



**BUDAPEST CENTRE**  
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE  
AND MASS ATROCITIES

## Report

### on the Workshop

### „Contribution to Human Rights and Development in Africa”

The Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities in cooperation with the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade organized a workshop on the international and Hungarian efforts to contribute to the protection of human rights and development in Africa. The event was hosted by the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade and it took place on 27 May, 2015.

The event was opened by **László Vasa**, the Deputy to the Director General of the Institute who underlined the significance of protection of human rights in Africa for Hungary.

In his introductory remarks **Róbert Kaszab**, Head of South-Africa Unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade briefed the participants on the new policy “Southern Opening” of the Hungarian Government that aims at revitalizing the traditionally good connections between Hungary and the African States. With a fresh start, a new Africa Department was established in 2014 and with a view to foster daily relations there are preparations for opening Embassies in several capitals in Africa in the next two years. The Ministry also enlarges the network of the Hungarian Honorary Consuls in the continent. In the framework of the new policy the Hungarian Government provides additional support for the enhancement of the economic and trade relations. A network of National Trade Houses is expanding in Africa. There was launched the higher education scholarship programme Stipendium Hungaricum that offers 365 scholarships to 18 Sub-Saharan countries.

**Tamás Szűcs**, Head of the EU Delegation in Hungary underlined that the European Union is by far the world's largest aid donor. In 2013 alone, the African countries received nearly €4 billion from EU funds. Since the Lisbon Summit in 2007, the traditionally close relations between the EU and 54 African countries are based on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. It aims at moving 'beyond development' and expanding the cooperation into the field of governance and human rights, trade and regional integration, energy, migration and employment.

The EU declared 2015 the European Year for Development. It focuses on the role of the EU as a global actor in international cooperation, takes stock of the achievements of the past 15 years and draws the lessons learned. Each month of the EYD is devoted to a development related topic, such as the situation and role of women, health, education, food security or humanitarian aid. September will be the thematic month for migration. The European Commission confirmed in its Agenda on Migration that Europe should continue

to be a safe haven for those fleeing persecution and an attractive destination for economic migrants.

**Eamon Aloya**, senior researcher of The Hague Institute for Global Justice presented the Institute as a think and „do” think that conducts original and policy relevant research. He briefed the audience that the activities of the Institute are built on three pillars: prevention of violent conflicts, global governance and the promotion of the rule of law. He presented the ongoing research of the Institute where they assess the US atrocity response policy. The Government of the USA considers prevention of mass atrocities as a core national security interest and a core moral obligation. The Institute also includes case studies on the US atrocity prevention activities in the Central African Republic and Kenya in its assessment. He called the attention to the important changes in the US foreign policy where mass atrocity prevention became a national security priority during Obama Presidency.

**Ágnes Lux**, the representative of UNICEF in Hungary underlined the significance of Global Education in the context of protection of human rights and development policy. She emphasized the necessity of educating children on their rights and for their rights to put children's rights into daily practice. She elaborated the activities of the UNICEF in South-Sudan and Sudan in the context of education. She pointed to the efforts of UNICEF to educate peace since 2001 that is one of the most effective tools of prevention. She briefed the participants that UNICEF also supports the Global Goals of Sustainable Development to be announced in next September that aim to make our planet fair, healthy and sustainable by 2030.

**Madawaki Hussein**, the Africa Coordinator of the National University of Public Service spoke about the dialectic of universalism and cultural relativism in implementing the fundamental human rights. He argued for the necessity to take account of the cultural specificity when implementing universal human rights instead of automatically fighting for the universal human rights. He quoted some experts stating that pushing universalism of norms may destroy diversification of cultures and amount to an other form of homogenization in the modern world. In that context, he called the attention to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights being in force since 1986. He added that in case of ratification of international agreements on human rights issues by an African State its implementation is rather difficult and may lead to new problems. The participants coming from Africa have confirmed that experience and highlighted the significance of traditional, local approach. That may lead to better results than the dissemination of western values in Africa – they claimed.

**György Tatár**, Chair of the Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities briefed the audience that remarkable part of their activities is dedicated to the development of national and regional capabilities to prevent mass atrocity crimes. To that end, in March 2015 the Budapest Centre launched an 18 months initiative in Addis Ababa to map the capabilities of five African regional organizations in preventing mass atrocities. In preparing the assessment the Centre applies the specific mass atrocities lens and combines the scientific research with the expertise and experience of practitioners. They plan to present the State of the Art interim Report in Addis Ababa in the autumn 2015.

He called the attention to the significance of education of human rights in preventing mass atrocities and mentioned the relevant efforts of the Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina.