

FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE AND MASS ATROCITIES

Concept

ROUNDTABLE

on “Prevention of Genocide in Practice” Cooperation in the Great Lakes Region

Pre-event of the Fourth Budapest Human Rights Forum

The Foundation for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities has been established on the basis of the Feasibility Study prepared by the Hungarian Government between 2008 and 2010. The Deed of Foundation was signed by the Central European University and the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The registration of the Foundation took place in Budapest on 14 January 2011.

Research makes evident that, even if escalation to mass violence often happens swiftly, the progression of events toward genocide is gradual, and there is ample time for the international community to warn, alert and build up the necessary capabilities to prevent the tragedy. It means genocide is preventable!

The relatively long period of the development of extremely fragile situations enables and commits the world of academia to contributing through in-depth researches to the assessments of situations and the exploration and identification of both the long-term threatening tendencies and the development and expansion of theoretical frameworks for effectively and timely addressing the challenges.

The Foundation for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities declared as one of its main objectives to narrow the gap between early warning and early action and facilitate the cooperation among the stakeholders including the representatives of academia committed to the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities.

The tragic historical events in the last century have clearly proven that one of the most volatile regions of the world from the angle of genocide and mass atrocities is the Great Lakes, therefore, the Foundation has decided to give priority to that region in its activities.

In that spirit, the Foundation, in cooperation with one of its founders, the Central European University, initiates a roundtable where the representatives of academia and policy makers could discuss and explore the best ways and possibilities of cooperation to prevent genocide and mass atrocities in the Great Lakes Region.

The hosts of the event believe that the roundtable will launch a series of dialogue which will pool the world of academia and provide possibilities for regular exchange of information, sharing lessons learned and best practices with a view to help avoiding duplications and improving the division of labour in addressing the threats of genocide and mass atrocities.