Right to Intervene: Civil Societies and the AU
An advocacy toolkit for civilian protection

This toolkit is dedicated to Africa's displaced and vulnerable communities - the unsung heroes of civilian protection work throughout the continent

Because...

Civilian protection is important: Civilian protection is important because all humans have the right to essentials such as safety, water, food, and shelter. In some cases, civilians are not able to provide this for themselves, and governments, intergovernmental organizations and CSOs need to help them. There are more humanitarian crises in Africa than anywhere else in the world. There are many reasons for this, including political instability, the long term impacts of colonialism, dictatorships and climate change.

The African Union (AU) must protect civilians: Around the world, most people agree that governments must be the ones responsible for making sure that their people are protected. Unfortunately, this does not always happen. In such case, it is the responsibility of both inter-governmental organizations, like the AU, and international organizations, such as CSOs, to help protect civilians. The AU was the first organization to require itself to protect African civilians if their governments did not do so first.

Advocating for civilian protection is critical: African CSOs should advocate for civilian protection because they represent the African people. They have the right and the responsibility to protect their fellow Africans. They know best what their African brothers and sisters need in times of crisis and how to get it to them in the best way.

The African Union must be advocated to about civilian protection and the right to intervene: The AU was the first intergovernmental organization to require itself to protect African civilians. It is committed to the idea, and is providing protection in some conflict yet, more action is required from the AU to protect people on the continent. Action by the African Union and its member states will create the political and public momentum needed to actualize civilian protection.

This toolkit is designed for CSOs who want to learn more about civilian protection and how to advocate for it to the AU. It includes the most important information on civilian protection, the AU and advocacy methods.

The toolkit does not summarize everything written on these topics, but focuses only on what African CSOs really need to know. The resources section gives you some extra information on organizations, people and documents that provide more information. You should use the information in this toolkit based on the type of work that you want to do.

You should understand a few important terms first...

Advocacy: Advocating for something means trying to convince people that it is important. In this toolkit, advocacy means trying to convince the AU that civilian protection is important and that it should do everything it can to protect African civilians.

Civilian protection: Civilian protection means making sure that people in humanitarian crises are healthy and safe. In this toolkit, civilian protection means making sure that Africans living in man-made or natural crises are protected by the AU.

Civil society organizations: Civil society organizations are usually independent from the government and do work that helps people and their environment.

Humanitarian crises: Humanitarian crises are situations where basic human needs, such as food and shelter, are not easily available. These kinds of crises can be the result of situations created by people, such as a war, or by nature, such as a drought.

How this toolkit is organized

Section 1...defines civilian protection
Section 2...explains how the AU functions
Section 3...provides some key tools for effective advocacy
Section 4...summarizes the best ways to advocate to the AU

Refer to the following sections for specific information.

Contents

Civilian protection

1.1 What is civilian protection?

1.1a Basic ideas: Civilian protection is not a new concept. It is based on the idea **that people should always be able to meet their basic needs.** This means that civilian protection is a basic human right and that all people should have access to it. The definition of civilian protection becomes more complicated when people cannot access their basic human rights, either because of natural or man-made reasons. In these kinds of situations, the human rights of people are often purposefully ignored. To complicate matters, sometimes groups of people intentionally cause harm to others. In some cases, people cannot go where they need to go to be safe and have access to basic services, such as clean water and health care. In situations of man-made crises, both physical and mental harm are often deliberately caused by the people responsible for the violence. Therefore, civilian protection can mean much more than the provision of basic needs.

In situations of humanitarian crises, civilian protection means the defense or re-establishment of well-being. Well-being means the welfare not only of a person's physical self but also their dignity.

1.1b Types of man-made crises: Man-made crises can result in human insecurity. [*Human insecurity is often defined as the loss of economic, food, health, political, community and personal security*].

It is important to remember that **man-made crises are becoming more complex.** Generally, **civilians are being targeted** more so than they were in the past. This is especially true when the civilians are more vulnerable than others, i.e. women, children, the physically or

mentally handicapped, the elderly and the sick.

The following types of situations complicate modern crises and make it harder to help civilians: More conflicting economic and political interests; private citizens are increasingly responsible for violent acts; racial and religious anger is intensifying; easier access to cheap weapons; sexual and gender-based violence is being used more frequently; humanitarian aid workers are being targeted when their existence used to be respected; refugee and IDP camps are often broken into by armed groups; children are being used as soldiers; conflicts over natural resources, such as diamonds, are increasing.

1.1c Types of civilian protection responses: There are different ways to respond to protect civilians. The main types of protection are: enabling humanitarian organizations to have access to civilians in need of protection; providing safe spaces for civilians, such as camps where, in theory, people are safe from harm; making sure that civilians and aggressors are separated from one another; re-establishing governance and the rule of law; promoting humanitarian law; promoting reconciliation after active conflict has ended [See section 1.4a for information on African approaches to reconciliation].

1.1d Who is responsible for protecting civilians? Usually, people can provide these kinds of basic needs for themselves. In some cases, governments also provide this kind of "protection". In cases where people cannot provide their own protection and governments cannot or will not do it for them, a number of intergovernmental organizations and CSOs are required to help them. The AU Constitutive Act [*The AU's Constitutive Act establishes the founding principles of the AU*], the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), [*The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a UN document contains 30 articles on human rights considered by the UN as universal and which*]

should be guaranteed to all people], the Geneva Conventions, [*The Geneva Conventions are a set of agreements that establish rules for the humane treatment of prisoners of war and civilians*] and the United Nations (UN) Charter all require that civilians be protected in the broadest definition of the term. These types of documents are considered International Humanitarian Law and states are required to follow them. Humanitarian CSOs often volunteer to help protect civilians, even though there are no laws that require that they do so.

1.1e Principles for civilian protection There are principles of humanitarian response that almost all humanitarian organizations follow when working to protect civilians. These are based on the ideas detailed in the Geneva Convention. These principles are: **Humanity:** people should be treated with care and compassion at all times. This means that humanitarian organizations should always prevent and alleviate suffering, protect life and health, and make sure that everyone is treated with respect. **Non-discrimination:** everyone should have access to assistance. This means that no one should be denied assistance because of their nationality, race, religious belief, class, and political opinion. **Proportionality:** care should be provided on the basis of need. This means that people with the greatest need for assistance should get it first Other principles that most humanitarian organizations believe in are: impartiality, neutrality and independence. By believing in these principles, most humanitarian organizations seek to help all people in the best way that they can.

1.2 Why talk about civilian protection now? In the past 15 years, the idea of civilian protection-what it means and who should be responsible for it-has been discussed more and more. This is because there have been a few situations around the world during that time where humanitarian crises were so bad that hundreds of thousands of people died or were killed because no one was there to protect them. The most talked about example is the Rwandan genocide, which took place in 1994, and where more than 800,000 people were murdered in less than three months. The Rwandan government, INGOs like the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the UN, and CSOs all failed to protect civilians.

The fact that there were so many examples of situations where the international community [*The international community means international and intergovernmental organizations*] could not or would not help protect civilians caused a lot of people to decide to make civilian protection an international responsibility. The issue of state sovereignty versus the responsibility to protect civilians became the key issue to be discussed.

