to strengthen preventive capacities.

The Special Adviser also mentioned various regional initiatives for the strengthening of prevention capacities, such as the creation of the Regional Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of

## Mentions and Activities

the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. He also made reference to the interinstitutional agreements, to the appointment of coordinators on the Responsibility to Protect and Genocide Prevention, and to the meeting of Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes, held in Costa Rica on March, 2014 as well as highlighted the 56 States with designated coordinators to this end. Additionally, the Special Advisor mentioned the national prevention initiatives being carried out by members of several regional networks.

### **Mention of the Latin American Network in the Report of the UN Secretary General: Compliance of our Collective Responsibility: international assistance and the responsibility to protect (Pillar II)**

In paragraph 25, the aforementioned document, (A/68/947– S/2014/449), published on July 11, 2014, discusses the scope and relevance of the Latin America Network as a forum for collaboration and mutual assistance

### **Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Iberoamerican Federation of the Ombudsman (FIO) and the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, in the context of commitments and technical assistance rendered to the Latin American Network**



Within the context of the General Assembly of the Iberoamerican Federation of the Ombudsman, held on October 4 of 2014, following the approval of the initiative led by Ombudspersons present at the Assembly, AIPR and the FIO signed a Memorandum of Understanding which focused on the development of cooperative tools between the two organizations in matters such as training activities and research in issues related to genocide and mass atrocity prevention. Similarly, the Assembly provided an opportunity to introduce the Latin American Network to a variety of Ombudspersons, representing indispensable actors in the consolidation of human rights agendas and actions in Latin America.

As result of this institutional link with the Iberoamerican Federation of the Ombudsman, AIPR's technical assistance, and the participation of the

Offices of the Ombudsman of Colombia, Ecuador, and Guatemala, came the publication of The Role of the Ombudsman in Transitional Justice Processes. The Role of the Ombudsman is a document that compiles different practices related to transitional justice processes that have been carried out by Offices of the Ombudsman belonging to the FIO. Besides the participation of national human rights institutions, this collective effort includes work done by the Technical Secretariat of the FIO, ProFIO/GIZ, the Technical Secretariat of the Network/ AIPR and independent scholars.

The publication was presented in March of 2017 at an event entitled “Women Weaving Territories of Peace,” organized by the Ombudsman Office of Colombia, alongside UN Women, Javeriana University, the Embassy of Sweden in Colombia, and the FIO.

## Mentions and Activities

### **Participation of the Technical Secretariat (TS) in the Fifth Annual Meeting of Focal Points of the Global Network on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)**

The Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network participated in the fifth Focal Points Meeting of the Global Network on R2P, held in Madrid from June 24-26 of 2015, aiming to share best practices in matters of the formation of the Network and follow-up on actions implemented within its framework. The meeting was organized by the governments of Spain and Chile and was supported by the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and The Stanley Foundation.

### **Participation of the TS in the Second Meeting of Focal Points of the UNESCO Network for Holocaust and Genocide Education**

AIPR, in its role as Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network, alongside the Latin American Network Focal Point from Chile, participated as an observer in the Second Focal Points Meeting of the UNESCO Network for Holocaust and Genocide Education on July 29-30 of 2015, aiming to find points of convergence and encourage active institutional contact between both networks.

### **Participation of the TS in the High Level Dialogue on Guarantees of Non Recurrence: Challenges and Lessons on prevention of Human Rights Mass Violations**

AIPR, in its role as Technical Secretariat of the Network, participated in the High Level Dialogue on Guarantees of Non Recurrence: Challenges and lessons on the prevention of mass violations of human rights, organized by the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non Recurrence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden in Stockholm on October 14-15 of 2015. The meeting fostered an interactive dialogue among relevant actors from governments and civil society representatives around the challenges of the implementation of policies preventing the mass violations of human as part of a comprehensive operational policy of non recurrence.

In this context, the efforts of Latin America were presented in relation to the development of a joint atrocity prevention policy through the creation and consolidation of the Latin American Network. The presentation demonstrated the advantages of a coordinated effort between state institutions, civil society organizations and the permanent collaboration of OSAPG as a best practice to inspire the work of relevant actors at the international level in the incorporation of a prevention approach into public policies for human rights.

### **Institutional link with the Mercosur Institute for Public Policy on Human Rights (IPPDH)**

Within the framework of the consensus achieved during Focal Points Meetings of the Latin American Network and as a result of interest manifested by the Focal Points to explore avenues for cooperation and joint work with human rights organisms and institutions from the region, the TS/AIPR established an strategic link with the Mercosur IPPDH. From the signing of a Letter of Intention between the IPPDH and AIPR (in its role as Technical Secretariat), progressive advancement was made on a cooperative agenda for education and research projects on human rights with a focus on regional mass atrocity prevention. This document provided the legal framework for the development and implementation of a technological platform for communication, dissemination, and organization of online courses as a virtual tool to support training initiatives of the Network. This effort was placed under the consideration of the Permanent Commission on Memory, Truth and Justice during the Meeting of Mercosur's High Authorities on Human Rights by the representatives of Brazil and Argentina during Brazil's pro tempore presidency of the body. The initiative subsequently gained approval during Paraguay's pro tempore presidency. .

## Mentions and Activities

**As a result of this, the Latin American Network-IPPDH-PDR Meeting Space was launched was launched in April of 2016.**

Curso: Espacio de Encuentro (Red Latinoamericana – IPPDH-AIPR)



Produced through coordination between the IPPDH's International School for Public Policy in Human Rights and the Technical Secretariat of the Network, this new tool for communication and interaction was introduced to alumni of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for the Latin American Network. The Latin American Network IPPDH-AIPR Meeting Space is a virtual tool designed to function as a mechanism that supports training initiatives, the construction of public policy in human rights, and the prevention of atrocities in Latin America.

The Meeting Space was primarily launched to foster the communication and circulation of information and resources in terms of human rights and genocide prevention between public officials in the region. *A posteriori*, in October of 2017, the platform was used to implement the first virtual course on human rights and genocide prevention for public officials in Latin America.

## The Technical Secretariat of the Network

Since its inception, the Latin American Network has entrusted the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation with the task of accompanying the efforts of this forum in the role of Technical Secretariat. Within the structure of AIPR, this task is being carried out by the Latin American Program, which acts as a facilitator of technical and academic tools and supports collaboration with relevant actors in the field of human rights and atrocity prevention. This role is exercised in the strengthening of, and following-up on, efforts for thematic initiatives developed within the framework of the Network (aimed at the consolidation of a prevention approach in the policy agendas relevant to the rights of indigenous populations, LGBTI collectives, migrations, the role of the security sector in prevention, and actions promoting memory, truth and justice, among others). Aside from this, the TS coordinates and mobilizes resources for the development of academic initiatives, both traditional and virtual, that are made available to countries of the region, in addition to strengthening relations in diverse institutional environments including academia, human rights NGOs, international bodies (UN, OAS, etc.), aiming to augment the capacity and impact of actions being carried out by the Latin American countries.

The efforts of the TS/AIPR also involve communication and direct work with the UN Joint Office of the Special Advisers on Genocide Prevention and on the Responsibility to Protect and The Stanley Foundation, partners who provide essential technical assistance and bolster the Network's momentum.

AIPR's mandate as TS was renewed during the Seventh Focal Points Meeting of the Network (Quito, November, 2016). This decision was later included in the Minimum Rules of Operation of the Network, which were approved unanimously during the Eighth Meeting (New York, October, 2017). Under this mandate, AIPR/TS accompanies the Network in its actions, but also develops events, tools, and strategic links for institutional strengthening and raising awareness of the regional forum.

## Development and Diffusion of Annual Reports of the TS

### **Presentation of Annual Reports of the Network to Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York City**

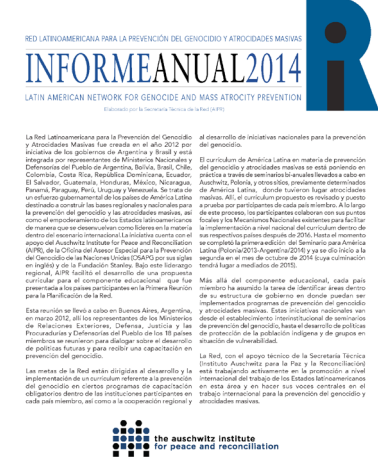
Among the tasks allocated to the TS by the Focal Points is the construction of an institutional archive of Network actions and initiatives. In compliance with this mandate, the TS has prepared annual reports on the Network's activities since 2014. To this point, reports for the years of 2014, 2015 and 2016 have been published. This report, which celebrates the fifth anniversary of the body, reflects the actions and activities undertaken during 2017 as well as adds extra symbolic value as an "X-ray" of the Network – covering its inception, growth and consolidation.

