



genocides, but we must also draw lessons for the present and future and continuously express commitment to prevent them from happening in future.

At the United Nations, the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994 and the Srebrenica genocide in 1995, prompted the creation by the late Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the global mandate I hold, as the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, to detect early warning signs of this crime and take timely action to prevent it. It also prompted the adoption by Member States of the Responsibility to Protect principle at the 2005 World Summit, reiterating their responsibility to protect populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, in line with the UN Charter.

The African Union and its Constitutive Act, together with its other structures creates a framework for upholding the commitment of never again and ensuring the prevention of genocide and other atrocity crimes.

My Office is grateful to have worked with the African Union to integrate risk factors for genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity by the African Union Commission in its Continental Early Warning System, the regional economic communities and in Member States initiating national legislation to prevent genocide.

This year we are also celebrating the fact of the Republic of Zambia recently becoming party to the Genocide Convention on 20 April 2022 with the Convention successfully 0.0000.0000099Tf1 0 50.00g612

The country of Gambia also brought a case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice regarding the 2017 violence against the Rohingya Muslims, by utilizing the provisions of the Genocide Convention and the mandate of the ICJ to settle disputes related to it.

Denial or distorting the facts of the Holocaust, and the genocides against the Tutsi in Rwanda and in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina is an extreme form of hate speech that could itself constitute preparation for another genocide. Let us not forget that these revisionists and deniers are often diverting attention with these claims from their own responsibility in these crimes and that many perpetrators of these genocides including those who planned, ordered, and committed them, remain at large even as their victims and survivors wait for justice.

To this end, last year, my Office, in partnership with the Jacob Blaustein Institute published a policy paper, *Combating Holocaust and Genocide Denial, Protecting Survivors, Preserving Memory and Promoting Prevention*, pointing out that denial of past atrocity crimes is a warning sign of societal fragility and of the potential for violence.

In 2019 Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched a UN Strategy on tackling hate speech, for which my Office is the global focal point. We counter and address hate speech closely with Member States, UN Country Teams, and peace missions as well as with regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector, including social media companies.

In understanding genocide ideology, we must remember that to kill a million people as happened in Rwanda in 1994, many perpetrators are required. We must also remember that those who carried out the killings, were ordinary people. They were tailors, teachers, neighbors, people the victims knew. Genocide deniers and revisionists know this and with their false narratives, they seek to subordinate individual thinking to collective think of m. They make the we they have a duty to get rid of the them and indeed, years ago when I interviewed the perpetrator in Rwanda, he referred to the killings they carried out as Hio kazi ya kuuwa watu ilikuwa ngumu ilichosha! The work of killing people was hard it was exhausting! he said to me in Kiswahili. Hate speech is crucial in informing genocide ideology and the mind of a human being to consider killing another human being as work.

The Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda was made possible because hate speech against the Tutsi was commonpla0.000009f7G(-57(m2ak39whe6on )69fo)6( ge)5(6)TJETQ.00000912 0 612 792 reW\*nB