1.3 What complicates civilian protection activities? State sovereignty is the idea that governments have the right to do what they want within their borders. This idea has been broadly accepted in principle, even in international documents that also say that civilians must be protected. For example, Article 2 (7) of the UN Charter says that there should be no reason for intervention in the matters of a sovereign state. The only international document that suggests that anyone can intervene in a state is the Genocide Convention of 1948. This document says that governments should intervene in other states where crimes against humanity are occurring. Regardless, the principle of state sovereignty has remained the most respected principle, even with civilians being purposefully harmed. [*In Africa, weak, failing, failed, and poverty-stricken states often use sovereignty as a way to hide their failure to protect their own civilians, and as a reason to deny calls for international action. While respect for state sovereignty must be maintained, general principles of international law and the AU Constitutive Act provide for the protection of citizens as a priority. Therefore, the AU must be forced to acknowledge that African states can not use sovereignty as a defense against claims of civilian abuse*].

1.4 Civilian protection in Africa

1.4a Concepts regarding protection: There are a number of concepts and approaches across the African continent that centre African people at the heart of protection and community care. Ubuntu is a traditional African concept that refers to the need for humanitarian care toward others.

The Ubuntu concept suggests that interactions at all levels should be respectful and humane. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission efforts in post-apartheid South Africa relied heavily on this concept. The Gacaca courts are a Rwandan system of community justice based on a tradition that promotes community healing after conflict. It is a collective process where the community is invited to participate in a discussion about what happened and the decision for how to move forward. In Northern Uganda, the Mato Oput process of traditional justice is being explored as a way to handle the crimes of the Lords Resistance Army against the people of Uganda. [*The traditional justice mechanisms have often been proposed as a replacement of the International Criminal Court process. Critics express concern that the processes evade the State's and society's legal, ethical and political obligations to their people. Supporters often believe that the traditional methods generate more truth, justice, and reparations*].

The practice of well-respected and well-known Africans being asked to promote peace and security on the continent suggests that Africans themselves be at the centre of civilian protection activities. Examples of this practice include the establishment within the AU of the Panel of the Wise, which is made up of five respected Africans whose responsibility it is to contribute to the promotion of peace and security, and Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu heading up mediation and reconciliation efforts.

1.4b(i) The AU: The AU was created in 2002 to replace the OAU, which was set up in 1963 to liberate Africa from colonization and apartheid and defend sovereignty and independence for African states. For its time, the establishment of the OAU and its foundational principles were incredibly important on a continent struggling to build its independence. As the newly independent states continued to transition, however, the principle of respect for state sovereignty began creating more problems than solving them. As a means of addressing these issues, the AU was established to work more closely with the peoples of the African continent and to create a unified and integrated Africa. This

approach replaced the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of member states with one of non-indifference towards what occurred inside state boundaries. These principles are outlined in Article 4 of the Constitutive Act: **(c) participation of the African peoples in the activities of the Union.** This clause acknowledges that the OAU did not involve the African people and that the AU prioritizes the ability of the African people to influence policymakers. It is important to note that this clause recognizes the importance of civil society. **(g) non-interference by any Member State in the internal affairs of another.** This clause supports the principle of state sovereignty. **(h) the right of the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.** This is the clause that allows the AU to intervene in a member state to protect civilians.

[*The Ezulwini Consensus, a statement from a number of African foreign affairs ministers, reaffirmed the right of the UN and the AU to use force when necessary, but emphasized that regional organizations might be able to respond more appropriately. It was agreed that such actions would be approved by the UN Security Council*].

1.4b(ii) The African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights: The concept of civilian protection as the protection of basic human rights are detailed in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. This Charter was adopted under the OAU as a means of committing African governments to the protection and promotion of human rights on the continent. The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights was established following the adoption of the African Charter in 1981. The Commission is responsible for promoting and protecting the principles within the Charter, as well as to interpret the articles of the Charter. The Commission reviews AU member state reports in relation to their compliance with the African Charter. All AU member states are signatories to the African Charter

and thus are subject to the Commission's scrutiny. Because the Commission could not make binding judgments, an African Court on Human and People's Rights was established. The creation of the Court bolstered the protective mandate of the Commission. The Court was established in 2004, but it was decided that it would be merged with the Court of Justice, which is in the process of being established by the AU.

1.4c African state views regarding civilian protection: African states have been at the forefront of the promotion of civilian protection principles. The AU, through its Constitutive Act, was the first intergovernmental organization to establish protection principles as part of its mandate. The Constitutive Act speaks to the principles of non-indifference to human suffering and the right of the AU to intervene in their states to promote peace and security. All African states, except for Morocco, have signed the Constitutive Act. However, few African states have made public statements about whether or not they support the more westernized civilian protection language contained in UN and ICISS documents relating to the responsibility to protect. When they have, their statements are very much related to their own experiences with intervention and their views regarding what constitutes neo-colonialism. Three states, Rwanda, Tanzania and South Africa initially supported the responsibility to protect principle when it was formally introduced at the UN World Summit in 2005. Since then, South Africa has decided that it does not fully support the idea.

1.4d CSOs and civilian protection in Africa: It is important to recognize that key AU decision makers play a crucial role in promoting civilian protection. It is also important to acknowledge that they can not do it alone. Civilians speaking out for other civilians can be powerful. CSOs are well positioned to contribute to the creation of an environment that is supportive of civilian protection. CSOs can give communities the voice they need to change decisions that affect their lives. CSOs also have unique insights and can influence the AU because of their ability to connect the African peoples to the AU itself.

Through both the provision of civilian protection and direct lobbying for it, CSOs are the best advocates for effective civilian protection.

1.5 The idea of the responsibility to protect: After the Rwandan genocide, it became clear that even though intergovernmental organizations, such as the UN and the AU, were set up to protect civilians by preventing wars and promoting peace and security, they weren't fulfilling their commitment to protect civilians from grave human rights abuses. Governments, who have the primary responsibility to protect their people, were also failing in their protection duties. In the ten years following the Rwanda genocide, the international community has attempted to address how civilians should be protected from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing. The following are a few key events that took place relating to the responsibility to protect: In speeches to the UN General Assembly in 1999 and 2000, then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged UN member states to establish guidelines to help the international community protect civilians from atrocity crimes, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. In 2001, the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), which was set up by the Canadian government, published "The Responsibility to Protect", a report that said that governments must protect their own citizens from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, but that when they are unwilling or unable to do so, the international community has a responsibility to protect these civilians.

In 2002, the OAU, which prioritized state sovereignty, became the AU, which prioritized the principle of non-indifference [*The principle of non-indifference means that the AU will not ignore human suffering*] to human suffering and the right to intervene in member states to promote peace and security under certain conditions. The AU Constitutive Act details its commitment to these principles. In 2005, the UN endorsed the principle of the responsibility to protect in paragraphs 138-139 of the World Summit Outcome Document.

[*At the World Summit, the following ideas were stressed: governments are responsible for protecting their own civilians• the intervention of other organizations are the last options for protecting civilians, non-military intervention should be used before military intervention. Furthermore, the responsibility to rebuild was not supported*]. In 2006, the UN Security Council further endorsed the responsibility to protect in Resolutions 1674 and 1706.

The UN Secretary General appointed a Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and a Special Adviser with a focus on the Responsibility to Protect.

