

Security Council. Additionally, the Joint Office can release press statements when it judges public release of its assessments necessary in a specific instance.

The Analysis Framework shows that human rights actors (especially Human Rights Commissions on the global, regional and national levels) can play an indispensable role in gathering relevant information. However, the indicia of risks of genocide also include specific elements that prioritize the significance of certain rights (e.g. discriminatory laws against an ethnic group) and that include factors outside the normal scope of concern of human rights actors or conventional conflict resolution mechanisms.¹³⁸ As such, the OSAPG plays a role in early warning and analysis for genocide that is distinct from the roles played by human rights organizations more generally.

The OSAPG's existing methodologies for genocide-prevention – of which the Analysis Framework is one example – can play a role in the larger prevention of all four atrocity crimes. The Secretary-General in his 2010 Report described how the OSAPG could function as a key node in the UN in terms of early warning and risk assessment for atrocities. Similarly, the OSAPG can recommend courses of action to the Secretary-General, and through him to the Security Council, on crises that are already or could develop towards atrocity and genocide. On a broader structural level, the OSAPG can liaise with other UN organs on specific activities and capacities that contribute to atrocity-prevention, and the mainstreaming of atrocity-prevention concerns through those organs. One final role of the OSAPG is drafting the Secretary-General Reports on R2P, which comprise a key mode of development of the principle, and informs and frames General Assembly debates on it.

138 Payam Akhavan, "Preventing Genocide: Measuring Success by What Does Not Happen," *Criminal Law Forum* 22 (2011): 1-33. Payam Akhavan, "Report on the Work of the Office of the Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide," *Human Rights Quarterly* 28.4 (2006): 1043-70.

The OSAPG Analysis Framework describes Eight Factors jointly indicative of a risk of genocide:

1. Inter-group relations that include a record of discrimination and/or other human rights violations committed against a group;
2. Circumstances that affect the capacity to prevent genocide;
3. Presence of illegal arms and armed elements;
4. Motivation of leading actors in the State/region, and acts which serve to encourage divisions between national, racial, ethnic, and religious groups;
5. Circumstances that facilitate the perpetration of genocide;
6. Genocidal acts;
7. Evidence of intent "to destroy in whole or in part ..."
8. Triggering factors.

§4.2.j Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): POC

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is the key global organization for the coordination of international action in the face of humanitarian crises. OCHA serves as the Secretariat for the *Inter-Agency Standing Committee*, which develops policy and allocates focal responsibilities amongst UN and non-UN humanitarian actors such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Humanitarian crises can be caused by violence against civilians (for instance, if civilians are forced off their land by attacks, and lose their means of subsistence) and can be the cause of violence against civilians (given the increased vulnerability of civilians during such crises and their aftermaths, particularly if they are displaced). As such,

OCHA plays a significant role in POC on a variety of inter-connected levels. OCHA's roles include:

- » Coordinating between different protection actors – in particular with respect to the role that humanitarian actors can play in promoting civilian protection in crisis situations;
- » Drafting the biennial reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: these reports in turn help frame Security Council resolutions on POC;
- » Publishing the *Aide Memoire: For the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict* (most recent edition in 2011), outlining in detail the Security Council's past responses and resolutions with respect to all aspects of its POC agenda;
- » Developing doctrine and policy regarding POC in situations of humanitarian crisis, and commissioning studies to evaluate current capacities, gaps and challenges – for instance the important 2009 independent report: *Protecting Civilians in the Context of UN Peacekeeping Operations: Successes, Setbacks and Remaining Challenges*.¹³⁹

139 Holt, Taylor, and Kelly, *UN Peacekeeping Operations*.