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# **Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities in Regional, Sub-regional and Other Inter-governmental Organisations**

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# 1. Regional IGOs and Operational Conflict Prevention

## 1.1. Introduction

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)<sup>1</sup> is responding to the call to further define and propose modalities for future interaction between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the United Nations (UN) in conflict prevention. To achieve a coherent and effective ‘culture of prevention’, similar considerations are merited with regard to the increasingly significant roles of regional, sub-regional and other inter-governmental organisations (hereafter RIGOs). This would reflect the growing importance of RIGOs and regional approaches, as well as recommendations to strengthen consultations and co-operation between the UN and RIGOs as advocated in the 2001 Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, the 2004 Report of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, the March 2005 Report of the Secretary-General in follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, and the recently-released 2006 Progress Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict.<sup>2</sup>

As the ongoing situation in Darfur, Sudan shows, once violence breaks out, a conflict develops its own dynamics, reducing substantially the chances for successful diplomatic engagement, largely leaving the international community with costly options and the uncertain outcomes of coercive forms of intervention. In order to *prevent* such developments, co-operative action must come much earlier. For this, pre-standing mechanisms with appropriate mandates and resources are required, at all levels. RIGOs are often well-placed to pursue such collective approaches to early conflict prevention.

Section 1 of this overview attempts to sketch current roles and trends in RIGOs in preventing violent conflict. Section 2 provides an overview of the institutionalised prevention capacities of selected RIGOs. The three core questions addressed in this introductory note are:

- 1. Roles:** What is the rationale and function of RIGOs in seeking to prevent violent conflicts?
- 2. Trends:** What are the trends of RIGOs in conflict prevention?

- 3. CSO Interaction:** How do (and/or should) CSOs interact with RIGOs in seeking to prevent violent conflicts?

As the topic is broad and the organisations are many, it is beyond the scope of this short study to assess experiences and relative effectiveness of different institutions. A narrow interpretation of ‘conflict prevention’ will be applied, with the scope limited to ‘operational prevention’ mechanisms in RIGOs, thus leaving aside structural prevention, judicial mechanisms, and capacities for peace-making, peace-keeping and peace enforcement. ‘Operational prevention’ refers to mandates and capacities vested in RIGOs aimed at preventing violent conflict through diplomatic means of non-coercive engagement from provision of good offices to settlement of disputes including direct assistance with matters of governance within, and relations between, States.<sup>3</sup> If one roughly divides the approaches of RIGOs in addressing disputes and facilitating dispute settlement as interest-based (responding notably to good offices and other diplomatic functions), rights-based (requiring judicial and human rights machinery) and power-based (reflected in coercive measures, including military), this study focuses exclusively on the interest-based functions of RIGOs.<sup>4</sup>

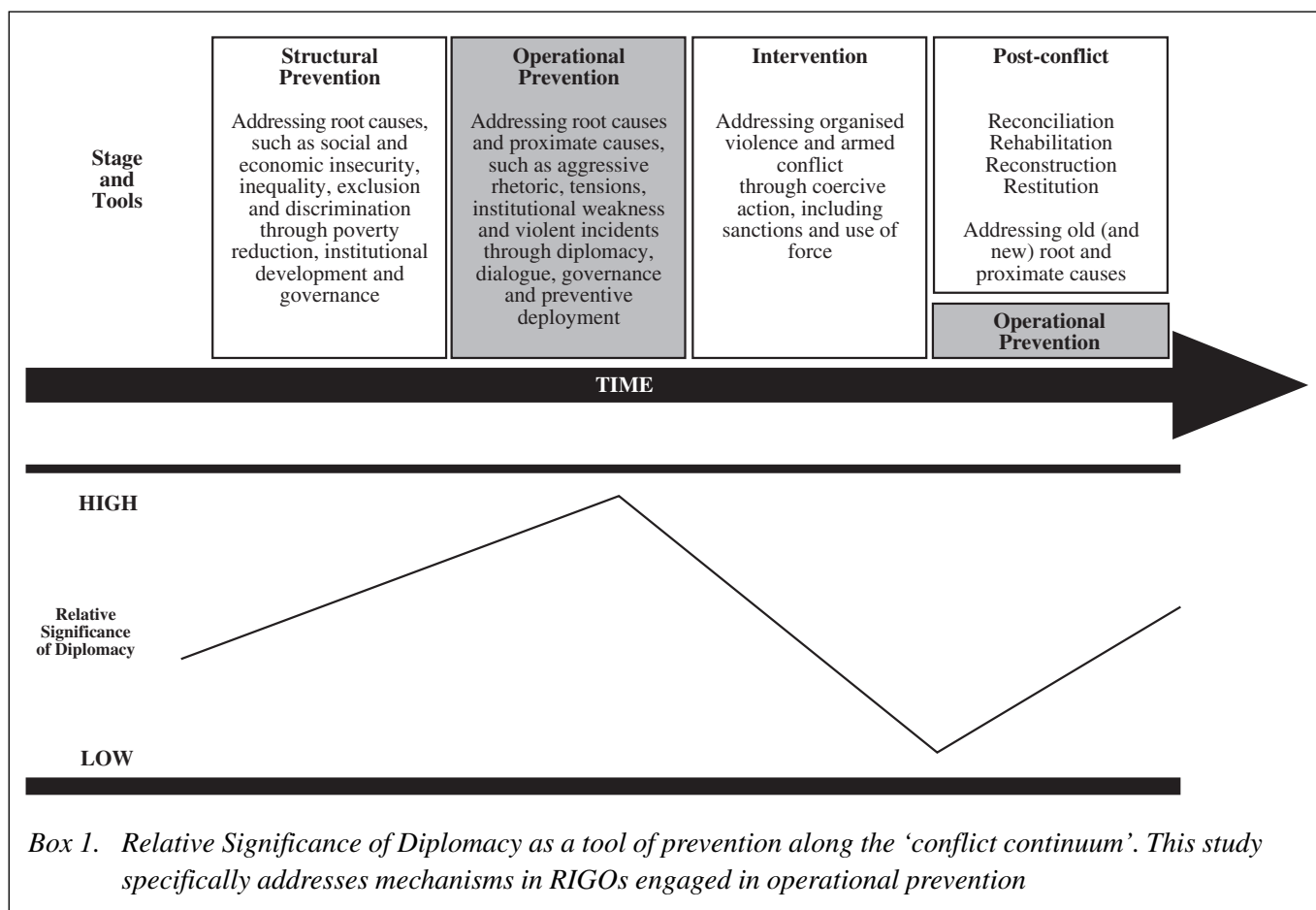
1 [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net); for more information about this particular paper please contact [r.heemskerk@conflict-prevention.net](mailto:r.heemskerk@conflict-prevention.net)

2 Report of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, June 2001 (UN doc A/55/985-S/2001/574); *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility*, December 2004 (UN doc A/59/565); *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All*, March 2005 (UN doc A/59/2005); and the Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, July 2006 (UN doc A/60/891).

3 ‘Operational prevention’ was defined in the 1997 Report of the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict ([www.ccpdc.org](http://www.ccpdc.org)) as strategies and tactics aimed at stopping violence when it appears imminent, whereas ‘structural prevention’ comprises strategies to address root causes of conflict. Although only an approximate classification, the distinction between structural and operational prevention was subsequently adopted in the Report of the Secretary General on the Prevention of Armed Conflict in 2001. ([www.un.org/esa/peacebuilding/Library](http://www.un.org/esa/peacebuilding/Library))

4 This division is seldom clear-cut, and different approaches are often employed, sometimes simultaneously, by different parts of the same organisation.

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Arguably, the relative significance of 'diplomacy' in the conflict prevention tool kit is greatest at times of heightened tensions with no more than occasional incidents of violence (see *Box 1*). It therefore appears merited to assess current capacities in RIGOs mandated to address effectively the causes of conflict before violence erupts and spreads. These mechanisms could and should benefit from interaction with CSOs and so merit to be addressed in the Global Partnership's policy reform agenda. As such, this study should be viewed as an input for further reflection and as encouragement of further analysis as to how CSOs can engage practically and constructively with RIGOs to effectively and coherently prevent violent conflict.

### 1.1.1. Regionalisation of conflicts

Violent conflicts originating in one country differ from traditional inter-State conflicts. However, the common classification of conflicts as 'inter-State' or 'intra-State' is over-simplified. Irrespective of causes or

manifestations, contemporary security threats and conflicts increasingly tend to pay little respect to State borders, proving the necessity for inter-State co-operation in effectively addressing, if not preventing, them. For example, while the origin of trafficking, illegal migration, environmental haze and violent communal conflicts may stem from one country, their effects are often felt in neighbouring States, the wider region and beyond. Indeed, effects spill over borders link with other sources of instability and so aggravate regional insecurity. Even seemingly isolated intra-State conflicts increasingly pose external challenges as they inflame international public opinion (or particular groups) or threaten to deteriorate into 'failed States'. In such situations, it seems indisputable that co-operative (usually multilateral) and multidimensional approaches and strategies are required.

### 1.1.2. Regional versus universal mechanisms

Greater attention needs to be directed toward the co-

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operative approaches that the UN Charter commends. Regional organisations form an integral part of the UN Charter. Specifically, Chapter VIII of the UN Charter implicitly endorses the principle of subsidiarity by identifying and encouraging ‘regional arrangements or agencies’ as appropriate initial actors in seeking to defuse tensions and resolve local disputes within the region before any reference to the Security Council.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, all options must be exhausted before coercive action is to be considered under the UN Charter; it is thus implicit (and sensible) that more effective regional regimes are encouraged under the Charter. Moreover, for member States of such regional arrangements or agencies, Article 52(2) of the UN Charter requires them to ‘make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or such regional agencies before referring them to the Security Council.’ For its part, the Security Council is required by Article 52(3) to ‘encourage the development of pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies’.

To this end, the establishment or strengthening of *assistance-oriented inter-governmental mechanisms enabling early action* is needed also at the regional and sub-regional levels.<sup>6</sup> Regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations - with their close historical, political, economic, cultural and geographic ties and typically superior local knowledge, strong links and sustained commitment and interest - hold considerable potential for collective approaches to early conflict prevention. Following the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001, and more so since the intervention in Iraq, there appears increased political interest in the search for alternatives to coercive action, including developing in-regional capacities to manage if not solve in-regional problems (if for no other reason than to prevent involvement external to the region). Simply, in-regional friendly advice and assistance appears generally more welcome in addressing in-regional problems and threats - and more likely to be accepted.