1.6 How the responsibility to protect is defined. The ideas behind the responsibility to protect dramatically changed the idea of state sovereignty when it relates to protecting people living within state boundaries. The responsibility to protect says that the international community has the responsibility to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. This means that the international community can take both military and non-military action to protect civilians. This is an affirmation that national sovereignty is not absolute and that governments have a responsibility to the people within their own borders. While military intervention is allowed under the principle of the responsibility to protect, diplomacy is actually the most important aspect of the principle.

The ICISS report identified **three types of responsibilities relating to the responsibility to protect**. It says that states and the international community have: *the Responsibility to Prevent:* to address the reasons behind man-made crises that put civilian populations at risk. *The Responsibility to React:* to respond to situations where civilians need protection in the best way possible, which may include diplomacy, humanitarian assistance and military intervention. *the Responsibility to Rebuild:* to provide, particularly after a military intervention, **full assistance with recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation.**

The AU and how it works

2.1 Introduction

The organization with the greatest potential related to civilian protection • in Africa is the AU. The AU recognizes the increasing importance of Pan-Africanizm in the face of globalization. At the same time, it recognizes that regionalism is one of Africa's strengths. It also places greater value on the voice of African civilians and on the promotion of civilian protection as a means of recognizing basic human rights over respect for state sovereignty. There are a number of specific reasons to target the AU for civilian protection policy. one of its foundational mandates, detailed in Article 4c, was to move • away from a state-centered union and toward one focused on people another core principle, specified in Article 4h, is to promote non-• indifference to human suffering by holding the right to intervene in member states where peace and security are threatened the AU promoted the importance of civilian protection above state • sovereignty before the UN did meeting at least twice a month, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) is an • active body of the AU and has the power to put forward recommendations to take action relating to civilian protection the establishment of standards within the AU and recognition and • awareness of these standards by civil society and member state governments can create a system of accountability for adherence to said standards a stronger AU is built on an active civil society and is more empowered • to fulfill its mandate.

2.2 Understanding the AU

2.2a The structure of the AU: In order to advocate well to the AU, you should first understand its structure and how it works. The following table summarizes the main units of the AU and their purpose.

Name	Purpose
The Assembly	**The highest decision making unit of the AU. Meets twice a year at AU Summits Made up of Heads of States of AU member states.**
The Executive Council	**Made up of Ministers of foreign affairs of AU member states. Meets at least twice a year before the AU Summits to help prepare the Heads of States for the Summits themselves.**
The Permanent Representatives' Committee	**Made up of AU Member State ambassadors to the AU. Meets monthly and in advance of the Executive Council to help prepare for AU Summits.**
Peace and Security Council	**Is the lead unit for all elements of the AU's peace and security work. Meets at least twice a month.**
Pan-African Parliament	**The legislative branch of the AU. Presently an advisory unit. Meant to provide continuous broad representation for AU member states.**
ECOSOCC	**Advisory group of CSOs from AU Member States and the Diaspora.**
The Court of Justice	**Will interpret all laws and treaties for the AU. Will replace the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well. In the process of establishment.**
Specialized Technical Committees	**Meet periodically to inform the agenda of the Permanent Representatives Committee. Made up of AU Member State ministers.**
The Financial Institutions	**Will handle large-scale financial initiatives.**
The Commission	**The secretariat of the AU: handles administration of the work of the AU. Composed of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and eight Commissioners who oversee policy implementation.**

2.2b The AU Commission The African Union Commission (AUC) is the secretariat of the AU. It handles the administration of the AU, from logistical to technical matters. The AUC is headed by a Chairperson elected by the Assembly for no more than two five year terms. The Chairperson is supported by a Deputy Chairperson who focuses primarily on AUC administration and management. There are eight Departments headed by Commissioners also elected for five year terms. The Departments and their responsibilities are summarized below:

Department	Responsibility
Peace and Security	Conflict prevention, management and resolution, and combating terrorism
Political Affairs	Human rights, democracy, good governance, electoral institutions, civil society organizations, humanitarian affairs, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons
Infrastructure and Energy	Energy, transport, communications, infrastructure and tourism
Social Affairs	Health, children, drug control, population, migration, labor and employment, sports and culture
Human Resources, Science and Technology	Education, information technology, communication, youth, human resources, science and technology
Trade and Industry	Trade, industry, customs and immigration matters
Rural Economy and Agriculture	Rural economy, agriculture and food security, livestock, environment, water and natural resources, and desertification
Economic Affairs	Economic integration, monetary affairs, private sector development, investment and resource mobilization

2.2c AU units to advocate to regarding civilian protection: While it is important for CSOs to become more engaged with the AU, the current status of AU-CSO engagement is both limited and limiting. You will have to be patient and innovative in your advocacy. The following parts of the AU should be targeted when advocating for civilian protection.

2.2c(i) CIDO: The African Citizens Directorate (CIDO) within the AUC is mandated to connect the AU with CSOs and the Diaspora. While the establishment of CIDO suggests that the AU is committed to engaging CSOs in its work, there are a number of concerns about CIDO. Some of the main questions are summarized below.

1. Do CSOs have to go through CIDO to work with the AU? While some AUC staff members state that CSOs may freely engage directly with entities of the AUC, others say that all CSOs must go through CIDO [*E-mail CIDO at: cido@africa-union.org*]in order to communicate with any unit of the AU system. Therefore, it is suggested that all CSOs should communicate with both the specific AUC Department it wants to work with [*In cases of civilian protection, CSOs should try to meet with the Peace and Security and the Political Affairs Departments.*] and with CIDO.

2. How can CIDO help CSOs with access to ECOSOCC and AU meetings? CIDO is supposed to help CSOs have access as observers to the AU Summits and other AU meetings and, at least for now, help them with the process of applying to ECOSOCC. Many CSOs have found, however, that they can not easily get information or assistance from CIDO. It is suggested that any requests for assistance from CIDO should be in writing, via telephone and in person if possible, and requests should be submitted at least six months in advance of deadlines.

3. Does CIDO host the AU-Civil Society Forum? CIDO is supposed to be responsible for bringing CSOs into the AU Summit processes. This is supposed to occur through a two day meeting in advance of the AU Summits called the AU-Civil Society Forum. AU budget limitations have reduced

such meetings to one per year. Only a few of these meetings have taken place, participation has been limited and many CSOs believe that the process of CSO inclusion is not transparent. The power of AU Member States in limiting CSO engagement ahead of AU Summit meetings is another factor to consider. [*A CSO initiative led by the Center for Citizens' Participation in the AU (CCP-AU) has established itself to help enhance CSO engagement with the AU*].

2.2c(ii) The Pan-African Parliament: The Pan-African Parliament is meant to be a parliament of the people. It is located in South Africa and is in the process of finalizing its operational procedures. At present, five representatives from existing country-level parliaments are meant to represent AU member states. The Pan-African Parliament is a good way for CSOs to influence the AU. At present, CSOs can observe parliamentary debates and access to the parliament is simple to obtain. Other options include working with or through parliament members that represent areas that your organization works in, or who are committed to civilian protection. There is also a committee that handles issues such as civilian protection.

2.2c(iii) The Peace and Security Council: The PSC is the main AU unit that deals with issues of civilian protection. It meets at least twice a month and is made up of representatives from 15 AU member states: five members are elected for a three year term and ten are elected on two year rotating terms. PSC decisions are provided to Assembly, which chooses what steps to take regarding the decisions. Sometimes action is delegated to the Executive Council, which often passes action to the AUC. The following articles of the PSC Protocol [*The PSC Protocol is a document that defines how the PSC should operate*] state or suggest that CSOs may communicate with the PSC on issues relating to civilian protection: article 8(10)c states that CSOs interested in or involved with a conflict being discussed at a closed door [*A closed door session is a private meeting*] PSC session may be invited to participate in the discussion, but will not be allowed to vote. Article 8(11) states that the PSC may hold informal discussions with CSOs on peace and security issues. Article 17(4) states that the PSC may work with

international organizations on matters of peace and security. Article 20 states that CSOs are encouraged to promote peace and security on the continent. These articles suggest that CSOs may be able to contribute significantly to discussions and decisions of the PSC. In practice such participation has been limited.

It is suggested, however, that you consider working with networks interested in civilian protection issues and that you volunteer knowledgeable and respected network representatives as contributors to the PSC through the options detailed above. A way to do this would be to send a letter to the head of the Peace and Security Department, with a courtesy copy to CIDO, requesting a meeting with the PSC. Be sure that the representative that you propose to send is fully prepared to meet with extremely high level PSC members and that the appropriate information and policy recommendations that are presented are based on evidence.

2.2c(iv) ECOSOCC: The Economic Social and Cultural Council was established to allow CSOs to advise the AU. The goals of ECOSOCC are to promote: partnership between AU member states and civil society, civil society engagement with AU processes, transparency and accountability with regard to the work of the AU, civil society capacity strengthening and gender equity.

ECOSOCC is composed of 150 CSOs. ECOSOCC's membership must be made up of 50% women and 50% youth (aged 18-35). Elections are supposed to be organized by CSOs themselves within AU member states, regions and the Diaspora. Members are elected for four year terms and can only be re-elected once. The composition of ECOSOCC is: two CSOs from AU member states, ten CSOs that operate regionally, eight CSOs that operate continentally, 20 CSOs led by the Diaspora, six CSOs nominated by the AUC based on "special" considerations. CSOs are eligible to be elected to ECOSOCC based on a number of criteria, summarized as follows: legally registered, have a mandate related to Articles 3 and 4 of the AU Constitutive Act, operating for at least three years, leadership is at least 50% African or Diaspora, at least 50% of their resources from members of the organization,

The ECOSOCC General Assembly meets every two years. A series of committees administer ECOSOCC, though CIDO is acting as its Secretariat at present. A standing committee oversees the functions of ECOSOCC holistically. Ten "sectoral cluster" committees have been established to enable ECOSOCC members to work in the same sectors as those of the departments of the AU Commission. A credentials committee evaluates membership applications. A few elections have been held in countries and regions that the credential committee believed were "ready" for CSO elections. The first assembly of the established ECOSOCC body is expected to meet in mid-2008.

There are two main criticisms of ECOSOCC: the existing guidelines for CSO engagement 1. appear to significantly limit the type and scope as well as the ease of entry of African CSOs; and ECOSOCC has no power over the AU and is only an advisory 2. board On the first point, the requirement for CSOs to obtain the majority of their financial resources from "members" and/or from non "northern" sources excludes almost all CSOs on the continent. While ideologically admirable and representative of the type of independence that CSOs should have in terms of their influence on the AU, most African CSOs can not function at present without significant outside financial support. Additionally, even if they are a membership-based organization, it is not likely that their members can provide such a large part of the organization's budget. Furthermore, until or if ECOSOCC's status is changed to enable it to have more power, other means for advocating to the AU must be explored. Some opportunities are being explored within the AUC for a more stringent reliance on ECOSOCC as consultative body, which would establish a more dynamic relationship between CSOs and the AU. Opportunities to work through ECOSOCC. Once ECOSOCC is fully set-up, it has the potential to be one of the best ways to advocate to the AU on issues related to civilian protection. One way to advocate to the AU through ECOSOCC would be to get elected to it. Another way would be to establish a network that has or can get a member into ECOSOCC. You could also advocate to an existing ECOSOCC member and get them to help you with your advocacy work. Providing policy papers to ECOSOCC members for discussion and support is another way to get your ideas heard.

Tools for advocacy

Simply knowing which units of the AU deal with civilian protection and CSOs is not enough to be successful in influencing the AU. You also have to know how to be a good advocate. The section gives you some tips on how your CSO can advocate directly to the AU. [*It is important to remember that there are many ways to advocate for civilian protection. This toolkit is designed solely for advocating directly to the AU*].

3.1 CSOs as advocates: African CSOs have begun to play a more active role in advocacy. In times of bureaucratic, political and even moral challenges, CSOs have greater opportunities and reasons to enhance their engagement with their stakeholders. With the provision of democratic principles in its Constitutive Act, the AU laid the groundwork for civil society to play a more active role in the governing and influence of continental change. The challenge is that, in a continent of this size, with resource limitations ranging from finances to communication, with language barriers, and a history that has left permanent scars on its people, engagement between the peoples of the continent and the AU has not been as dynamic as it could be. This toolkit will kelp you enhance this engagement. Good advocacy can turn ideas into actions. [*When preparing to advocate for something, you will need to: 1. conduct a situation analysis 2. establish facts that you can use to influence change 3. consider who you need to advocate to and how to do this best 4. think about the kinds of challenges you might face along the way 5. develop and implement a communication strategy. The following section will help you accomplish these tasks*].

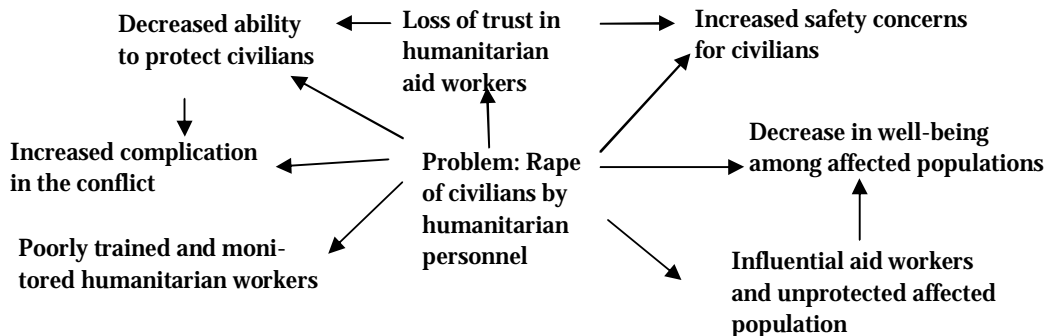**3.2 Establishing an evidence base:** A good first step in the advocacy process is to gather information on the various aspects of the civilian protection situation you want to advocate for. This includes the causes and effects of the problem and the stakeholders involved with it. It is important to establish a set of information, or an "evidence base", that you can use to develop your advocacy plan.

This information is important to have for two reasons. it helps you understand what you are advocating for and why; and it helps convince AU staff members why they should listen to you.

3.2a Problem tree analysis: A problem tree helps you understand the civilian protection situation you are working on. It also helps identify who or what created the problem and what impacts the problem might have. A problem tree can be very complicated but it can also be very simple. The following is an example of a simple but helpful problem tree.

Once you create a problem tree, you can easily see what types of policies should be promoted or changed. Once you decide what policies you want to promote or change, you should then analyze a number of other situations that influence the policy process. The following sections explain a number of valuable tools that may be used to help you carry out the best advocacy.

Figure 1: Sample problem tree analysis

Decreased ability to protect civilians ← Loss of trust in humanitarian aid workers → Increased safety concerns for civilians

Increased complication in the conflict

Problem: Rape of civilians by humanitarian personnel

Decrease in well-being among affected populations

Poorly trained and monitored humanitarian workers

Influential aid workers and unprotected affected population

3.2b Mapping the policy process: In order to influence civilian protection policy, you need to know how policy at the AU is developed. The policy process of the AU is complex. It involves stakeholders such as AU member governments, international and intergovernmental organizations and CSOs. In order to influence this process, CSOs must first map it. The following chart shows what usually happens in the policy development and implementation process of the AU. Not all steps are always followed as noted below. For example, as shown by the black arrows in the diagram below, sometimes the identification of a problem can lead directly to agenda setting and skips elements of the process such as research and analysis and stakeholder assessments. You must think very carefully about what civilian protection is needed, who may or may not support your ideas, and what steps are usually followed within the AU system.

AU member states, the AUC and even CSOs can be responsible for any of the steps shown below. For example, one AU member state could ask its representative to the AU to present a concern about a civilian protection issue in a neighboring state. This concern might be raised to the AUC's Peace and Security Department for research and analysis. The AUC may or may not try to involve CSOs or civilians in an analysis of the situation. The research might then be presented to the PSC in the form of a policy proposal, and the PSC might agree with the proposal. You should make every effort you can to introduce a policy to or share a concern about civilian protection with the AU. The best way to do this is described in section 2.2c.Ask yourself the following types of questions when mapping the policy process and think at all times about how you can influence the process:

Who are the key stakeholders?
What AU rules affect the process?
How will you access key AU policymakers?

Figure 2: Typical policy process

3.2c The political process: Another key element of the advocacy planning process is a careful analysis of the political process and the political environment. During this process, you will need to think about the following: what does the AU Constitutive Act say about the civilian protection situation you are looking to change? What role do AU member states play in the situation? what are the opinions of AU member states about the situation? What do non-AU governments, international and intergovernmental organizations, such as the UN, think about the issue?

You will also need to look at the political operating environment, such as the formal and informal way that AU stakeholders interact with each other. The stakeholder assessment method, the SWOT [*SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats*] analysis, the force-field analysis and the RAPID framework all provide guidance on ways of critically analyzing both the political process and overall environment.

3.2d Stakeholder analysis: It is important to remember that AU staff members are not the only people who can help influence the policy development process. In fact, organizations such as the UN, associations, universities, and CSOs are often actively involved in AU advocacy. As such, it is important to map and understand the complex ways that various stakeholders influence each other. Here are two ways to do this: conduct a force-field analysis, or 1. develop a matrix that maps stakeholder interest and power relating to 2. the issue. An example of this kind of matrix is below.

Figure 3: Stakeholder matrix

	LOW	HIGH
HIGH	Encourage enthusiasm	Work in partnership
LOW	Develop awareness and enthusiasm	Challenge existing beliefs

For example, if an organization is looking to advocate to the AU for civilian protection in a conflict where sexual and gender-based violence is common, a stakeholder matrix might be summarized as follows.

Low stakeholder power-Low policy importance: CSOs not in the region and not mandated to promote civilian protection Low stakeholder power-High policy importance: civilians being raped. High stakeholder power-Low policy importance: perpetrators and/or supporters of violence. High stakeholder power-High policy importance: CSOs operating in the region and mandated to promote civilian protection.

3.2e The force-field analysis: The force-field analysis is a tool that can be used to identify the forces for and against a policy relating to civilian protection, as well as the degree of strength of the forces themselves. This analysis can help you identify what obstacles and opportunities are associated with the civilian protection policy that you want to promote. Force-field analyses can be both simple and complicated. You can do a simple analysis by doing basic desk research. A more complicated analysis could be conducted by using a participatory process [*A participatory process is one that actively includes different stakeholders*] involving key stakeholders. You can use both numbers and comments to evaluate the forces for and against a change.

If you want to use numbers, for example, you might use "1" to show low influence and "5" to show high influence. If you want to use comments to assess the force, you could use "low", "medium" and "high". Do not be worried if, when you finish your force-field analysis, it seems like there are too many forces against the change that you want to promote. Tools such as effective networking, message development and the communication of evidence can help. At the same time, some situations might be too much for your organization or network to handle on its own.

3.2f SWOT analysis: SWOT analysis is a way to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of [*When you look at strengths and weakness, you use existing information. When you think about opportunities and threats, you consider what might happen*] something you plan to do. An example of a SWOT matrix that analyses a proposed action is detailed below.

Figure 4: Sample SWOT analysis

SWOT Matrix

Context: An advocacy effort of a Ugandan non-governmental organization to the AU about the reintegration of former child soldiers from the LRA back to their communities

	Known factors	Anticipated factors
	Strengths	**Opportunities**
Potentially positive factors	-Expertise in rehabilitation, reintegration and demobilization of child solders -A large network of partner organizations	-Creating jobs for adult-aged former child soldiers creating a rehabilitation training program led by former child solders
	Weakness	**Threats**
Potentially negative factors	-Few influential contacts lack of past experience	-Lack of funding affects program success -Conflict environment with the LRA

You should also conduct a SWOT analysis when assessing whether or not your organization or network has the capacity to conduct a certain policy advocacy activity. See section 2.2.3 on capacity assessment for more information.

3.2g The RAPID framework: The RAPID [*RAPID stands for the Research and Policy in Development Program at the Overseas Development Institute*] framework is a useful way to summaries the different types of analyses you have already done. A typical RAPID framework allows you to think about: the political environment, the evidence that can be used to support your advocacy proposal the linkages that exist between the organizations involved in the situation, the external influences that might affect the process. This kind of analysis is formatted into three key areas: information that you need to know, what you need to do, and how you can act. The framework uses questions to help you think about what you should do. The following is an example of a modified, simple RAPID framework.

Figure 5: Modified RAPID framework

	To know	To do	How to do
Political and policy-making context	-Which people at the AU deal with civilian protection? -What opinions do AU member states have about civilian protection? -When is the best time to undertake initiatives?	-Identify civilian protection critics and supporters within the AU Member States -Develop an action plan based on typical policy processes -Keep track of AU initiatives, conferences and news	-Work with both policy makers and civil servants -Organize events and invite influential people -Reserve resources for opportunities in the future plan
Evidence	-What information exists to influence policy? -What existing ideas need to be considered or challenged? -How can evidence best be communicated?	-Communicate consistently -Suggest practical actions -Clearly present evidence -Always consider your audience when presenting ideas	-Establish a communication strategy -Use established evidence -Include the participation of people needing assistance when creating action plans
The AU Member States, African CSOs, international organizations	-Who are the key stakeholders and what are their priorities? -How do stakeholders feel about civilian protection? -How much influence do key supporters or critics have?	-Get to know stakeholders and AU member states' stances on the civilian protection -Build policy networks and increase partnerships -Establish credibility	-Identify the rules that stakeholders play in the process and expand your networks -Develop an understanding of AU processes and policies -Establish effective methods to communicate -Establish advocacy plans based on AU trends

3.3 Working in networks: [*For more information on networks and advocacy, see Fundación CIPPEC's Weaving global networks: Handbook for policy influence*]. Networks are groups interested in similar issues. They can be made up of resource partners, [*The term resource refers not only to finances but to other forms of inputs as well, such as information.*] supporters, private citizens, and, hopefully, people in decision making positions, such as AU staff members. Networks can help organizations work better together, by providing technical, logistical, financial, and other forms of support. They strengthen each other by filling in gaps that one network member might not be able to meet on its own. Networks generally play six key roles that can change over time as the interests of the network change or the situation they are interested in changes. It is important to know what each network member wants from the network as well as what they can bring to it. This will help you decide how the network should work. It is also important to do everything possible to make your network sustainable. The six key roles a network generally plays are:

1. community builders: develop partnerships
2. filters: manage and share information
3. amplifiers: provide a voice for network members and their interests
4. facilitators: create efficiencies to enhance network effectiveness
5. investors/providers: invest in networks in both financial and non-financial terms
6. convenors: bring together organizations with common interests

[*A good example of a network engaged in AU-CSO engagement is the Center for Citizens' Participation in the African Union (CCP-AU), based in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. The CCP-AU is comprised of seven founding organizations who are jointly interested in enhancing the understanding of CSOs about the AU and how to engage with it. The CCP-AU conducts trainings on the AU for CSOs and sponsors continental conferences for CSOs. These trainings take place in the host country of the AU Summit a few months before the summit itself to help CSOs in that country and region coordinate amongst themselves to prepare to lobby the summit attendees. The continental conferences take place immediately before the summits and the outcomes are communiqués that speak to issues of importance to CSO attendees and that relate to the AU Summit agenda*].

TIPS

Working with network partners can help you in your advocacy work. Before you establish a network, conduct a quick SWOT analysis of the partnership and ask the following types of questions: how does the organization's interests, capacities, and existing connections affect your organization's goals? How can you help each other? What skills does each partner have? What challenges might be faced in working together? If a network is established, consider the following steps to ensure that you work well together: identify a leader for the activity, agree on priorities, roles and responsibilities, maintain open and transparent lines of communication.

3.4 Assessing your organizations' capacity: An organizations' capacity is defined by its capabilities. These capabilities should be considered and properly analyzed as part of the planning process. Types of capabilities to measure and assess may include:

financial or in-kind resources: what funds are available or can you get to support the advocacy effort? Be careful to consider the influence of outside donors: will they only fund you if you do what they want? human resources: do you have the right people to do the job well? Is there good management? partners: what partners do you have or can you find to help you advocate well? Expertise in the area: what existing linkages, skills, and other resources already exist and can be built on? information gathering, storing and sharing: is it feasible to obtain and manage the information needed to establish a solid evidence base? Strategic planning: are strategies planned and carried out well? Time: is it reasonable to accomplish your goals within a set timeframe?

3.5 Setting goals for your policy influence work: It is important to use the information that you have gathered in your research phase to help you establish your goal (s). Be sure to develop goals that are SMART: Specific: A specific goal is one that is clear and straightforward. Measurable: A measurable goal is one that can be evaluated Achievable: An achievable goal is a feasible one. Relevant: A relevant

goal relates directly to your advocacy. Time bound: A time bound goal is feasible within a reasonable time period In order to define SMART goals, it is helpful to identify what kind of change you want. Ask yourself the following types of questions- Specificity: What degree of the change that is deemed necessary can my organization or network feasibly affect? Measurability: What indicators can be established to measure how well the goal was achieved? [*Remember that it is hard to measure the impact of your actions on a policy change. It is easier to monitor changes in the behaviors of key AU policy makers, but you can not always be sure that these changes were caused only by your actions*]. Achievability: How feasible is the goal given the context in which the advocacy will take place? Relevance: Is this goal directly related to the change that is expected? Timeliness: Is the goal's achievement feasible within a reasonable timeframe?

3.6 Developing and targeting your message: The research and goals that have been established form a strong foundation for you to use when building and targeting your civilian protection policy advocacy message. There are a number of valuable steps that should be taken to form the scope and focus of the message. Regardless of the various components that will comprise the advocacy approach, advocacy must at all times be consistent.

TIPS

Remember the following criteria about messages when you develop your advocacy message. Always clearly communicate the desired action or change and the reasons for it. Messages should be: straightforward, relevant to the audience, easily understandable, memorable, short in length and respectful of affected civilians, positive, strong, interesting and accurate.

3.6a Types of communication: You must consider how the AU and its stakeholders feel about the civilian protection policy suggestion that you have and the specific situation it relates to. Remember

that AU member states are quite concerned about the impact that the R2P concept has on state sovereignty. In return, the AU is careful about how it communicates about the principle of non-indifference to human suffering. It does not want to appear as though it is being disrespectful of state sovereignty. At the same time, it has committed to protect civilians on the African continent. Depending on the situation, the AU may be open to a policy idea and a cooperative approach to advocating should be planned. If the AU is concerned about a negative reaction from a member state, then a confrontational communicative environment is to be expected. Limit to the greatest degree possible approaches to communication that are intentionally combative.

Figure 6: Types of communication
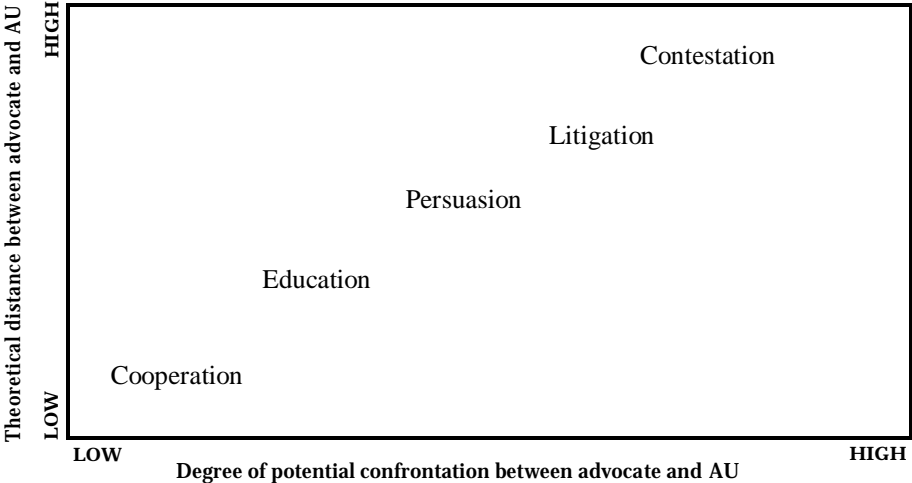
TIPS

Ask yourself the following types of questions to help you understand the environment that you are working in: which AU unit has the decision making power? how do different AU member states feel about the situation? How does the international community feel about the situation? What can my network do to reduce the degree of confrontation expected? How can I best target my message to reduce a negative response?

3.6b Different places to communicate your message: There are different types of places to advocate for your message. These different places often require different types of messages and different approaches to the AU staff members involved. Consider the following types of spaces and remember to change your approach as necessary: established places such as AU Summits, created places such as new forms of advocacy (see section 2.2.5e), formalized places such as policy briefings and meetings informal and "after-hours" environments.

