



protect civilians from atrocity crimes. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (of Africa), a sub-regional organisation, has established a Regional Committee for the prevention and punishment of genocide and related crimes. This is the world's first sub-regional mechanism created specifically to address these issues. In the Middle East, civil society organisations are documenting human rights violations and building peace and tolerance between communities, including through social media. Think tanks and academia from around the world continue to provide intellectual leadership and sound advice.

Over the past few years, collective efforts have rendered results. The crisis in a disputed territory between Sudan and South Sudan, Abyei, as well as the crises in Guinea, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Yemen were resolved through diplomatic means, without protracted fighting and mass bloodshed. While continued international engagement on those countries remains essential, we can affirm that political leadership was fundamental in achieving these modest successes.

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