At the same time, regional regimes may be subject to the disproportionate influence of dominant States in

*In-regional solutions are often better received in addressing in-regional threats.*

directing regional processes. There can also be situations where RIGOs are for other reasons not the most appropriate to engage in or mediate an incipient conflict, for example when sympathies are divided within the region (such as in the situation of the Democratic Republic of Congo and its relationship with neighbouring States and relevant sub-regional organisations). Nevertheless, as noted by C. Barnes in the GPPAC background Reader on “UN, Regional and Civil Society Organisations”, in some regions, such as much of Latin America (Central America being an exception), in-regional governments and RIGOs are perceived as the key interlocutors, rather than the UN, with the result that CSOs have accordingly focused their energies.

In sum, there appears to be an emerging awareness that the potential of regional institutions and instruments merits attention as one avenue to pursue effective conflict prevention. This accords with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter which explicitly encourages regional arrangements or agencies to deal with issues appropriate for regional co-operation, on condition that they do so “consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the

<sup>5</sup> Chapter VIII of the UN Charter refers to ‘regional arrangements and agencies’. No formal criteria have been devised by the UN and there is no agreement as to what these include. However, while some argue Chapter VIII should be limited to those regional IGOs which possess a mechanism for the settlement of regional disputes, enforcement action is not considered to be required. While it can be debated whether and which regional IGOs correspond to Chapter VIII, for the purpose of this study, these differing concepts are used interchangeably.

<sup>6</sup> A global *Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy* is currently working to achieve this aim through direct engagement with target RIGOs - through high-level action, in-regional partnerships, strategic placements of qualified personnel, the formation of an International Advisory Board of eminent persons, and the facilitation of cross-regional exchanges of experience. It promotes an institutionalised, human rights-informed approach to addressing root and proximate causes of conflict through quiet diplomacy.

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United Nations”.<sup>7</sup> Not surprisingly, there are calls for greater clarity in the division of labour between the UN and RIGOs. In this regard, care is needed for cross-regional co-operation as examples exist where overlapping engagements by the UN and in-regional IGOs have undermined the efforts of the other, as in Burundi. While Memoranda of Understanding are increasingly concluded between the UN and RIGOs, the different mandates and political receptivity in regions appears to favour a gradualist and flexible approach for the time being. Comparative advantages should determine roles.

### *1.1.3. Types of regional organisations*

Regional and other IGOs have been established in unique contexts and for varying purposes with substantially different mandates and capacities. Several organisations are sub-regional, while others have memberships which extend beyond a geographic region. Other organisations are composed on criteria other than geography, such as the Commonwealth, the Organisation de la Francophonie and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. Some organisations are founded upon charters and have professional secretariats, while others are essentially diplomatic fora with weak institutional frameworks and hardly any operational capacity.

Noting the tremendous diversity in size, mandates and effectiveness, the Carnegie Commission in 1997 divided such organisations into three groups: (1) Security Organisations, (2) Economic Organisations, and (3) Dialogue and Co-operation Groups. Of course, several organisations in fact straddle this classification. Such efforts to classify also run afoul of organisational evolutions as many organisations have transformed over time. For example, in 1997 the Carnegie Commission correctly classified the EU as essentially an ‘economic organisation’, while in recent years it has taken on security mandates and activities, developing civil and military capabilities to address crises within and outside the scope of its geographic membership and associations. Finally, while some IGOs or their members may state the contrary, all IGOs are inescapably political in nature and aim to improve the

*The problem-solving approach enables a facilitator to assist impartially both governmental and non-governmental actors.*

international conditions in which their memberships find themselves: all IGOs ultimately aim at stability and development in one way or another.

### *1.1.4. Options and tools for conflict prevention through regional organisations*

RIGOs all have the potential to contribute to conflict prevention: they can create standing institutions or mechanisms dedicated to the prevention of violent conflict, incorporate and mainstream conflict prevention (and peacebuilding) perspectives and approaches in their programmes and work, and build capacity for effective action, notably early warning and early action via diplomacy along with political and economic measures and arrangements.

Early warning functions include the creation of monitoring capacities and building and applying professional expertise and analytical skills. Systems of information collection and management must efficiently sort and channel information to be analysed by experts and then translated into policy-relevant recommendations for use by relevant actors in a timely fashion, and over time. Deep (and unbiased) situational or area knowledge is vital for reliable analysis, credible advocacy and practical assistance.

Early action functions require the development and commitment of significant skills of diplomacy,

<sup>7</sup> Peace enforcement actions by regional actors without U.N. Security Council action has been of concern to universalists (notably with regard to ECOWAS in Liberia in 1990, and through the wordings of the Security Council of the Charter of the African Union). However, when it comes to peaceful settlement of disputes, the Charter clearly promotes the principle of subsidiarity.

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negotiation, problem-solving, mediation, facilitation and technical assistance. Ultimately, judgment is required to make decisions about timing of engagement or initiative, and how, with whom and with which 'volume' and speed to do so in a specific context. To this end, early confidence-building and perseverance are key, i.e. to engage early and build relations over time and through shared experiences.

The diplomatic tools available include options for structuring dialogue, creating political space for various interested parties to address options (and hopefully find solutions) regarding recurrent issues, including contested matters of identity and diversity management, wealth distribution and participation in public decision-making. RIGOs, or institutions thereof, can also rally fourth parties who may not be centrally involved in the conflict but may hold interests and may help to create positive conditions and incentives (both material and moral).

Such an approach can generate recommendations and persuade both governments and other actors to consider carefully the consequences of certain kinds of action or inaction. The task goes far beyond encouraging dialogue or articulating consequences. The problem-solver can facilitate contacts and processes (indirectly or in some cases directly) between actors, and bring a cross-contextual expertise gained from many comparable situations. The problem-solver essentially helps to find or construct solutions, which can take the form of advice on policy and law in relation to, *inter alia*, political organisation and participation, access to public goods (material resources, opportunities or positions and prestige), elections, decentralisation, constitutional reform, citizenship policies, maintenance of identities, the use of language(s), education, cultural policy and financing, and bilateral relations including the conclusion and implementation of treaties, and so forth.

The techniques available are also broad-ranging, and might include confidential bilateral exchanges, multi-party discussions or round-tables, technical consulting, facilitating access to other sources of advice, facilitating

access to financial and material resources necessary for policy implementation, and much more. Finally, the function also involves an advisory role which reflects back to the international community the lessons learned from particular situations. Thus, the institutionally based problem-solver is an advocate within their organisational framework who also can inform and suggest structural, procedural and normative developments (not to mention provision of resources) which may further facilitate conflict prevention in the future.

### 1.2. Trends of Institutionalised Prevention at (Sub) regional Levels

#### 1.2.1. Growth of regional arrangements & cross-organisational co-operation

The past decade has seen a sharp increase in the number and activities of regional and sub-regional organisations. Most States belong to several organisations, holding mostly complementary and sometimes overlapping responsibilities and functions. While the challenge in Europe is to co-ordinate conflict prevention efforts between a number of RIGOs, other regions lack a single effective (i.e. operational) region-wide mechanism in this regard, notably Asia.

Processes of regionalisation are linked to identities as well as geopolitical considerations. At the same time, the fluidity of 'regions' determines and alters States' preferences as to which other States they may wish to co-operate with in the field of peace and security. For example, India is said to be looking with great interest in taking part in the ASEAN Regional Forum, while India and its neighbouring States have yet to develop the potential of their immediate sub-regional grouping, the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation. In a wholly different context, when the (then) Organisation for African Unity in 1984 accepted the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic as a member, Morocco subsequently withdrew from the regional body. Following rapprochement between Algeria and Morocco, five nations proposed a treaty that would include the 'Greater Arab Maghreb'. A third example may be seen in current calls for an East Asia

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Community, which reflects in part an attempt by Malaysia in the early 1990s to create in-regional ownership of security matters, with less external involvement and dependency, notably by the United States of America.

Co-operation has increased and deepened significantly between regional organisations in the past decade. In Europe, the EU, the CoE and the OSCE have co-ordinated several field office activities in Southeast Europe and Central Asia. The African Union has since its inception designated five security sub-regions and has sought to develop greater clarity and authority on pan-African issues within the framework of the AU. ASEAN signed in 2004 a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation to develop 'substantial co-operation' (which has yet to materialise). The EU is developing Ministerial meetings with the OAS and ASEAN, and providing financial and political backing to the AU's efforts vis-à-vis Darfur and Cote d'Ivoire (and to ECOWAS). Africa and Asia revisited the pan-regional conference from 1955 by organising a summit in Indonesia in April 2005. The League of Arab States and South American States held a meeting in 2005 seeking to develop better relations between these regions. However, despite increased cross-regional contact between RIGOs, there has not yet emerged substantial or broad co-operation.

Relations between the UN and RIGOs are also developing towards more formalised co-operation. To date, this has largely been *ad hoc*, as when the (then) Organisation for African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) supported the diplomatic efforts in Somalia, and by the OSCE playing this role on constitutional issues in Georgia and Tajikistan. Other examples of the *ad hoc* nature of co-operation include the General Assembly granting observer status to ECOWAS in 2004, the Security Council's co-operation with this organisation, and the practice that on some occasions the UN and RIGOs have jointly appointed special representatives, such as in Haiti (OAS and UN). Since 1994, the UN Secretary-General has convened

biennial High-Level Meetings, with 24 heads of IGOs and UN agencies attending the 5<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting in 2003, up from originally ten in 1994. The 6<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting between the UN Secretary-General and Heads of Regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations was held on 25-26 July 2005 and reiterated calls to make current frameworks for co-operation more substantive, including through annual meetings between the UN Secretary-General and Heads of Regional Organisations and to discuss further frameworks for co-operation.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> High-Level Meeting, Modalities for Co-operation between the UN and Regional Organisations in the Field of Conflict Prevention was adopted.<sup>9</sup> The UN Secretary-General has approved voluntary funding to be sought in order to develop a focal point in the UN Department of Political Affairs to translate the co-operative framework into practice.

In the current UN reform proposals, RIGOs are envisioned to participate when relevant on the prospective Peacebuilding Commission, as well as to be regularly invited to Security Council meetings as appropriate. However, while the Peacebuilding Commission was envisioned to act during four different phases, including pre-conflict, existing political concerns may well prevent it from initially focusing on this phase.<sup>10</sup>

### 1.2.2. From Early Warning towards Early Action

Several RIGOs have developed early warning systems in the past decade. For example, the ECOWATCH system was established under ECOWAS in four reporting zones in Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia and Liberia. From these four zonal headquarters, ECOWAS officials are expected to assess political (human rights, democracy), economic (food shortages), social

8 The 7th High Level Meeting was held in September 2006, reflecting a 2005 agreement to hold meetings on an annual basis. Regional leaders reiterated their call for closer co-operation and strategic partnerships with the UN.

9 See Annex I for the list of 13 Modalities for Co-operation between the UN and Regional Organisations in the Field of Conflict Prevention.

10 Report on Wilton Park Conference "The UN's Relationship with Regional Organisations in Crisis Management and Peacekeeping: How should it be developed to mutual advantage?" April 2005.

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(unemployment), security (arms flows, civil-military relations) and environmental (drought, flooding) indicators on a daily basis. Other early warning systems include those of SADC and the African Union. However, few such early warning systems are equipped with effective mechanisms for early action, resulting in *ad hoc* and largely reactive arrangements requiring their own costly (in political terms and in terms of time) negotiation even when action does follow.

Some organisations have developed matter-specific mechanisms for early warning, notably the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)<sup>11</sup>; by contrast, the mentioned ECOWATCH system takes a more comprehensive approach. The ‘good offices’ functions of various Secretaries-General fall under the latter ‘comprehensive’ category. However, the increased practice also of RIGOs to appoint Special Representatives or Personal Envoys of the Secretary-General to address particular situations is an attempt to provide more manageable tasks with dedicated attention over time. As of January 2005, the European Union had appointed seven EU Special Representatives. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office has similarly appointed Personal Representatives.

A related development is the emergence of Eminent Person groups to perform or assist with preventive diplomacy. The African Union has a Panel of the Wise, ECOWAS has a Council of Elders, the ASEAN Regional Forum has a Register of Expert and Eminent Persons and the Pacific Islands Forum has appointed Eminent Persons Groups for occasional fact-finding missions. Unfortunately, aside from the last-mentioned fact-finding missions, so far these potentially useful instruments for preventive diplomacy remain to be operationalised. For example, the AU’s Panel of the Wise has yet to be gathered (nor even appointed), the ARF Register of EEPs may meet for the first time only later this year, while the practice of the Pacific Islands Forum remains *ad hoc* and short-term.

Normative developments in this field have taken some steps forward. The Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum can draw upon the Biketawa Declaration,

which provides a list of preventive diplomacy options which he may choose to pursue independently. The Guidelines for the ARF EEPs were concluded in 2004 after several years of drafting. OAS Declarations and ACS Summit Declarations provide additional references which can be drawn upon by the respective Secretary-General.

While some Secretaries-General of RIGOs have seen their roles enhanced, such as the OSCE which strengthened the mandate of the Secretary-General in 2004, other Secretaries-General enjoy significantly less leeway to pursue diplomatic actions independently of member States. Indeed, for some Secretaries-General it is controversial enough whether to attend the biennial UN High-Level Meetings without consulting and receiving approval from member States’ foreign ministers. In some instances, it is the alternating Chairmanship or Presidency of the organisation which has been provided an enhanced role, such as in ASEAN and ARF. However, the temporary periods of rotating Presidencies are problematical for the development of sustained conflict prevention strategies and processes over time.

### 1.2.3. Economic development and/or security-driven mandates

There has been a clear trend among RIGOs originally created with economic development agendas moving to incorporate more security-related functions, demonstrating the now commonly recognised interconnectedness of economic development with peace and security. RIGOs which have broadened their scope of activity in recent years include, for example, ECOWAS which was initially established as a vehicle for economic co-operation. Increasingly, security issues and conflict prevention activities have featured on the agenda, following its peace enforcement mission in Liberia. Similar developments have taken place within the EU and could well evolve in other organisations.

11 Although known as an instrument of early action, the original mandate of the HCNM clearly intended the institution to function essentially as an early warning mechanism. The early pro-active practice of the first HCNM, supported by the Chairmanship and by all OSCE participating States, transformed the institution into a mechanism of early action.

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The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has traditionally also focused on economic co-operation, but adopted in 2004 a Plan of Action to establish an ASEAN Security Community with early warning system and preventive diplomacy functions. These developments reflect the broadening and deepening concept of security, which now is widely viewed to include ‘human security’ and the inter-relatedness between security, development and human rights.

### 1.2.4. Co-operative engagement

In several regions the primary challenge to developing institutionalised preventive capacities remains reconciliation with the principle of non-interference, with several charters of RIGOs (following the United Nations) prohibiting ‘interference’, and certainly precluding ‘intervention’, in the internal affairs of their member States. However, the established principle of non-interference should not be equated with a policy of non-cooperation or non-involvement. When actors apply a co-operative approach, effectively assisting governments in responding to various challenges and emerging threats, this methodology would secure inter-governmental engagement and co-operation. Indeed, on the basis of State consent, sovereignty would be fully respected and in the end enhanced, especially in the case of weak and so-called fragile States whose capacities and effective control would be strengthened.

### 1.3. Interactions between CSOs and Regional IGOs

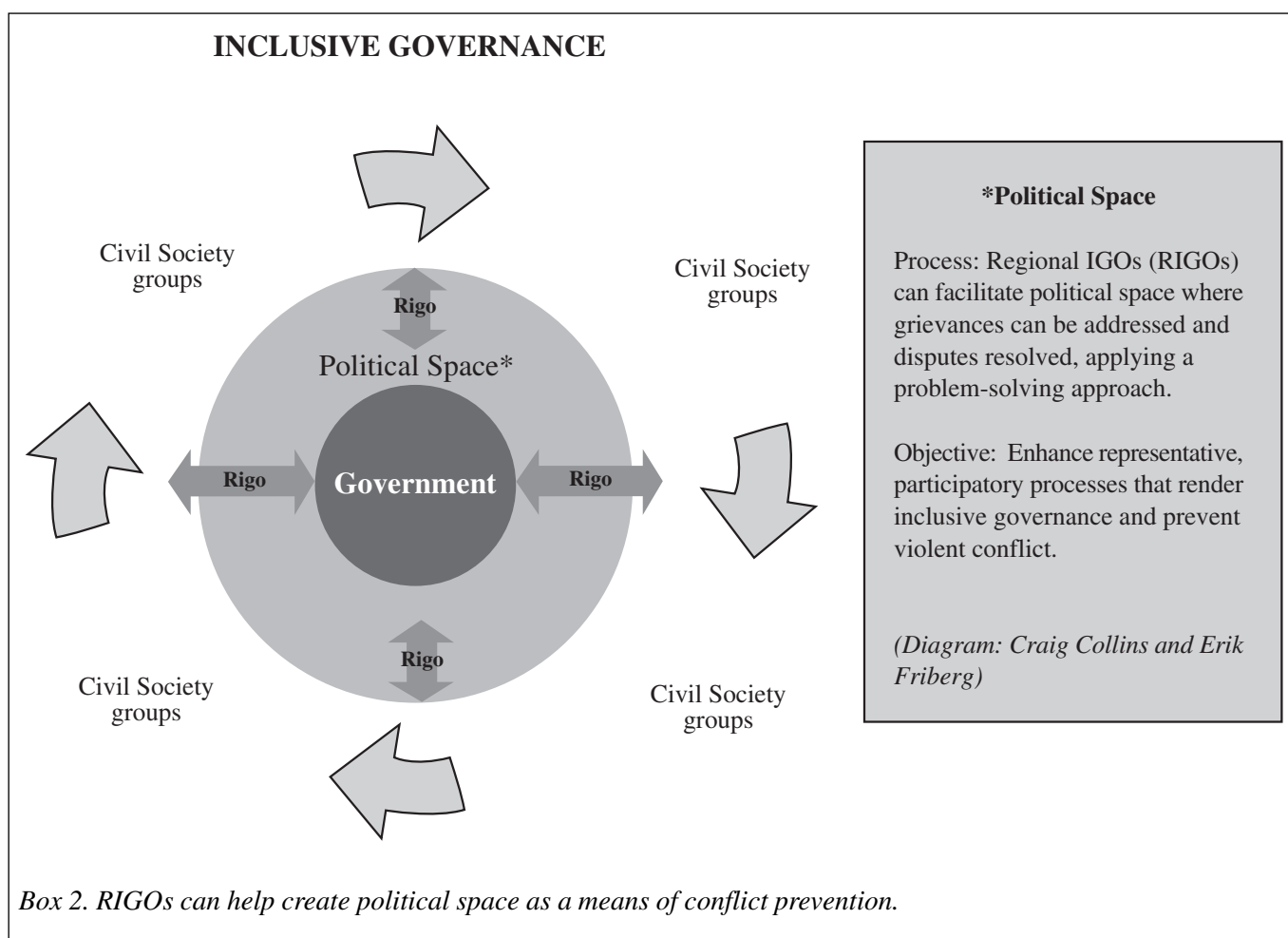
Mechanisms for CSOs to engage with RIGOs on conflict issues are uneven. While the OAS’s special office for working with CSOs and its involvement of CSOs in various summits has been a fruitful co-operation, many RIGOs remain hesitant to engage with CSOs in a structured and continuous manner. Enhanced capacity of local CSOs is increasingly generating conflict analysis and well-informed recommendations for action. There are several examples where RIGOs have benefited from the active involvement of CSOs. Beyond information gathering and independent analysis, CSOs can play a crucial role in building confidence and reassuring affected communities about

wider developments. As Box 2 illustrates, RIGOs can facilitate such political space, where CSOs can contribute by articulating concerns, expressing views and suggesting courses of action, thereby rendering more inclusive and better decision-making.

