



JUSTICE RAPID RESPONSE

NEW YORK 2007

Held at the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations

JRR MEETING OUTCOME DOCUMENT

as adopted by consensus by JRR Participants on 13 March 2007

The Justice Rapid Response Meeting held on 12-13 March 2007 and organised by No Peace Without Justice, with the support of Canada and the European Union and hosted by the Mission of the African Union to the United Nations in New York constituted a significant step forward in the process of the establishment of a Justice Rapid Response mechanism to provide expertise and resources in support of efforts to identify, collect and preserve information concerning allegations of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Meeting recalled the purpose and parameters of the JRR mechanism, namely that it is intended to be an international cooperative mechanism for the supply of voluntary assistance at the request of a State or international institution, for the identification, collection and preservation of information that could assist a wide range of potential international or national transitional justice and accountability mechanisms. The specific functions most likely to be carried out by the JRR mechanism in this respect are, *inter alia*: pattern of violence investigation; conflict mapping; identification of potential witnesses; documentary and physical evidence investigation; forensic mapping; visual image collection; identification and facilitating the preservation of the integrity of massacre and burial sites; identification of possible focuses for further investigations; in full consideration of the physical and psychosocial safety of those affected by such activities.

JRR was identified as providing an improvement on the status quo by being a cooperative mechanism that does not need to be created anew each time there is a request for assistance. In this way, it can significantly reduce response times in providing assistance that is both impartial and which meets international standards; it shares the burden of assistance through coordination of the resources of States, international organisations and civil society; and, as a global effort, provides capacity-building by involving all States in the mechanism, irrespective of resources.

In light of this and of the possibilities for deployment that were discussed during the Meeting, participants were of the view that their respective governments and organisations should continue preparations for the deployment of missions implementing the JRR mechanism, especially with regard to future mission arrangements and any other necessary agreements, on the continued understanding that decision-making on contribution of personnel or resources shall remain with individual States, international organisations and NGOs.

The JRR Participants welcomed the contributions of participants from countries that have recently undergone or are in the process of undergoing accountability processes, who provided critical field perspectives about the policy and practical issues that arise from the collection and preservation of information relating to crimes under international law.

The JRR Participants further welcomed the engagement of those new to the discussions and encouraged all participants and No Peace Without Justice in its interim secretariat function, to continue to use all relevant opportunities to promote participation in the JRR mechanism, including through briefings at the Hague and New York Working Groups of the ICC ASP, at the European Union, at the UNGA Sixth Committee, and other formal and informal fora, where appropriate.

Given the successful outcome of the Meeting and the need to continue coordination and practical organisation in advance of eventual deployment, the JRR Participants:

- request the Focal Points and other interested participants to establish a Steering Committee, to meet within one month, with a view to producing an Integrated Draft for a JRR Strategy, incorporating the Reports of all Focal Points, and taking into account the observations received from all JRR participants, by July 2007;
- request the organisers to reconvene, in September 2007, a new opportunity for consultation for all JRR Participants on the Integrated Draft for a JRR Strategy produced by the Steering Committee;
- encourage those JRR participants that have not done so to nominate a Focal Point within their Government for contacts with the JRR Mechanism with a view to furthering discussions and ensuring continuity among JRR Participants;
- to facilitate further discussion among JRR Participants in advance of a permanent coordinating mechanism being identified, request that No Peace Without Justice continue performing interim secretarial functions for the JRR, including the Steering Committee, and take the necessary steps to launch the JRR Website as a vehicle for ongoing consultations and exchange of information on the JRR.

The JRR Participants take note the Report from the Focal Point on the *JRR Coordination mechanism* and request Canada to continue to receive comments and observations from JRR participants, with a view to consolidating the reports into the Integrated Draft for a JRR Strategy, on:

- the options for establishing a permanent JRR coordinating function in an established multilateral institution, agency or non-governmental organisation;
- the relationship of the JRR mechanism to multilateral and regional organisations.

The JRR Participants also request Canada, in consultation with other interested delegations, to take the lead in approaching the UN OHCHR and other relevant international and regional organisation, to brief them on the progress of the JRR consultations.

The JRR Participants welcome the report from the Focal Point on *Guidelines for Cooperation* and *Elements for Deployment*, and request that Sweden, in consultation with all interested participants, continue to receive comments and observations from JRR participants, with a view to consolidating the reports into the Integrated Draft for a JRR Strategy.

The JRR participants also take note of the report from the Focal Point on *Training*, and welcome the capacity and the willingness of the European Commission to proceed with the development, in consultation with all interested participants, of draft training syllabus, to be circulated to JRR Participants for comments and observations.

THIS MEETING WAS ORGANISED BY



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WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF



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