In addition to being tasked with drafting the Annual Report and fulfilling its role as guarantor of the institutional memory of this forum, the Auschwitz Institute/TS encourages actions for the dissemination of content. As a result, AIPR/TS has organized events for the launch of the Annual Reports in New York City since 2015. These launch events have brought together officials from Permanent Missions to the United Nations, United Nations delegates, and civil society representatives in New York who work in the international arena.

# Development and Diffusion of Annual Reports of the TS

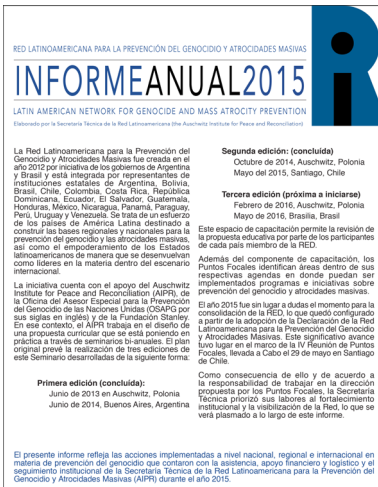
## Launch of the 2014 edition of the Annual Report

On May 4 of 2015, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation launched the 2014 Annual Report of the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention at the offices of White & Case LLP in New York City. The report outlines the activities undertaken by the TS, the Stanley Foundation and the Office of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide in 2014 — including all seminars, Focal Points Meetings, and national initiatives devoted to prevention.



## Launch of the 2015 edition of the Annual Report

On the evening of March 8 of 2016, AIPR held a launch event for the 2015 Annual Report of the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network at the offices of White & Case LLP. The launch was attended by representatives from many participating countries of the Latin American Network, as well as by other members of civil society and the international community. The External Partners shared remarks highlighting the joint efforts made by all the Network's supporters and stakeholders.



## Launch of the 2016 edition of the Annual Report

On April 25 of 2017, in its role as Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Network, AIPR held a launch event for the 2016 Annual Report of the Technical Secretariat at the Consulate General of Colombia in New York City. Representatives from the External Partners and White & Case, as well as the Focal Point from Ecuador to the Latin American Network, outlined the progress and challenges of the Network in their remarks.

The event welcomed representatives of several member countries of the Latin American Network, including Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Uruguay, alongside other actors involved in the prevention of mass atrocities from UN Permanent Missions, civil society, and the private sector. For its part, the 2016 report outlines the actions that took place at the national, regional and international levels towards the prevention of genocide under the banner of the Latin American Network throughout the year.

## Tools and Strategic Links

### Tools

- Annual reports – drafting, design, presentation and dissemination
- Website of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention ([www.redlatinoamericana.org](http://www.redlatinoamericana.org))
- AIPR/IPPDH Virtual Meeting Space for the Latin American Network (closed space for the circulation of information between Focal Points)
- Online courses, including “Introduction to the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities” and thematic courses
- Global assessment of the Latin American Network’s impact on public policies at the national level

### Strategic Links

- United Nations Office of the Special Advisers on Genocide Prevention and on the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG)
- The Stanley Foundation
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non recurrences
- Iberoamerican Ombudsman Federation (FIO)
- MERCOSUR Institute for Public Policy in Human Rights (IPPDH)
- Universidad Externado de Colombia
- Binghamton University
- Interamerican Commission on Human Rights
- UNESCO Latin American Network for Education on the Holocaust and other Genocides



## Technical Assistance for Joint Projects Held Within the Framework of the Network

As a result of interactions fostered by Focal Points Meetings, the members of the Network have outlined certain thematic areas as priorities, as well as the approach used. The discussions were inspired by the need to provide tools, indicators, and concrete products that can be used by the members of the Network towards the design and implementation of public policy at the national level, as well as towards raising awareness and better involving officials within the structures of government.