One notable example in this regard is the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. An ‘instrument of conflict prevention at the earliest possible stage’, the mandate provides accessibility to any member State and, importantly, ensures contacts with civil society, balanced by confidentiality. Thus, the HCNM meets with representatives from all sides, including senior government officials as well as representatives from minority groups and CSOs often engaging them in a co-operative problem-solving process. According to the first OSCE HCNM, Mr. Max van der Stoep, ‘if minorities have input into discussion and decision-making bodies, if they have avenues of appeal, and if they feel that their identities are being protected and promoted, the chances of inter-ethnic tensions arising will be significantly decreased’. In addition, regardless of the specific subject-matter, it appears that regional and sub-regional actors can play a complementing and facilitating role in creating political space where grievances can be articulated and addressed in a co-operative and peaceful manner (see *Box 2*). IGOs with field presences have the benefit of yet closer engagement and more opportunities to play such a facilitating role both formally and informally. For example, some OSCE country missions have established an open-door policy for members of minority (or other) communities who wish to complain about government discrimination.

The role of Track Two (i.e. non-official) diplomacy has been particularly relevant in addressing issues beyond the reach of official efforts in several regions. For example, ASEAN-ISIS and CSCAP in the Asia-Pacific illustrate how networks of research institutions and prominent persons from that region interact with actors at the inter-governmental level. Concretely, ASEAN-ISIS has institutionalised meetings with ASEAN Senior Officials Meetings on an annual basis. People-centred CSOs have increasing channels to engage in regional

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policy discussions, including through the annual ASEAN Peoples' Assembly. The ARF Unit within the ASEAN Secretariat has as part of its terms of reference specifically to provide an avenue for CSOs to interact.

Other regions have developed further modalities for deepened and sustained CSO involvement with RIGOs, such as the Council of Europe granting consultative status to NGOs.

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

As noted above, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict seeks, *inter alia*, to enhance interaction between CSOs and inter-governmental organisations in conflict prevention. Regional, sub-regional and other inter-governmental organisations, which are often best positioned to address in-regional dynamics *before* violence erupts, have an increasingly significant role in developing a 'culture of prevention' and merit careful consideration by civil society. Recognition of the importance of RIGOs and regional approaches is evidenced by the abovementioned 2001 Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, the 2004 Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel, the 2005 Report in follow-up to the Millennium Summit, and the 2006 Progress Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, each of which recommends strengthened co-operation between these organisations and the UN. Given the potentially unique contribution of CSOs to the conflict prevention efforts of regional multilateral actors, their similar engagement is both timely and appropriate.

Accordingly, this overview attempts to sketch the conflict prevention mandate, experience and institutional framework of 31 RIGOs originally treated for GPPAC by Packer and Friberg.<sup>12</sup> Given their close historical, political, economic, cultural and geographic ties, local knowledge, and sustained interest, such organisations are particularly well-placed to pursue collective approaches to early conflict prevention. Indeed, RIGOs are specifically endorsed in Chapter VIII of 'regional arrangements or agencies' as appropriate initial actors in seeking to defuse tensions and resolve local disputes before they are referred to the UN Security Council.<sup>13</sup> It is increasingly apparent that effective conflict prevention requires the establishment or strengthening of assistance-oriented inter-governmental mechanisms enabling early action at the regional and sub-regional levels, as the Charter commends.

The current overview identifies - where applicable - the institutional unit(s) responsible for conflict prevention activities within each inter-governmental organisation

and seeks to provide official points of contact. It should be noted that many RIGOs, indeed the vast majority, have no such unit, no explicit conflict prevention mandate, and play no conflict prevention role in their respective region. However, effective engagement often occurs in the absence of both a dedicated mechanism and a mandate, usually as part of the "good offices" function of the office of Secretary-General.<sup>14</sup> Conversely, an explicit mandate does not always translate into appropriate action when the need arises. Whatever the case, civil society has a potentially catalytic role in encouraging IGOs to act to the fullest extent possible, advocating institutional development and facilitating proactive and effective action including to create the political space for appropriate civil society participation. The following seeks to inform and enhance CSO efforts to this end by exploring the conflict prevention capacity of RIGOs and by identifying challenges and opportunities for optimal CSO-RIGO engagement.

As noted in the paper's Introduction, the breadth of the topic and the number of organisations does not permit this study to assess experiences and relative effectiveness of different institutions. A narrow interpretation of 'conflict prevention' is applied, limited to 'operational prevention' mechanisms, thus leaving aside structural prevention, judicial mechanisms, and capacities for peace-making, peace-keeping and peace enforcement. 'Operational prevention' is understood to concern mandates and capacities aimed at preventing

12 John Packer and Erik Friberg, "Regional Organisations and Operational Conflict Prevention", *GPPAC Reader: UN, Regional and Civil Society Organisations*, July 2005, 61-78.

13 *Ibid.* No formal criteria have been devised by the UN and there is no agreement as to what 'regional arrangements and agencies' include. However, while some argue Chapter VIII should be limited to RIGOs which possess a mechanism for the settlement of regional disputes, capacity for enforcement action is not considered necessary. While it can be debated whether and which RIGOs correspond to Chapter VIII, for the purpose of this study, these differing concepts are used interchangeably (Packer & Friberg).

14 Though enshrined in the charters or dispute resolution mechanisms of a number of IGOs, the precise meaning and practice of "good offices" are rarely elaborated. The ambiguity of the function - often 'action taken to bring about or initiate negotiations, but without participation in the discussion of the substance of the dispute' - has permitted considerable freedom of action for those who have chosen to provide it.

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violent conflict through diplomatic, non-coercive engagement from the provision of good offices to the settlement of disputes, including via direct assistance with matters of governance within, and relations between, States. Dividing again the approaches of RIGOs in addressing disputes as interest-based (responding notably to good offices and other diplomatic functions), rights-based (requiring judicial and non-judicial human rights machinery) and power-based (reflected in coercive measures, including military), the following focuses exclusively on the interest-based functions of these organisations.<sup>15</sup>

### Definitions

A range of diplomatic conflict prevention activities, including the “good offices” function (*see note 12*), may be pursued by RIGOs. The following examples appear in the tables below and are provided here for definitional clarity<sup>16</sup>:

- **Good offices:** used by the Secretary-General for, *inter alia*, enquiries, fact-finding, encouraging exchanges of information and formulating process and objectives
- **Special envoys:** respected, experienced and impartial individuals dispatched by the authority of a third party - often by invitation - to help reduce tensions/resolve disputes.
- **Facilitation:** third-party engagement which provides a forum and environment conducive to dispute settlement; may include other facilities/services, notably communications.
- **Mediation:** voluntary, *ad hoc* tool of peaceful conflict prevention and resolution, in which parties seek assistance of, or accept an offer of help from, an outside actor to change perceptions or behaviour without resorting to the use of force or authority of law.
- **Conciliation:** proceedings in which a person or panel of persons assists parties in resolving their differences - at their specific request and with the aim of conciliating, or reconciling, the objectives of each party.
- **Adjudication:** referral of dispute to an impartial third-party tribunal - i.e. an arbitral tribunal or

international court - for binding decision, usually on the basis of international law.

- **Arbitration:** a form of adjudication that involves referral of a dispute to an *ad hoc* tribunal, rather than a permanent court, for binding decision based on terms agreed by the parties.

### Format, content and rationale of the overview

Information has been organised under the following four subject headings:

1. **Name of IGO and Contacts:** provides when possible contact points for specific offices, departments (which may correspond to those identified in column 4) and individuals responsible for conflict prevention (CP)-related activities within the organisation, and NGO/CSO contact points. In all cases, an attempt is made to provide information for the closest (potentially) appropriate department;
2. **Mandate:** includes any explicit CP-related mandate and its formal source(s): Charter, declarations, protocols etc.. Note: the abovementioned “good offices” function is generally agreed to apply to the Heads of all inter-governmental organisations, even in the absence of an explicit mandate. Though contingent upon individual skill, inclination and other factors, the diplomatic engagement of Secretaries-General proceeds (and is included here) accordingly;
3. **Conflict Prevention Activities:** provides general information on CP-related activities undertaken - as opposed to specific cases of engagement. “N/A” indicates that no such activities are known, with additional detail provided if available; and,
4. **Institutional Unit(s):** identifies and briefly describes CP-relevant units, departments etc.. In the case of their absence, a general overview of the institutional structure of the IGO is provided when possible.

Incomplete information in a given column indicates the absence of clarity vis-à-vis CP-related institutions,

<sup>15</sup> The division is rarely clear-cut, and different approaches are often employed, sometimes simultaneously, by different parts of the same organisation.

<sup>16</sup> Craig Collins and John Packer, *Options and Techniques for Quiet Diplomacy*. (Sandövägen, Sweden: Folke Bernadotte Academy) 2006.

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mandates or activities (which indeed suggests institutional lacunae). In this light, it bears repeating that while many IGOs may discuss conflict prevention, few practically engage in substantive activities. It must also be noted that significantly different capacities exist among the organisations considered. While a given IGO may have multiple layers of bureaucracy and a number of separate, well-staffed and well-funded units to address conflict-related issues, another may have one person managing these and other issues with no supporting human or financial resources. Although beyond the scope of this study, an assessment and clear distinction must accordingly be made between the extent of each organisation's interest in conflict prevention, and their capacity to take effective action.

Regional and sub-regional organisations are arranged alphabetically by region - Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin

America/Caribbean, Middle East and Pacific Islands - followed by extra-regional organisations. The list is considered neither final nor all-inclusive. Periodic updating will be undertaken to incorporate relevant future developments, and many other inter-governmental arrangements and organisations exist, with a range of mandates and interests from primary commodity production to international trade. RIGOs treated herein were chosen on the basis of prominence in their respective regions and for political, legal, economic and/or security mandates that permit, or potentially permit, the use of diplomatic means to engage member States to assist in preventing violent conflict. Other arrangements have accordingly been omitted.