3.6c Different ways to communicate your message: There are three main methods of message delivery: lobbying, public information campaigns, and media engagement. These methods do not have to be used alone, though they can be. Using them together, however, can be quite effective. Regardless of which method(s) you choose, be sure to engage with the AU to the greatest extent possible. Changing or influencing policies is complicated and you will need to establish a feeling of partnership as much as you can.

3.6c(i) Lobbying: Lobbying involves formal engagement with AU staff members. It is important to make the information that you wish to present to them straightforward, simple and based on evidence that they can then site if and when advocating for the change that you propose. Consider the following suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of your advocacy. Prepare simple information

packets that show evidence of the need for civilian protection present feasible solutions to promote civilian protection, present visual or tangible evidence in support of the proposed change [*If you use photos or other forms of tangible evidence, be careful to be respectful of the civilians portrayed*] do NOT present a list of complaints. Request small amounts of time for meetings conduct all necessary follow-up.

3.6c(ii) Public information campaigns: Public information campaigns are a means of both reaching out to the general public to encourage civilian protection and of catching the attention of the AU. Engaging the public in support for a certain approach can also be a helpful means of pressuring the AU to adopt civilian protection policies. Conducting public information campaigns in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, where the AU is situated, increases your chances of catching the attention of AU and AUC staff members. Specifically involve them in these opportunities through invitations to events. [*Examples of public information campaigns include public seminars and art exhibitions*].

3.6c(iii) Media engagement: The media can be used as a good way to communicate a message. The media is comprised of different types of mediums: printed publications; radio; television; the internet. Media coverage often brings attention to issues that people are not paying much attention to. Remember which types of media are often used by what kind of people. For example, an obscure local newspaper will not likely be read by an AU or AUC staff member. Also, be sure to properly target your messages. Remember that the media can be used not only as a way to share your message but also as a partner, as certain media outlets have as their mission the communication of certain types of messages. An example of a form of media focused solely on the AU is the AU Monitor.

Non-traditional means of message delivery: Advocacy often takes the form of policy briefs and other forms of written communication delivered in a passive environment. There is room, however, for non-traditional means of public information campaigning, especially when trying to get the

attention of the AUC. It is especially important to remember the value of oral and visual communication in Africa. Using these traditional methods and doing so amongst or to get the attention of AUC staff members will be both unique and appropriate at the same time. The following are a few examples of innovative forms of message delivery. Performance art (spoken word, song, dance, theatre, mime) Delivered art (poetry, painting, photography, film, cartoon, documentary) [*Theatre of the oppressed is a method of using theatre to inform the public about human rights issues by inviting the audience to participate in a dialogue with the actors*].

3.7 Implementing your message: Once you have developed your message and how you will communicate it, you need to deliver the message.

3.7a Developing an implementation plan: An implementation plan is a good way to think through your advocacy effort. A sample plan for a two month advocacy effort is detailed on the next page.

3.7b Monitoring and evaluating your work: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) helps organizations track and improve the effectiveness of their work and provides them with a way to encourage follow-up and accountability. The most effective M&E plans are developed alongside the implementation plan. This will help you develop indicators for success and figure out how to monitor progress. Remember the following key points: it is often hard to prove that changes in civilian protection policy are directly related to your specific actions. There are often various elements that lead to policy change, and in most cases it is too difficult to know how much one element effected a certain change. changing the text of a policy is very different from getting that policy implemented. Be very careful about what type of change you are monitoring. Input, output and outcome indicators are easy to measure in terms of your specific role in them. data collected for use in M&E should be both quantitative and qualitative and should come from various sources.

Figure 7: Sample implementation plan

Activity	Sub-activity	Month One				Month Two			
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Evidence-based research	Problem tree analysis	�							
	Map the policy process		▓						
	The political process		▓						
	Stakeholder assessment		██	██					
	Force-field analysis		██	██					
	SWOT analysis		██	██					
	RAPID Framework		██	██					
Network assessment/ establishment				░░	░░	░░	░░	░░	░░
Assessing organizational capacity				░░	░░				
Goal setting				░░	░░				
Message targeting and development	Types of communication				██	██	██		
	Places to communicate message				██	██	██		
	Methods of message delivery				██	██	██		
Message implementation								░░	░░
Monitoring and evaluation								░░	░░

Figure 8: Sample M&E plan

Goal	Activity	Objectively Verifiable Indicator				Means of Verification	Assumptions
		Input	Output	Out-come	Impact		
Pressure the Kenyan representative to the AU to propose increasing the number of UNAMID peace keepers in Darfur	Kenyan CSO letter writing campaign	Date on Darfur and names of Kenyan CSOs	1,000 letters sent to representative	Letters are read with interest	A proposal to the AU by an AU member is introduced asking for an increase of UNAMID peace-keepers in Darfur	A copy of all the letters printed	Enough CSO support, access to information
	Petition campaign	Date on Darfur events to raise awareness	3,000 signatures on petition	Petition is read with interest		A copy of the petition with the signatures	Enough support, public space is available for events
	Evidence-based research report developed and distributed	Consultant, time, date on Darfur	Report	Report is read with interest		A copy of the document	Experts will have time to participate

3.7c Revising your advocacy plans: Throughout the M&E process, you should make sure that any necessary changes are made to your advocacy plan to ensure that you are properly targeting and communicating your message. Be sure to think about the effectiveness of the communication approach, targeting, and other elements of the message delivery process. Be consistent in your message. If it does not seem feasible to implement the appropriate changes during the first planned cycle of the advocacy outreach, the changes can be implemented in a follow-up activity. Otherwise, people might lose faith in your message. Additionally, always follow-up on your actions.

Tips for advocating to the AU

4.1 In General: Make your organization known for its technical leadership on the issue of civilian protection. This will hopefully lead the AU Member States and AUC to invite representatives of your organization to be guest speakers or observers at usually "closed door" meetings. This will enable the opinions your organization has or represents to be heard within the AU. Do not be afraid to deliver policy documents to the AUC itself for consideration. AUC staff members are generally overworked and might be open to policy documents written for their consideration. Sell your organization as a way for the AU to connect with the public to communicate its commitment to civilian protection. Provide opportunities for the AU Member States and AUC to speak at events that your organization or network sets up related to civilian protection. Such events should not be overtly critical of the AU but should be a means for action on the topic. Work through the AUC departments and Ambassadors to the AU to get access to the AU itself. Make sure you understand how the AUC is set up and know which influential people are responsible for what tasks. Work within your organization's host country to get access to information and people. Seek partnerships with respected and respectful international humanitarian organizations that are willing to provide linkages. There are a number of organizations that are well connected to the AU Member States and AUC and want to work with African CSOs to help them have better access and voice. Offer to provide technical assistance, such as writing a policy paper.

4.2 People: Do background research on the AU staff persons and other stakeholders who you want to communicate with. Engage with AU Member States representatives and staff members equally but strategically civil servants are often more familiar with the intricacies of policy implementation and influence, but political appointees often hold more power to make change. Find out who the key players are and what efforts have been undertaken or are planned that relate to your work.

Work through more junior staff members, initially and/or throughout the engagement process as appropriate, as these persons are closely following issues they are responsible for and can influence the decisions of more senior level staff. Remember, however, that the AUC is still a hierarchical organization and you will have to establish formal relationships with high-level staff members.

The AU is committed to the engagement of African Diaspora. Keep this in mind when establishing network and partners.

Create as little additional work as possible for CIDO and other AUC staff.