In terms of thematic joint projects, the first centers on the research project entitled “Rights Relative to Indigenous Populations and Atrocity Crimes” led by OSAPG. Throughout the subsequent meetings, the FPs decided to formulate a questionnaire to be circulate within each member country, inspired in the axis and the recommendations from the attached investigation, in order to compile relevant information. The output from this labor will be available by the end of the first trimester of 2018 and will serve as the basis for the design of a methodological and substantial proposal for the Network to make available to member countries as a concrete tool for the incorporation of a prevention approach within national public policy on indigenous populations.

### **Support of the Network’s towards AIPR’s project “Education for Atrocity Prevention in Latin America”**

Since 2015, AIPR has been working in the design of a methodological proposal for the implementation of educational public policy on atrocity prevention in Brazil and El Salvador. It is an innovative proposal through which AIPR’s Educational Policies Program, with the support and accompaniment from the Focal Points of Brazil and El Salvador, has encouraged the development of national networks committed to the search for an educational tool to be applied in curricula at the local level. The progress made in AIPR’s work has been communicated to Network member countries. Additionally, and in response to the advanced execution status of the project, the FPs have established a thematic committee within the Latin American Network to support and suggest lines of action and awareness-raising for the tool to other countries in the region and the world.

AIPR<sup>3</sup> works to provide an innovative opportunity to approach education on human rights and prevention, with the seal of the Network, to countries interested in this tool.

Finally, regarding joint initiatives, through the observation of current phenomena in terms of human rights and prevention, Network members have identified several thematic areas that require a specialized approach and a degree of regional involvement in the provision of relevant concrete tools.

These axes can be summarized as:

- Discrimination against migrants
- Migration and human mobility in Latin America
- Security, with a particular focus on non-conventional violence in relation to the homicide rate in Latin America

Network members are currently in the phase of preparing work proposals on these themes, which will surely be represented as part of the 2018 edition of this annual report.

<sup>3</sup> Through its Educational Policy Program, led by Dr. Clara Ramírez Barat.

## Development of National Initiatives with a Focus on the Prevention of Atrocities

As Technical Secretariat of the Network, AIPR works with the other External Partners to support the body and provide technical assistance for the development of national initiatives with a focus on atrocity prevention. These initiatives cover a broad spectrum of activities, ranging from seminars for public officials to the development of legislation for the creation and institutionalization of National Mechanisms for the Prevention of Genocide.

Below, the range of these actions and their scope are represented.

### 2012

**Argentina (March):** Launch of the Latin American Network for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities in Buenos Aires.

### 2013

**Panama (March):** Agreement between the Council of Central American Human Rights Defenders for the establishment of an Early Warning System in conjunction with the Latin American Network and the Office of the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide of the United Nations.

**Paraguay (April):** The Paraguayan government announced a project for the establishment of a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Genocide to formulate policies and coordinate the government's response to risks of genocide. Organized by the Ombudsman's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, the launch meeting was a two-day event in Asunción, featuring presentations by the Auschwitz Institute, OSAPG, experts from the Paraguayan government, and representatives of civil society, including the national chapter of Amnesty International.

**Chile (August):** A training seminar was organized by the Chilean Carabineros on the function of police and the use of force in relation to human rights issues. The event was supported by the Technical Secretariat of the Network and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

**Colombia (October):** The II Augusto Ramírez Ocampo Course on International Humanitarian Law was held. A module specifically dedicated to the prevention of mass atrocities was incorporated for the first time. The event was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, a Focal Point institution of the Latin American Network.

### 2014

**Costa Rica (March):** A training seminar was held on tools for the prevention of genocide and atrocity crimes for Costa Rican officials with responsibilities in the areas of human rights and international humanitarian law. The event was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica a Focal Point institution and AIPR/Technical Secretariat of the Network and was supported by collaboration with OSAPG.

**Mexico (April):** Nearly one hundred government officials, academics, and civil society representatives attended a seminar organized by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, a Focal Point institution, and AIPR/Technical Secretariat of the Network. The seminar included a study visit to the Museum of Memory and Tolerance in Mexico City.

**Chile (April):** The "Conference on the Prevention of Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities," a one-day event organized by the Carabineros of Chile, was held in Santiago. The event functioned as part of the institutional relationship developed between AIPR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, and the Carabineros, within the framework of the Latin American Network.