### 2.1. Africa

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>African Union (AU)</b></p> <p>Headquarters P.O. Box 3243 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel: +251 1 51 77 00 Fax:+251 1 51 78 44 Web: www.africa-union.org</p> <p>Commissioner: Peace &amp; Security Tel: (251) 11 551 77 00 Fax:(251) 11 551 78 44</p> <p>Directorate of Peace and Security Fax : (251) 11-552 58 72</p> <p>Commissioner: Political Affairs Tel: (251) 11 551 77 00 Fax:(251) 11 552 58 55</p> <p>Directorate of Political Affairs Tel.: (251) 11-551 77 00 Fax : (251) 11-551 00 39</p>	<p><i>Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (July 2002)</i></p> <p>- PSC is envisaged to use “good offices, mediation, conciliation &amp; enquiry” to prevent conflict and “peace-making and peace-building functions to resolve conflicts where they have occurred.”</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- <i>Ad hoc</i></p> <p>- Good offices</p> <p>- Special envoys</p> <p>- Facilitation</p> <p>- Approval &amp; support to sub-regional IGOs ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC, which are viewed by AU as pillars of the PSC</p>	<p>1. <i>Peace &amp; Security Council (PSC)</i>: defined in the Protocol as “security &amp; early warning arrangement to anticipate and prevent conflict” by facilitating “timely and efficient response”; the PSC is the decision-making and oversight body for all CP related activities; PSC portfolios are ‘Peace &amp; Security’ and ‘Political Affairs’</p> <p>2. <i>Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)</i>: advisory organ (not limited to CP issues) composed of NGOs, CSOs, social and professional groups from Member states to enable their contribution to programmes, decisions and implementation.</p> <p>3. <i>Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)</i>: monitoring, information gathering and analysis <b>to be developed</b></p> <p>4. <i>Panel of the Wise</i>: advise PSC; mediation role <b>to be named and operationalised</b></p>

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Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)</b></p> <p>Secretariat 14 Rue Zalagh Agdal Rabat, Morocco Tel: + 212 37 671 274 Fax: + 212 37 671 253 Web: www.maghrebarabe.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate, no indication of use of good offices</i></p> <p>- objectives of the AMU Treaty include ensuring regional stability &amp; enhancing policy coordination</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- Has not met at Heads of State level since April 1994</p> <p>- Activities to date are limited to development, trade, relations with EU, social and cultural issues</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presidential Council</li> <li>- Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers</li> <li>- Consultative Assembly</li> <li>- Court of Justice</li> <li>- Secretariat General</li> <li>- Specialised committees</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)</b></p> <p>CEN-SAD Secretariat P.O. Box 4041 Aljazeera Square Tripoli, Libya Tel: + 218 21-333-23-47 Fax: + 218 21-444-0076 Web: www.cen-sad.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate, no indication of use of good offices</i></p> <p>- objectives include an economic union and stimulating investment in agricultural, industrial, energy, social and cultural fields</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- “intends to work, together with the other regional economic communities and the (former) Organisation of African Unity, to strengthen peace, security and stability and achieve global economic and social development.”</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conference of Heads of State</li> <li>- Executive Council</li> <li>- General Secretariat</li> <li>- Sahel-Saharan Investment &amp; Trade Bank</li> <li>- Economic, Social &amp; Cultural Council</li> </ul>
<p><b>Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)</b></p> <p>Libreville, BP 2112 Gabon Tel: +241-44 47 31 Fax: +241-44 47 32 Email: ceeac.orgsr@inet.ga Web: www.ceeac-eccas.org</p>	<p><i>COPAX Protocol</i></p> <p>- agreed Feb. 1999 (now in force)</p> <p>- created the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX) “for the promotion, maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa”</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- one of four priority fields is to “develop capacities to maintain peace, security and stability, which are essential prerequisites for economic and social development”</p>	<p>COPAX Organs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Central African early-warning system (MARAC)</i>: collects/analyses data for the early detection and prevention of crises</li> <li>2. <i>Defence and Security Commission (CDS)</i>: meeting of chiefs of staff of national armies and commanders-in-chief of police forces; plan, organise, provide advice to decision-making bodies</li> </ol>

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Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)</b></p> <p>Executive Secretariat 60, Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro District Abuja, Nigeria Tel: +234 09-2347647 Fax: +234 09-2343005 / 2347644 Web: www.ecowas.int</p> <p>See also: - Deputy Executive Secretary for Political Affairs, Defence and Security - Technical Commission on Political, Judicial and Legal Affairs, Regional Security and Immigration</p>	<p><i>Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution Peacekeeping and Security</i> (“ECOWAS Mechanism”, 1999)</p> <p><i>Protocol A/SP1/12/01 on Democracy and Good Governance Supplementary to the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security</i> (2001)</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- <i>Ad hoc</i> - Good offices - Special envoys - Mediation</p> <p>Regular Council meetings to discuss security situation in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, and most recently Togo</p>	<p>1. <i>Mediation &amp; Security Council</i>: 10 member States; decision-making in crisis situations re: deploying military/political missions, and informing UN &amp; AU of such actions on behalf of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State</p> <p>2. <i>Council of Elders</i>: 15 eminent persons; mediate, conciliate &amp; arbitrate</p> <p>3. <i>Observation and Monitoring Centre</i>: being established in Secretariat; 2 Depts. - Operations, Peacekeeping, &amp; Humanitarian Affairs, and Political Affairs &amp; Security (organises, manages, and provides support for CP-related political activities)</p> <p>4. <i>ECOWARN</i>: network of info bureaus &amp; CSOs (WANEP); monitoring &amp; EW system</p>
<p><b>Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)</b></p> <p>Secretariat BP 2653 Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti Tel: +253 35 4050 Fax: +253 35 6994 / 353 520 Email: igad@intnet.dj Web: www.igad.org</p> <p>Conflict Early Warning (CEWARN) and Response Mechanism Worede 24, Kebele 13, H N. 1373 P.O. Box 58652 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel: +251 (1) 72 80 93 Fax: +251 (1) 72 10 22 Email: cewarn@telecom.net.et Web: www.cewarn.org</p>	<p>Protocol establishing a Conflict Early-Warning and Response Network (CEWARN)</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- <i>Ad hoc</i> - Good offices - Mediation - Facilitation - Special envoys</p>	<p><i>CEWARN</i>: system for sharing of information, via data collection &amp; analysis, pertaining to potential conflict and the promotion of coordinated response; formulation/communication of response options to CEWARN (CEWARN response units)</p>

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Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)</b></p> <p>Secretariat P.O. Box 1234 Halfway House Midrand (Johannesburg) 1685 South Africa Tel: +27 11 313 3716 Web: www.nepad.org</p> <p>Governance Program Fax: +27 11 313 3583</p> <p>Gender &amp; Civil Society Orgs Fax: +27 11 313 3778</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>(limited emphasis on preventive diplomacy)</i></p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- Goal: Establishing the conditions for sustainable development by ensuring: peace and security; democracy and good, political, economic and corporate governance; regional co-operation and integration; and capacity building.</p> <p>- "NEPAD principles of good governance, including the peer review mechanism, can play an important role in the prevention of internal conflicts in Africa"</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heads of State and Government Summit of the African Union: highest NEPAD authority</li> <li>- Heads of State and Govt Implementation Committee (HSIC): 3 States per AU region; reports annually to AU Summit</li> <li>- Steering Committee of NEPAD: Personal Reps of Heads of State and Govt; oversees projects and programme development.</li> <li>- NEPAD Secretariat: coordinate implementation of HSIC-approved projects and programmes</li> <li>- African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)</b></p> <p>SADC Secretariat Private Bag 0095, Gaborone Botswana Tel: +267 395 1863 Fax: +267 397 2848 Email: registry@sadc.int Web: www.sadc.int</p>	<p><i>Protocol on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation (2001)</i></p> <p>- regulates the function of the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ad hoc</i></li> <li>- Good offices</li> <li>- Facilitation</li> <li>- Adjudication</li> <li>- Arbitration</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Organ for Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (OPDSC):</i> a troika (Current, Incoming &amp; Outgoing Chairs) coordinated at Summit of Heads of State level</li> <li>2. <i>Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee (ISPDC):</i> work in progress; preventive diplomacy, conflict management and EW; assistance-oriented</li> <li>3. <i>Regional EW Centre and Strategic Analysis Unit</i> (to manage a Situation Room) agreed, not yet operational</li> <li>4. <i>Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC):</i> defence ministries &amp; depts; coordinates responses to defence &amp; security threats</li> <li>5. <i>Tribunal:</i> adjudicate disputes</li> </ol>

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### 2.2. Asia

#### 2.2.1. Central Asia

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)</b></p> <p>CSTO Secretariat ul. Varvarka 7 103012, Moscow Russian Federation Tel.: +7 495 925 7620 Fax: + 7 495 206 9771 Email: odkb@gov.ru Web: www.dkb.gov.ru/</p>	<p><i>Treaty on Collective Security:</i> defines purpose as - the coordination &amp; deepening of military/political co-operation; development of multilateral structures and mechanisms of co-operation for collective national security of member States; providing assistance, including military, to member States fallen victim to aggression</p>	<p>- <i>Ad hoc</i> - Good offices</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i> - Council on Collective Security - Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs - Council of Ministers of Defence - Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils - Secretary of the Organisation - Joint Staff of the CSTO</p>
<p><b>Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)</b></p> <p>CIS Executive Committee Kirov Street 17 Minsk 220035, Belarus Tel: +375 17 229 3434 Fax: +375 17 226 1894 Email: webmaster@www.cis.minsk.by Web: www.cis.minsk.by</p>	<p><i>CIS Charter (1993)</i> - includes reference to CP, peacekeeping and self-defense - stipulates that member States shall render mutual assistance 'in the regulation of conflict' on the basis of mutual consent - disputes may be passed to CIS Council of Heads of State (w/authority to recommend dispute resolution methods)</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- <i>Ad hoc</i> - Good offices - Special envoys</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i> - Council of Heads of State - Council of Heads of Government - Respective Councils of Foreign Ministers, Defense Ministers and Border Troops Commanders - Inter-parliamentary Assembly - Executive Committee (successor to the Executive Secretariat) - Interstate Economic Committee of the Economic Union</p>

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### 2.2.2. East and Southeast Asia

