

## CONNECTING ATROCITY PREVENTION RESEARCH AND POLICY

### CONCEPT UPDATE

Since the publication of our briefing paper, *Atrocity Prevention in a Transatlantic Setting* (June 2020), our thinking on the platform has evolved in a number of key ways. This Concept Update provides an overview of that evolution as a stand-in pending updates to the briefing paper, as follows:

- First, we are *moving away from a transatlantic framing* for the proposed platform. We believe, in fact, that the inclusion of leading actors from the Global South, and the empowerment of local voices, is crucial to our efforts to sustainably support mass atrocities prevention. At the same time, because transatlantic consensus around these issues can no longer be taken for granted, and because no dedicated regional network exists to date, we are choosing to convene a *dedicated Transatlantic Task Force* within the platform.
- Second (and as a result of the foregoing), although policymakers from the transatlantic countries comprising the Coffee Group will continue to form a primary policy constituency for our work, we believe we all stand to benefit from engagement with other policy actors as well. For this reason, our platform will seek to *also engage with policymakers from regional groupings outside the transatlantic region*, individual states, leading regional and international organizations, and non-governmental constituencies such as key actors in the technology and humanitarian sector.
- Third, the platform is likely to offer a *tiered and concentric approach to membership*, to facilitate involvement in a number of capacities. This includes (i) core or steering membership, for those willing to commit to the leadership and governance of the platform and to periodically hosting its Secretariat; (ii) institutional membership, for leading organizations and research institutions; (iii) individual membership, for individual experts and former senior government officials not presently affiliated to a participating institution; and (iv) rising leaders' membership, to further the inter-generational aspect of the platform. In addition, the platform will envision mechanisms for *structured engagement with key constituencies*, including legislators; military actors; existing domestic and international networks; advocacy groups; and other sectors.
- Fourth, we have continued to assess the advantages and potential drawbacks of alternative models, such as looser consortium of actors. However, we believe that *some structure at its center is crucial for the platform's* coordination, its interface with policy-makers, and its long-term viability. In our most recent discussions, we have conceptualized a platform's Secretariat which would direct inquiries for targeted research and policy advice to members of the platform, assist with convening technical working groups, maintain rosters of experts, and support the platform's research and operation. In addition, the Secretariat would liaise with policy constituents, and be a point of contact for policymakers.

We look forward to continuing our consultations and discussions around the optimal functionality and framing of the platform, and to furthering its mission with an initial convening to develop its primary research agenda in the near term.