**Paraguay (August):** The Paraguayan chapter of the Latin American Network for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities organized an event with the purpose of strengthening its National

## Development of National Initiatives with a Focus on the Prevention of Atrocities

Mechanism for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities. National-level government officials, representatives of civil society, and representatives of Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, and Spain participated in the event. The activity was supported and attended by AIPR/Technical Secretariat of the Network as well as officials of OSAPG.

**Mexico (September):** The Fifth Annual Specialized Course on International Humanitarian Law was held at the national level, within the framework of the activities carried out by the Inter-Secretariat Commission on International Humanitarian Law. The Course was conducted with the objective of disseminating and promoting respect for the norms, principles, and institutions of international humanitarian law and included a Keynote Conference on tools for the prevention of international crimes and the responsibility to protect.

**Peru (October):** The National Commission on International Humanitarian Law of Peru, the Center for Studies on Justice and Human Rights, and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights held an interactive workshop to promote international standards in the use of force among judges, prosecutors, and security forces. The event highlighted the importance of incorporating a prevention approach for mass atrocities into the actions and responsibilities of judicial and armed forces and security officials in Latin America.

### 2015

**Panama (April):** The Office of the Ombudsman of Panama, a Focal Point institution of the Network, together with AIPR/Technical Secretariat of the Network and OSAPG, organized a national training seminar for officials of the National Police, National Border Service, National Aero-Naval Service, and the Institutional Protection System. The seminar served as an introductory forum to discuss policies for the prevention of genocide and atrocious crimes in the Latin American region and in the national context of Panama.

**Guatemala (April):** The Technical Secretariat and the Focal Point of Guatemala participated in a round table at the Vice Ministry for the Prevention of Violence and Crime in Guatemala. At the event, national public officials were informed about the objectives and work of the Latin American Network and an interactive dialogue was held which discussed the challenges and possible lines of action for the incorporation of a prevention approach within Guatemala's public policy agenda.

**Honduras/Argentina (May):** AIPR co-organized a series of videoconferences between the governments of Honduras and Argentina dedicated to discussing tools for the implementation of a national plan against discrimination with emphasis on the prevention of mass atrocities. The event was held in collaboration with the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina and the Directorate of Education on Human Rights and a Culture of Peace of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Honduras.

**El Salvador (June):** AIPR joined the Office of the Procurator for the Defense of Human Rights in El Salvador to begin the first workshop-seminar on tools for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities as serious violations of human rights. The objectives of the workshop included the promotion of reflection and debate among national public officials and representatives of civil society on the importance of prevention, as well as the identification of appropriate roles for each, as relevant actors in society. Several Salvadoran government organizations participated, including the dependencies of the Ministry of Defense, National Police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Judiciary, and the Institute of Forensic Medicine, as well as representatives of human rights organizations.

## Development of National Initiatives with a Focus on the Prevention of Atrocities

**Ecuador (June):** AIPR/Technical Secretariat of the Network and one of the representatives of Paraguay in the Latin American Network participated in the first-round table on transitional justice in the construction of reparation processes for victims. This activity was organized by the Ombudsman of Ecuador.

**Paraguay (August):** An activity was carried out in the National Congress of Paraguay during which the bill for the creation of the National Commission for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities was presented to legislators. The bill aims to formalize interministerial coordination among the different government agencies in the prevention of atrocities.

**Uruguay (November):** Within the framework of the commitment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, a Focal Point institution of the Latin American Network, a Seminar-workshop on Genocide and Mass Atrocities as Serious Violations of Human Rights was held in Montevideo in collaboration with AIPR. The event was attended by OSAPG in addition to other 30 participants drawn from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense and Interior, as well as members of the armed forces and the Uruguayan National Police.

**Brazil (December):** The Office of the Attorney General of the Federal Public Ministry and the Human Rights Secretariat organized the first International Seminar on the Prevention of Genocide and Other Serious Violations of Human Rights, with the support of the Auschwitz Institute and OSAPG. The three-day Seminar welcomed approximately 50 attendees had involved the participation of speakers of both international and national renown who discussed prevention policies focused specifically on memory, truth and justice and the role of security forces. The participants also spoke about the preservation of peace and the advancement of the fight against discrimination, as well as the factors that trigger violence against young people of African descent and the indigenous population.