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p>The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)</p> <p>ASEAN Secretariat 70A, Jalan Sisingamangaraja Jakarta 12110 Indonesia Tel: +6221 7262991 Fax: +6221 7398234 Web: www.aseansec.org</p> <p>Additional NGO/CSO contact: see also ASEAN-ISIS, a Track II network linking ASEAN w/NGOs, academics, media &amp; civil society</p>	<p><i>Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC, 1976)</i></p> <p>- provides guiding principles for co-operation: that political and security dialogue should “promote regional peace and stability by enhancing regional resilience”</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- Official declarations &amp; political statements on conflict situations</p> <p>- Good offices</p> <p>(Limited by long adherence to the principal of non-interference / reluctance to offer assistance or initiate preventive action.)</p>	<p>1. <i>ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Desk</i>: oversee activities of ARF</p> <p>2. <i>ARF Unit</i>: provide support to the ARF Chair</p> <p>3. <i>ASEAN Troika</i>: current, past and incoming ASEAN Chair tasked with responding to developing situations (not yet used)</p> <p>- Possible creation of an ASEAN Security Community (ASC) by 2020 with the theme of comprehensive security</p>
<p><b>ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)</b></p> <p>ARF Unit ASEAN Secretariat 70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja Jakarta, Indonesia 12110 Tel. +6221 7262991 Fax. +6221 7398234 Email: ngoc@aseansec.org</p> <p>ARF Unit Director ASEAN Secretariat 70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja Jakarta, Indonesia 12110 Fax. (6221) 7398234; 7243504</p> <p>Under Secretary Policy Planning Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia Fax: 603 8889 5921 Web: www.aseanregionalforum.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate or substantive engagement</i></p> <p><i>First ARF Chairman’s Statement (1994, ARF objectives):</i></p> <p>- to foster constructive dialogue/ consultation on political and security issues of common interest and concern; and make significant contributions to confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p><i>Concept &amp; Principles of Preventive Diplomacy (2001): not yet operationalised</i></p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>1. <i>ARF Chair</i>: senior decision-making office (not operational)</p> <p>2. <i>Register of Expert and Eminent Persons (EEPs)</i>: to enhance role of ARF Chair, <i>inter alia</i>, for preventive diplomacy (not yet operational)</p> <p>3. <i>‘Friends of the Chair’</i>: assist ARF Chair in dealing with international situations affecting peace and security in the region</p>

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Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO)</b></p> <p>SCO Secretariat No 41, Liangmaqiao Road Chaoyang District 100600 Beijing, China Tel: +86-10 65329806 Fax: +86-10-65329808 Email: sco@sectSCO.org Web: www.sectSCO.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate</i></p> <p>- <i>SCO Declaration</i>: assigns priority to the principle of regional security and ‘exerts all the necessary efforts to secure it’</p> <p>- Among its stated purposes is “joint safeguarding and preservation of regional peace, security and stability”</p>	n/a	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council of Heads of Member States: supreme decision-making body</li> <li>- Secretariat (Beijing)</li> <li>- Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (Tashkent)</li> <li>- Council of National Co-ordinators of Member States: serves as coordination mechanism</li> </ul>

### 2.2.3. South Asia

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC)</b></p> <p>SAARC Secretariat PO Box 4222, Tridevi Marg Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977 1 4221785 Fax: +977 1 4227033 Web: www.saarc-sec.org</p> <p>Secretary General of SAARC Tel: 00977-1-4221792 Email: sg@saarc-sec.org</p> <p>Social Affairs Division Tel: 00977-1-4221794</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate, no indication of use of good offices</i></p> <p>- Heads of State or Government agreed at the Ninth SAARC Summit “that a process of informal political consultations would prove useful in promoting peace, stability and amity” (reiterated at 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Summits)</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- The SAARC Charter (1985) states that “Bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations”</p> <p>(SAARC Sideline Meetings have permitted informal discussion of such issues)</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council of Ministers: policy formulation; reviewing progress of regional co-operation; identifying areas of co-operation and; establishing necessary mechanisms</li> <li>- Standing Committee: (Foreign Secretaries) monitors and coordinates programs of co-operation; approves projects; mobilises regional and external resources; reports to Council of Ministers</li> <li>- Ministerial Level meetings on specialised themes</li> </ul>

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### 2.3. Europe

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Central European Initiative (CEI)</b></p> <p>Executive Secretariat Via Genova 9 I - 34121Trieste, Italy Tel. +39 040 7786777 Fax +39 040 360640 Email : cei-es@cei-es.org Web: www.ceinet.org</p> <p><i>Working Group contacts are at national level</i></p> <p>CEI Deputy Director General Parliamentary Dimension, Minorities, Focal Point for the coordination of activities of other RIGOs, Interregional and Cross-border Cooperation Via Genova 9 fax +39 040 360640</p> <p>CEI Senior Executive Officer Evaluation Unit, Civil Protection, Combating Organised Crime and Judicial Cooperation, CEI Cooperation Activities in the above mentioned area Via Genova 9 fax +39 040 360640</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate, no indication of use of good offices</i></p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- CEI work is largely project-oriented, often aimed at assisting its member countries in preparation for EU membership</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summit of CEI Heads of Government</li> <li>- Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Economic Sectors and other ministerial or sectorial events</li> <li>- Monthly meetings of the Committee of National Co-ordinators</li> <li>- Meetings of 18 CEI Working Groups (including Civil Protection; Inter-regional and Cross-Border Cooperation; Migration; and Minorities)</li> <li>- CEI Executive Secretariat (Trieste) and Secretariat for CEI Projects (at EBRD in London): service Working Groups and support above activities</li> </ul>

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Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Council of Europe (CoE)</b></p> <p>Council of Europe Avenue de l'Europe 67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France Tel +33(0)3 884120 00 Fax +33(0)3 8841 2745 Email infopoint@coe.int Web: www.coe.int</p> <p>The following bodies are primarily dedicated to inter-governmental co-operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directorate General of Political Affairs (DGAP): political analysis and dialogue</li> <li>- Directorate General of Legal Affairs (DG I): democracy and rule of law</li> <li>- Directorate General of Human Rights (DG II): human rights policy development and implementation</li> <li>- Directorate General of Social Cohesion (DG III): social cohesion, ethnic and cultural diversity</li> </ul> <p>NGO Liaison Committee: ("structural link" between INGOs and the Council)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President Krozingenstr. 58-10 D - 79114 FREIBURG i.Br. Fax: (49) 761 453 77 15</li> </ul>	<p><i>No explicit mandate</i></p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- Good offices</p> <p>- Four areas of focus (each relevant to conflict prevention):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. democracy and human rights</li> <li>2. social cohesion</li> <li>3. security of citizens</li> <li>4. democratic values and cultural diversity</li> </ol>	<p>The Council incorporates an array of political / judicial mechanisms (at least indirectly relevant to operational CP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secretary-General; European Commissioner for Human Rights; the Committee of Ministers; the Parliamentary Assembly; the European Court of Human Rights; Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights; and various mechanisms of the Directorate General of Human Rights</li> </ul>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>European Union (EU)</b></p> <p>Three principal institutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. European Parliament</li> <li>2. Council of the EU</li> <li>3. European Commission</li> </ol> <p>Most directly relevant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Rue de la Loi 175 B-1048 Brussels, Belgium - Directorate A: Crisis Platform and Policy Co-ordination in Common Foreign &amp; Security Policy (CFSP) - A/2: Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention: <i>position currently vacant</i></li> <li>3. European Commission Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security B-1049 BRUSSELS</li> </ol> <p>Contact information for respective EU institutions, bodies, agencies: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/mailbox/inst_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/mailbox/inst_en.htm</a></p>	<p>- <i>Good offices</i> - <i>EU Special Representatives</i></p> <p><i>Commission Communication of 11 April 2001 on Conflict Prevention</i> [COM(2001)211 final]</p> <p>Increasing political-security role, with the ongoing development of a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)</p>	<p>- Long-term, not “operational CP”, generally part of assistance programs</p> <p>(i.e. the Commission Communication is meant to increase efficiency of EU CP action through more coordinated, systematic use of EU instruments and by promoting international co-operation and improving its capacity to react to incipient conflicts)</p> <p>- <i>Ad hoc</i> - Good offices - Special envoys - Political dialogue, mediation, facilitation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>European Commission</i> (i.e. Secretariat): mainstreaming political &amp; conflict issues into development aid &amp; trade deals</li> <li>2. <i>Conflict Prevention &amp; Crisis Management Unit</i>: coordinates Commission CP activities</li> <li>3. <i>EU Special Representatives (EUSRs)</i>: increasingly used, though generally once a crisis clearly exists (not preventive)</li> <li>4. <i>Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit</i>: within Council Secretariat; monitoring, analysis and assessment of international developments and events, including EW; drafts policy options for presentation to the Council</li> </ol>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</b></p> <p>OSCE Kaerntner Ring 5-7 1010 Vienna, Austria Tel: +43-1 514 36 0 Fax: +43-1 514 36 96 Email: info@osce.org Web: www.osce.org</p> <p>Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) P.O. Box 20062 2500 EB The Hague, Netherlands Tel: +31 70 312 55 00 Fax: +31 70 363 59 10 Email: hcnm@hcnm.org</p>	<p>- Conflict prevention and early warning through quiet diplomacy</p>	<p>- Dedicated mechanism - Problem-solving - Mediation - Facilitation - Structuring dialogue - Cooperative - Assistance-oriented - Human rights-informed</p>	<p>1. <i>High Commissioner on National Minorities</i>: dedicated instrument of independent and impartial action to work to prevent inter-ethnic conflict by addressing its root and proximate causes through quiet diplomacy (The Hague) 2. <i>Office of the HCNM</i>: provides legal, political, area and issue expertise and analysis to the HCNM for formulation of solutions and recommendations 3. <i>Conflict Prevention Centre</i>: supports the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and numerous field missions and monitors developments (Vienna) 4. <i>Long-term Missions</i>: EW via information gathering, situation monitoring, technical advice and assistance</p>
<p><b>Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe</b></p> <p>Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for SE Europe Wiertz 50, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium Tel.: +32 (2) 401 8700 Fax: +32 (2) 401 8712 Email: scsp@stabilitypact.org Web: www.stabilitypact.org</p> <p>Working Table I Stability Pact Rue Wiertz 50, B-1050 Brussels Fax: +32 (2) 401 8712</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- political declaration of commitment and a framework agreement on international co-operation; not an IGO per se nor does it have independent financial resources or implementing structures</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i> - Special Coordinator (w/some 30 staff members): chairs the Pact's key political instrument, the Regional Table, comprised of 3 Working Tables: (1) Democratisation and Human Rights; (2) Economic Reconstruction, Co-operation and Development; and (3) Security Issues (with two Sub-Tables: Security and Defense, and Justice and Home Affairs)</p>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

