### The Role of the United Nations in the Prevention of Human Rights Crises and Violent Conflicts

#### Severity of Human Rights Violations

- **Stability** (Stable peace)
- **Emerging Risks** (Unstable peace)
- **High Risks** (Crisis)
- **Escalation** (Acute crisis/conflict)
- **High Intensity Human Rights Crisis** (Conflict)
- **Risk of Recurrence** (Post-conflict)

#### Human Rights Engagement

- **Human rights resilience-building / address root causes (capacity-building and technical assistance for civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights)**
- **Early warning**
- **Early engagement / dialogue**
- **Accountability for human rights violations**
- **Accountability for gross and systematic human rights violations**
- **Transitional justice / rebuild human rights capacity and resilience / basis for a new or renewed social contract**

#### Relevant UN Institutional Mandates

- **HRC / OCHCR**
  - HRC: GA RES 60/251 OP. 5F
  - HRC: GA RES 60/251 OR. 5A-ITEM 10
- **UNDP / UNCTs / ECOSOC**
  - ECOSOC: UN CHARTER ART. 62-64,66
- **Security Council / DPPA / Peacebuilding Commission**

#### Relevant UN Policy Frameworks

- **Sustaining Peace**
- **Human Rights up Front**
- **Secretary-General Prevention Agenda**
- **Responsibility to protect**
- **Agenda 2030**

#### Prevention Phases

1. **Human Rights Engagement**
2. **Primary Prevention**
3. **Combined (Primary and Secondary) Prevention**
4. **Secondary Prevention**
5. **Tertiary Prevention / Prevent High Intensity Crisis**
6. **Atrocity Prevention**
7. **Prevent Recurrence**

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### Notes

2. Preventive action consists of identifying ‘the typical root causes of serious human rights violations (e.g. absence of rule of law and good governance, restricted civil society space, the marginalisation of minority groups, a weak or cowed free press, low levels of education or awareness about human rights, politicised judiciaries, etc.) and to make targeted interventions to build domestic capacity and resilience across those areas’. Secondary prevention, refers to ‘respond[ing] promptly to human rights emergencies’ and crises. These concepts have been taken from: Universal Rights Group. 2017. Glion Human Rights Dialogue 2017. How to operationalize the Council’s ‘prevention’ mandate: the effective implementation of paragraph 5f of GA Res. 60/251. Geneva: Universal Rights Group. The term ‘Tertiary Prevention’, refers to preventing the escalation and worsening of already existing crises.

### NB

- This diagram should be considered to be a ‘living graphic’ - it is intended to be updated and adapted as our understanding of ‘prevention’ evolves.

### References

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