### 2016

**Mexico (April):** As a part of the regular training activities that Mexico carries out with a focus on prevention, a seminar entitled “Tools for the Education of Armed Forces and Security with a Prevention Approach” was held in Mexico City. Organized by the Interministerial Commission of International Humanitarian Law of Mexico (CIDIH-Mexico) and AIPR, with the collaboration of OSAPG, the seminar welcomed an audience of more than 100 members of the armed and security forces at the national and regional levels. The event served as a space for the dissemination of content and for reflection on the importance of training in human rights and the prevention of atrocities.

**Latin America (April):** Within the framework of a cooperative initiative between AIPR and the Mercosur Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights, through the latter’s International School of Public Policies on Rights Humans, a new tool for communication and interaction between alumni of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America was launched. The Latin American Network-IPPDH-AIPR Meeting Space is a virtual tool designed to act as a support mechanism for training and public policy construction initiatives in the area of human rights and atrocity prevention in Latin America.

**Mexico (August):** The seventh edition of the Course on International Humanitarian Law was organized in Campeche by the Inter-Secretarial Commission on International Humanitarian Law of Mexico, which again included a module for the analysis, and prevention, of violations of international humanitarian law at the request of Mexico’s Focal Point representative to the Network. As in previous editions, the TS/ AIPR collaborated on the identification of an international expert to participate in this module, supporting efforts for reflection and awareness-raising on the topic among Mexican public officials.

## Development of National Initiatives with a Focus on the Prevention of Atrocities

**Ecuador (September):** The Ombudsman of Ecuador, together with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage of Ecuador and the collaboration of the ST/AIPR organized an international seminar entitled “The importance of the creation of memorial spaces within the process of intangible reparation.” This new initiative is part of Ecuador’s efforts to strengthen the processes of integral reparations to the victims of serious human rights violations, as documented by the report of the national Truth Commission.

**Colombia (September):** In Melgar, Colombia, the V edition of the course on international humanitarian law was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The TS/AIPR was invited by the Focal Point of Colombia to the Latin American Network, for the fourth consecutive year, to collaborate in the identification of an expert to participate in one of the modules of the Seminar and communicate the approach and relevant thematic axes to a number of government officials.

### 2017

**Colombia (March):** During the celebration of Women’s Day, a report on the role of Ombudsman in transitional processes was carried out in Bogota. The proceedings were attended by the Ombudsman of Ecuador and the Federal Prosecutor of Brazil, both Focal Points of Network.

**Argentina (June)** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, Focal Point of the Network, in conjunction with AIPR and the Global Diplomacy Lab, organized the execution of the Sixth Global Diplomacy Laboratory. This initiative of the German Foreign Ministry sought to analyze issues related to the importance and potential of regional networks for the prevention of mass atrocities and other approaches to human rights, focusing mainly on the Latin American and African Networks for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities.

**Latin America (September):** IPPDH and AIPR launched the first Virtual Course for Public Officials on Human Rights and the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities for member countries of the Network.

**Guatemala (December):** The Guatemalan Network for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities joined with AIPR and OSAPG to carry out a National Seminar on Tools for the Prevention of Genocide in Guatemala City. 41 participants from various national institutions and civil society participated in the seminar by sharing concepts and reflecting on prevention-centric methodologies as well as possible practical applications in considering the reality of their country.

# Impact of the Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Latin America

2013-2017



## Closing Words

Prevention is one of the purposes of the international systems for human rights. This year, 2018, which coincides with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, we can say that the endeavor of prevention continues to require our complete attention. During these years, we have learned that providing concrete contents does not come easily; that many implemented efforts have had to confront new atrocities perpetrated over this period; that no successful formula for prevention exists without dialogue or perseverance; that prevention, thus, is more of a path than a destination.

The Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention has served as a lighthouse to guide us all on this path of reflection, of constant learning, of catharsis, and of action. It has been a point of convergence for our institutional diversities, forging new forms of dialogue – and understanding – between state and non-state actors. I have had the honor of participating in the various meetings convened since the creation of the Network, representing the Office of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of my country. There have been many learning experiences, friendships, and fulfillment over the course of these years. I have full conviction that our achievements will meet the challenges of the future. Prevention is a path on which it is vital not to travel alone, to dialogue, to know ourselves, to understand ourselves, to recognize that we are part of the problem, but, at the same time, to actively take part in the solution.