### 2.4. Latin America and the Caribbean

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Andean Community</b></p> <p>Secretariat Paseo de la República 3895, esq. Aramburú, San Isidro Lima 27 Peru Tel: +511 411 14 00 Fax: +511 221 33 29 Email: contacto@comunidadandina.org Web: www.comunidadandina.org</p> <p><i>Secretary of the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers</i> Av. Paseo de la República 3895 San Isidro Lima - Perú Tel: (51-1) 411 14 00 Fax: (51-1) 221 33 29 Email: contacto@comunidadandina.org Web: www.comunidadandina.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate, no indication of use of good offices</i></p> <p>- Trade-focused, but its Common Foreign Policy (CFP) has become an instrument for, <i>inter alia</i>, developing and consolidating democracy and the constitutional state, and furthering the Subregion's sustainable development</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- any potential CP activities would fall under the Common Foreign Policy, and/or Political and Social Cooperation</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <p>- General Secretariat: exec. body directed by Secretary-General; preps Draft Decisions and proposes to the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers, incl. to contribute to or hasten compliance w/the Cartagena Agreement; resolves issues submitted for its consideration</p> <p>- Andean Council of Foreign Affairs: political leadership; signs Conventions and Agreements; makes Declarations (non-binding) and Decisions (binding, governed by Charter of the Court of Justice of the Cartagena Agreement)</p>
<p><b>Association of Caribbean States (ACS)</b></p> <p>5-7 Sweet Briar Road St. Clair P.O. Box 660 Port of Spain, Trinidad &amp; Tobago Tel: + 868 622 9575 Fax: + 868 622 1653 Email: mail@acs-aec.org Web: www.acs-aec.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit conflict prevention mandate</i></p> <p>- Focus areas: trade, transport, sustainable tourism and natural disasters</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- the Secretary-General seeks to incorporate CP into the work of the ACS, as a necessary precondition for effective fulfillment of its four mandated areas</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <p>- Ministerial Council: principal policy-making body/direction</p> <p>- Secretariat</p> <p>- Special Committees: 1) Trade Development and External Economic Relations; 2) Sustainable Tourism; 3) Transport; 4) Natural Disasters; and 5) Budget/Administration. - Council of National Reps of the Special Fund: oversees resource mobilisation &amp; project development</p>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Caribbean Community (CARICOM)</b></p> <p>Secretariat P.O. Box 10827 Avenue of the Republic Georgetown, Guyana Tel: +592 225 3865 Fax: +592 226 3098 Email: carisec3@caricom.org Web: www.caricom.org</p> <p>- Office of the Secretary-General Email: osg1@caricom.org - Office of the Deputy SG Email: odsg@caricom.org - Foreign and Community Relations Director, Foreign Policy and External Economic Relations Tel: (592) 222 0139 - Programme Manager, Foreign Policy and Community Relations Tel: (592) 222 0140 - Human and Social Development Tel: (592) 222 0123</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate, nor indication of use of good offices</i></p> <p>Aim: economic integration &amp; creation of common market - <i>Article 6 of the Revised Treaty</i>: to improve standards of living/work; economic development and convergence; enhanced coord. of foreign and foreign economic policies; enhanced functional co-operation</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>- <i>Regional Task Force on Crime and Security</i> encompasses non-traditional threats, incl. political, economic, social, health and environmental - Includes multilateral initiatives for international security; to build capacity through institutional strengthening, shared surveillance and other forms of co-operation among Member States, and between CARICOM. the wider Caribbean and international community</p> <p>- to date largely limited to collective statements on counter-terrorism</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i> - Conference of Heads of Government: highest auth. - The Bureau: consists of Chairman of the Conference, incoming &amp; outgoing Chairmen and Secretary-General - Secretariat: principal administrative organ; directed by SG as CEO; includes Directorates of Foreign and Community Relations; Human &amp; Social Development; Regional Trade and Economic Integration - CARICOM Regional Task Force on Crime and Security: reps from each Member State, the Regional Security System (RSS), Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police, University of the West Indies (UWI), and Regional Secretariats (CARICOM and the Org of Eastern Caribbean States - OECS)</p>
<p><b>Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR)</b></p> <p>Secretariat Rincon 575 piso 12 Montevideo 11000 Uruguay Tel: +59829164590 Fax: +59829164591 Email: sam@netgate.com.uy Web: www.mercosur.org.uy</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate (primarily a customs union)</i></p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p> <p>Given aim of free movement of goods and services via harmonised legislation and macroecon. policy, members view it as the most important political agreement in the region - crucial to economic, political and social stability</p>	<p>- Good offices - Special envoys - Facilitation - Problem-solving</p> <p>Established precedent (1996 and 2000) that any member country that abandoned democracy would be expelled</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i> - Director of the Secretariat: determines, in consultation w/ the Coordinators of the Common Market Group, Secretariat priorities - Sector for Norms and Documentation: contributes, inter alia, to MERCOSUR Dispute Resolution process; maintains List of Arbiters and Experts (each member State) - MERCOSUR Dispute Resolution System: regulated by the Olivos Protocol (2004); includes Permanent Review Tribunal (TPR) and <i>Ad Hoc</i> Tribunals (TAHM)</p>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Organisation of American States (OAS)</b></p> <p>OAS Secretariat 17th Street &amp; Constitution Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 USA Tel. +1202 458-3000 Web: www.oas.org</p> <p>Department for Democratic and Political Affairs Unit for the Promotion of Democracy Program Coordinator PROPAZ: Conflict Resolution &amp; Dialogue Civil Society Participation: Director, Summits of the Americas Secretariat, or Summit Specialist and Civil Society Coordinator OAS Secretariat 1889 F Street NW Washington, D.C. 20006 Tel: +1202 458-3081 Fax: +1202 458-3665 Email: summitso@oas.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate</i></p> <p>- although OAS has developed a specialisation in conflict resolution through its Unit for Promotion of Democracy, i.e. via the promotion of democratisation and human rights</p> <p>- Resolution 1080: adopted 1991 and states “representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region”)</p> <p>- Inter-American Democratic Charter</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- <i>Ad hoc</i></p> <p>- Good offices</p> <p>- Mediation</p> <p>- Facilitation</p>	<p>1. Secretariat for Political Affairs:</p> <p>i. Dept. for Promotion of Democracy</p> <p>ii. Dept. for Promotion of Good Governance (includes civil society section)</p> <p>iii. Dept. for Crisis Prevention &amp; Special Missions (includes Office of Conflict Prevention and Resolution)</p> <p>2. Mechanisms related to the application of Resolution 1080 and the Washington Protocol concerning breaches against democracy and constitutional continuity</p> <p>3. Good offices capacity of the Permanent Council and of the Secretary General</p> <p>5. The inter-American system of human rights protection (includes the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights)</p>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)</b></p> <p>SICA General Secretariat Boulevard Orden de Malta No. 470, Urbanización Santa Elena, Antiguo Cuscatlán, El Salvador Tel: ++(503) 2248-8800 Fax: ++(503) 2248-8899</p> <p>Secretary of the Office of Central American Social Integration Tel: ++(503) 2248-8857 Fax: ++(503) 2248-8896 Email address available from: info.sisca@sica.int</p> <p>SICA General Secretariat Director of Political and Judicial Affairs Tel: ++(503) 2248-8823 Fax: ++(503) 2248-8899 Email address available from: info.sgsica@sica.int</p> <p>SICA Consultative Committee (civil society contact) Costa Rica Tel: ++(506) 283-9435 Fax: ++(506) 253-4172 Web: www.ccsica.org Email: info@ccsica.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate, no indication of use of good offices</i></p> <p>- Seeks to realise political, social and economic integration in Central America for peace, liberty, democracy and development; includes “eradication of violence”</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General Structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting of Presidents: highest SICA authority</li> <li>- SICA General Secretariat: technical and executive support</li> <li>- Consultative Committee (CC-SICA): civil society body</li> <li>- Secretariat of Social Integration (SISCA)</li> <li>- Three Councils, including of Ministers of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>- Central American Court of Justice</li> <li>- Specialised agencies and fora include Prevention of Natural Disasters (CEPREDENAC) and Migration (OCAM)</li> </ul>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

### 2.5. Middle East

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)</b></p> <p>GCC Secretariat P.O. Box 7153 Riyadh 114 62 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Tel: + 966 4827777 Fax: + 966 4829089 Web: www.gcc-sg.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate, no indication of use of good offices</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seeks to strengthen co-operation in areas such as agriculture, industry, investment, security and trade</li> <li>- Comprehensive Security Strategy (1987)</li> <li>- Security agreement (1994)</li> </ul>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supreme Council: Heads of Member States</li> <li>- Consultative Commission: Formed of thirty GCC citizens (five from each Member State) chosen for experience and qualification to study matters referred to it by the Supreme Council</li> <li>- Commission for the Settlement of Disputes: Formed by the Supreme Council on ad-hoc basis according to nature of dispute</li> <li>- Ministerial Council: Ministers of Foreign Affairs; propose policies, make recommendations, encourage and coordinate already existing activities in all fields</li> <li>- Secretary-General: prepares studies related to co-operation, coordination, integrated plans/programmes</li> <li>- Three Assistant Secretaries-General for political, economic and military affairs</li> </ul>
<p><b>The League of Arab States (LAS)</b></p> <p>Office of the Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the UN 747 Third Avenue, 35th Floor New York, NY 10017 Tel: +1 212 838-8700 Fax: +1 212 355-3909 Web: www.arableagueonline.org</p> <p>Arab League Documentation and Information Centre Tahrir Square P.O. Box 11642 Cairo, Egypt Tel: +20 2 575-0511 Fax: +20 2 574-0331</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate</i></p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p> <p>Arab League Charter (1945) states that the Council “shall mediate in all differences which threaten to lead to war between two member States, or a member State and a third state, with a view to bringing about their reconciliation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ad hoc</i></li> <li>- Good offices</li> <li>- Mediation</li> <li>- Facilitation</li> <li>- Special envoys</li> </ul>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council: highest body of the League, comprised of representatives of member States; serves as recourse to parties in dispute for the settlement of differences; decisions are enforceable and obligatory; Council includes Human Rights, Legal, Political and Social Committees</li> <li>- General Secretariat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Secretary-General</li> <li>ii. Assistant SGs for, <i>inter alia</i>, International Affairs, and Social and Cultural Affairs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

### 2.6. Pacific Islands

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)</b></p> <p>Political and Security Programme Forum Secretariat Private Mail Bag, Suva, FIJI Tel: +679-3312600 Fax: +679-3301102 Web: www.forumsec.org.fj/</p>	<p><i>Biketawa Declaration</i> (2000)</p> <p>- “Forum must... address difficult and sensitive issues including underlying causes of tensions and conflict”, including via “third-party mediation”</p> <p>- overarching mechanism for member States to discuss and address regional security issues in cooperative, consultative manner</p> <p>- not yet operational</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>Biketawa has been invoked to sanction:</p> <p>- a multi-lateral peacekeeping operation in one member State (2003)</p> <p>- Forum economic assistance to another member State (2004)</p>	<p>1. <i>Office of the Secretary-General</i></p> <p>2. <i>Political and Security Programme</i> (former Political, International &amp; Legal Affairs Division): supports work of the Secretary-General in these areas</p>

### 2.7. Extra-Regional Organisations

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>The Commonwealth</b></p> <p>Commonwealth Secretariat Marlborough House Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HX United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)20 7747 6500 Fax: +44 (0)20 7930 0827 Email: info@commonwealth.int Web: www.thecommonwealth.org</p> <p>Good Offices Section Fax: +44 (0)20 7930 2189</p> <p>Director Political Affairs Division Tel: +44 (0)20 7747 6401</p> <p>Adviser/Head Democracy Section Fax: +44 (0)20 7930 6400</p> <p>Political Affairs Division Commonwealth Secretariat Marlborough House, Pall Mall London, SW1Y 5HX, UK</p>	<p>Good Offices role of the Secretary-General</p> <p><i>Harare Declaration</i> (1993)</p> <p>- Enshrines shared principles, <i>inter alia</i>, belief “that international peace and order, global economic development and the rule of international law are essential to the security and prosperity” and affirms common interest in “the protection and promotion of the fundamental political values of the Commonwealth”, including rule of law, fundamental human rights and democratic processes.</p>	<p>- Good offices</p> <p>- Mediation</p> <p>- Special envoys</p> <p>- Facilitated dialogue</p> <p>- Problem-solving</p> <p>- Technical assistance</p>	<p>1. <i>Good Offices Section</i>: est. 2003 in Political Affairs Division; primary mechanism for addressing political problems and conflicts; provides EW, proposes preventative measures, responsible for coordinating approaches to conflict and political tensions within member States</p> <p>2. <i>Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)</i>: est. 1995 addresses violations of the democratic principals enshrined in the Harare Declaration; assesses nature of infringement and recommends measures for collective Commonwealth action</p> <p>3. <i>Political Affairs Division (PAD)</i>: monitors international political developments, conducts research and prepares briefings on political issues of interest to members; provides advice and support to SG on political issues, particularly re: ‘good offices’ role and other conflict resolution activities</p>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP)</b></p> <p>Rua de São Caetano, 32 1200-829 Lisboa Portugal Tel: + 351 21-392-8560 Fax: + 351 21-392-8588 Email: comunicacao@cplp.org Web: www.cplp.org</p>	<p><i>No explicit mandate</i></p> <p>- seeks to promote political &amp; diplomatic integration of member States</p> <p>- members recognise eight statutory principles, including the upholding of peace, democracy, human rights and the rule of law</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>- <i>Ad hoc</i></p> <p>- Good offices</p> <p>- Mediation</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <p>- Conference of Heads of State and Government: highest CPLP authority</p> <p>- Council of Ministers of Foreign Relations and Trade</p> <p>- Executive Secretariat &amp; Exec. Secretary</p> <p>- Council of Focal Points for Cooperation</p>
<p><b>Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)</b></p> <p>Secrétariat général 28, rue de Bourgogne 75007 Paris, France Tel: + 33 (0)1 44 11 12 50 Fax: + 33 (0)1 44 11 12 76 Email: oif@francophonie.org Web: www.francophonie.org</p> <p>Délégation aux droits de l'Homme et à la démocratie Organisation internationale de la Francophonie 13 quai André Citroën 75015 Paris, France Tel: (33) 1 44 37 33 17 Fax: (33) 1 44 37 33 45 Email: ddhd@francophonie.org</p>	<p>- Political and diplomatic initiatives of the Secretary-General, including facilitation via special envoy, are formally sanctioned</p> <p>- <i>Bamako Declaration</i> (2000) affirms democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and good governance are 'essential factors' of a durable peace</p>	<p>- <i>Ad hoc</i></p> <p>- Good offices</p> <p>- Special envoys</p> <p>- Facilitation</p> <p>- Convening <i>ad hoc</i> consultative committees</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General Structure:</i></p> <p>- Summit: biennial meeting of Heads of State</p> <p>- Ministerial Council: Ministers of Foreign Affairs; executes Summit decisions</p> <p>- Permanent Council</p> <p>- Secretary-General: presides over Permanent Council; mechanism for political actions</p> <p>- National Commissions</p>

## 2. Overview of Conflict Prevention Capacities of Regional, Sub-regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations

Name of IGO & Contacts	Mandate	Conflict Prevention (CP) Activities	Institutional Unit(s)
<p><b>Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)</b></p> <p>Secretariat PO Box: 178 Jeddah-21411 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Tel: +966 6900001 Fax: +966 2751953 Email: info@oic-oci.org Web: www.oic-oci.org</p> <p>The Organisation of the Islamic Conference PO Box: 178, Jeddah-21411 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Tel: 6900001 Fax: 2751953 Email: cabinet@oic-oci.org</p>	<p>OIC Charter enumerates principles governing OIC activities, <i>inter alia</i>, “settlement of any dispute that might arise among Member States by peaceful means such as negotiations, mediation, conciliation and arbitration”</p> <p><i>Good offices</i></p>	<p>Has acted via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good offices</li> <li>- Mediation</li> </ul> <p>May engage in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiation</li> <li>- Conciliation</li> <li>- Arbitration</li> </ul>	<p>n/a</p> <p><i>General structure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government: supreme authority; determines policy</li> <li>- Conference of Foreign Ministers: examines progress report on implementation of its decisions taken by the Islamic Summit</li> <li>- General Secretariat: executive organ; implements decisions of the two preceding bodies</li> <li>- Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs: in charge of Dept of Political Affairs (responsible for harmonisation and coordination of political action among Member States)</li> </ul>

# Conclusion

Regional, sub-regional and other IGOs are not a uniform group; each has developed in light of particular circumstances and contexts. Yet, some common characteristics can be identified. Deepening appreciations of interdependence and mutual security interests are increasingly motivating political will to face together traditional and non-traditional challenges to regional stability and peace, if for no other reason than to enable a favourable environment for economic development including foreign investment and trade. Whereas most regions have a hegemon as well as some reluctant governments which hesitate to pool resources, they share an interest in strengthening in-regional capacities to protect against, or limit the dependences on, actors external to the region.

While very few pre-standing mechanisms dedicated explicitly and solely to conflict prevention have been established, there has been an increasing practice of

creating *ad hoc* reactive mechanisms. This is a welcome but insufficient development, as the significance of diplomacy as a tool to prevent conflict diminishes significantly when conflict becomes violent, prolonged and perhaps intractable. Dedicated units with professional staff working every day to collect and analyse information, benefiting from co-operation and sustained interaction with CSOs, would provide an essential, although not sufficient, element in institutionalised operational prevention. These functions cannot be performed well on an *ad hoc* or politicised basis. The appropriate actor of inter-governmental preventive diplomacy in any given context may be a Secretary-General, an Eminent Person (or group), a Special Envoy or a High Commissioner, who can benefit from systematic expert analysis and advice and then use their judgment and diplomatic skills to maximum effect.

# Annex I

## **Modalities for Co-operation between the UN and Regional Organisations in the Field of Conflict Prevention (1999)**

*(Adopted at the 3rd High-Level Meeting of the UN Secretary-General and Heads of Regional and other Inter-governmental Organisations)*

**Modality 1:** Better co-ordination and consultation among Regional Organisations, and between Regional Organisations and the United Nations, both at the Headquarters level and in the field (e.g. Tripartite meetings between the UN, OSCE, and the Council of Europe);

**Modality 2:** Better flows of information through systematic mechanisms among Regional Organisations, and between Regional Organisations and the United Nations (discuss the channels, e.g. use of the Internet);

**Modality 3:** Exchange of liaison officers among Regional Organisations, and between Regional Organisations and the United Nations;

**Modality 4:** Exchange of list of staff officers by country/region and functional areas;

**Modality 5:** Visits of staff at working level between the different Headquarters;

**Modality 6:** Joint training of staff in the field of early warning and preventive action;

**Modality 7:** Arranging joint expert meeting on certain specific areas of early warning and prevention (e.g. in a specific geographic area or on a specific topic);

**Modality 8:** Establish repertories of best practices and lessons learned in the area of early warning and prevention;

**Modality 9:** Development of common indicators for early warning;

**Modality 10:** Establishment of a database of the conflict prevention capabilities of the United Nations and Regional Organisations

**Modality 11:** Build specific links to civil society (including the media and professional groups) to increase awareness of the value of prevention;

**Modality 12:** Mobilise effective resources for early warning and preventive activities;

**Modality 13:** Undertake follow-up meetings at the working level to develop the above and other specific modalities for early warning/prevention - on a case by case basis. The first such meetings could be convened by the United Nations before the end of this year.