**Jaime Godoy Téllez**  
**Head of the Universal Systems Department**  
**Office of Human Rights**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile**

Since our founding in 1956, the Stanley Foundation has maintained a firm commitment to strengthening multilateralism for global peace and security. The creation of the Latin America Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention is one of the initiatives we are most proud to have been involved in. Through the Network focal points meetings, Lemkin Seminar training programs, and numerous national initiatives, strangers have become colleagues who are now mutually dedicated to strengthening atrocity prevention efforts in their home institutions and in the region as a whole.

Since its inception, one can follow the increasing maturity and consolidation of the network. As an organizing partner, we are encouraged by the interest of focal points to gain deeper technical awareness of opportunities to promote policies at home and throughout Latin America that strengthen societies against risk factors for atrocities and mass violence. We look forward to continuing to be a part of regional network meetings and sustained efforts to expand the reach and lessons learned of the network.

We are eager to see the continued development of prevention curricula in the region as well as more specific and technical learning opportunities for government representatives and focal points. We also share the commitment of network members to ensure the achievements of the Latin America Network are shared internationally as a model for institutionalizing regional prevention practices.

**The Stanley Foundation**  
**[www.stanleyfoundation.org](http://www.stanleyfoundation.org)**

## Closing Words

The establishment of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention in 2012 represented a strong signal of commitment to the prevention of atrocity crimes in a region that has experienced these crimes in the past. In its first five years, the Network has seen the development of a significant number of national initiatives as well as the strengthening of regional projects aimed at building a shared base of knowledge and at protecting vulnerable populations. The Network is becoming a space for collaboration and mutual assistance and is directly contributing to the integration of atrocity prevention in the national agendas of its Member States. In doing so, it constitutes a model for other regions of the world.

Building upon its achievements to date, the Network has all the assets it needs to become an even more operational platform for prevention. These first five years have demonstrated the growing value of the Network's platform to address issues of regional concern. Looking forward, the trust that has been built among its Members and the prevention tools that have been developed can only serve to increase the Network's ability to address early warning signs in a timely and efficient way, and to build robust prevention structures in each of its Member States.

In the end, the Network will be what its Members want it to be. Its flexibility is one of the reasons for its success. Our Office will continue supporting the Network and will encourage its Member States to fulfil the potential it has to be a vibrant, operational and effective platform for atrocity prevention. We do so with pride and with the conviction that the success of the Latin American Network will have an impact not only within this region but also on global efforts for the prevention of atrocity crimes.

**The United Nations Office of the Special Advisers on the Prevention  
of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect  
[www.un.org/en/genocideprevention](http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention)**

## Closing Words

Since the establishment of the Latin American Network in March of 2012, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) has taken the utmost pride in accompanying, and contributing to, the work of the Latin American Network as Technical Secretariat. Over the past five years, the member states of the Network have contributed to a wide range of important accomplishments that have bolstered essential protections for those living in countries across the region. As a result of the innovative, region-led approach and consistent high-level engagement by you, the Focal Points, the Latin American Network has emerged as a global leader in atrocity prevention at the international level.

It is with this in mind that the Auschwitz Institute commends all of those who have fulfilled their obligation to protect vulnerable populations in Latin America by contributing to the successful completion of this first and formative chapter of the Network. AIPR is inspired by the unwavering commitment displayed by each of the participating member states through their pledge to not only maintain the level of work being done under the banner of the Latin American Network, but indeed to expand future efforts for the prevention of atrocities in the region.

The lessons and successes of the first five years of the Latin American Network have built a robust platform upon which new and ambitious initiatives can be put into motion. The Network's achievements in terms of establishment and consolidation have created enormous opportunities in the region for the expansion of existing lines of work and for the development and implementation of new ones.

For our part, the Auschwitz Institute would like to reaffirm its commitment to the future success of the Network. Alongside the other External Partners, we feel immensely privileged to have had the opportunity to facilitate the realization of the important initiatives synthesized by the member states over the previous five years. Equally, we would like to stress our commitment to continue assisting the Network from our role as Technical Secretariat and we are very excited to work in support of this new expanded agenda for prevention that will no doubt characterize the next chapter of the Latin American Network's history.

**The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation**  
[www.auschwitzinstitute.org](http://www.auschwitzinstitute.org)