4.3 Processes: Know what initiatives are underway and which AU units are responsible for them. Become familiar with the AU meetings schedules and seek ways to engage with such meetings, even if peripherally. [*The AU website has a calendar of events available at: http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/index/index.htm*].

Plan for opportunities for engagement well in advance. Know the political agenda but do not let it control you. Know the new doctrine, rules and regulations of the AU. This involves mainly being aware of the elements of the Constitutive Act and the Treaties. [*A full list of treaties and protocols, their status in terms of ratification and entry into force is available at http://www.africa-union.org/root/AU/Documents/Treaties/treaties.htm*].

Work with your country's embassy in Ethiopia to see if it can help.

4.4 Communication: Whenever there is opportunity to voice your opinion, do so in a respectful manner and present evidence and realistic suggestions. Be careful and strategic about your organization's public profile. Find ways to communicate positively about challenging political opponents. Rely on informal means of communication. Promote the ideas of transparency and accountability rather than speaking directly and critically about cases where people or practices are not. Be sure to keep your negotiations professional, i.e. do not accept favors that might compromise your efforts. Be patient, be proactive, be positive.

Communicate your message clearly. Remember to use communicative spaces in the right ways, as discussed in section 3.6b.

ACHA: African Centre for Humanitarian Action
AHA: Africa Humanitarian Action
AU: African Union
AUC: African Union Commission
CCP-AU: Center for Citizens' Participation in the African Union
CIDO: African Citizen's Directorate
CSO: Civil Society Organization
ECOSOCC: Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ICISS: International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty
M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation
OAU: Organization of African Unity
PSC: Peace and Security Council
RAPID: Research and Policy in Development
SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound
SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
UDHR: Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN: United Nations

Accountability: Being held responsible for an action or activity

Civil servants: People working in the public sector

Capacity: The actual or potential ability of an organization to perform

Contestation: To dispute or challenge an idea when there is a strong disagreement

Crimes against humanity: Violence committed against a group of people -the highest level of criminal offense

Diaspora: People living outside of their country of origin

Ethnic cleansing: Planned removal of an ethnic or religious group from a territory by using force or intimidation

Head of State: The person who has the highest position in a state government

Genocide: Systematic and intended extermination of a part or an entire group of people

Indicator: A way of identifying whether something happened and to what degree

In-kind resources: Resources that have a cash value and have been given or loaned

Litigation: To take legal action in order to achieve a goal

Lobby: To try to influence the actions of people for a particular cause

Mandate: An obligation to act in a particular way

Nationality: People belonging to the same nation

Northern: A term that refers to higher income countries

Protocol: A set of procedures or processes for doing something

Secretariat: A unit responsible for supporting the work of an organization

Sovereignty: The independent power a state has over its functions

Stakeholder: A person or a group that has an interest or influence on an issue

State: The governing institutions of a country

Transparency: Providing full and accurate information

War crimes: Crimes committed against people in wartime that violate international laws

The African Union

Organizations

The African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC)
http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/organs/The_Peace_%20and_Security_Council_en.htm

Publications

Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/organs/psc/Protocol_peace%20and%20security.pdf

Report of the third ordinary session of the executive council on the • proposed structure, human re-source requirements and conditions of service for the staff of the commission of the African Union and their financial implications
Executive Council ,Third Ordinary Session
Maputo, Mozambique
4-8 July 2003
http://www.africa-union.org/News_Events/Calendar_of_%20Events/EXECUTIVE%
20COUNCIL/DECISIONS%20Ex.CL%20-%2020-74.pdf

Report on the Continental Civil Society Conference on the Proposed
African Union Government
Ghana Institute for Management and Public Administration: Accra, Ghana, June 2007
http://www.afrimap.org/english/images/research_pdf/Accra_CSO_CONTINENTAL_
CONF_REPORT.pdf

Strengthening Public Participation in the African Union: A guide for you • to contribute to the realiza-tion of the vision of the African Union
Available via e-mail to: panafrica1@oxfam.org.uk

Towards a People-Driven African Union: Current Obstacles & New Opportunities
Ibrahima Kane and Nobuntu Mbelle
OSI: New York, January 2007
http://www.soros.org/resources/articles_publications/publications/people_20070124/au_20070124.pdf

Websites
African Union Website
www.africa-union.org

Overview of the Member States Positions on the Responsibility to Protect
www.reformtheun.org

Advocacy

Publications

The Advocacy Sourcebook
Mary O'Connell, Gideon Burrows, Libby Plumb
WaterAid; London.
http://www.wateraid.org/documents/plugin_documents/advocacy_sourcebook_1.pdf

Civil society and the African Union: towards a continental advocacy strategy for World Vision
Peter da Costa
World Vision: Kenya
April 2007
http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0002580/index.php

Giving Evidence a Voice: Lessons from Engaging with Decision Makers **Fiona Remnant**
Centre for Poverty Analysis
8th Annual Symposium on Poverty Research
Colombo, Sri Lanka
November 2007

Policy Engagement: How Civil Society Can Be More Effective
Julius Court, Enrique Mendizabal, David Osbourne, and John Young
ODI
http://www.odi.org.uk/RAPID/publications/Documents/Policy_engagement_web.pdf

Policy Influencing and Media Engagement Resource Pack
http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Activities/PPA0211/resource_pack.html

Weaving global networks: Handbook for policy influence
Fundación CIPPEC: Buenos Aires, Vanessa Weyrauch
www.cippec.org, infocippec@cippec.org

Working with Policy Makers in Different Countries
John Young
ODI8th
Annual Symposium on Poverty Research
Colombo, Sri Lanka
November 2007

Organisations

The Media Foundation for West Africa
Email: mfwa@africaonline.com.gh

Overseas Development Institute
www.odi.org.uk

Websites
The Advocacy Progress Planner: An Advocacy and Policy Change Composite Logic Model
http://www.planning.continuousprogress.org/impacts_goals

AU Monitor
http://www.pambazuka.org/aumonitor/

Civilian Protection

Organizations

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
http://www.hdcentre.org/

The Darfur Consortium
darfur@darfurconsortium.org www.darfurconsoritum.org

The Development Policy Management Forum (DPMF – Ethiopia)
www.dpmf.org

Genocide Intervention Network
http://www.genocideintervention.net/node/1068

The Henry L. Stimson Center
www.stimson.org

Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
www.issafrica.org

International Crisis Group
www.crisisgroup.org

Netherlands Institute for International Affairs (Clingendael)
www.clingendael.nl

The North-South Institute (NSI – Canada)
www.nsi-ins.ca

Oxfam
www.oxfam.org

UK Institute for Public Policy Research
www.ippr.org.uk

World Federalist Movement
www.wfm.org and www.responsbilitytoprotect.org

Publications
The African Union and the "Responsibility to Protect": From Non- interference to Non-indifference.
Africa Humanitarian Action Addis Abeba, Ethiopia
8 June 2007

Civil Society in Africa: An Assessment and Strategic Perspective
Volume One: Civil Society: A Theoretical Construct
BT Costantinos, PhD
GTZ/UNECA Programme on Civil Society and Political Consensus Building

Civil Society Perspectives on the Responsibility to Protect
The World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy
April 2003

Civil Society Perspectives on the Responsibility to Protect: 10 Years after **the Rwandan Genocide.**
Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Dalhousie University Workshop Report.
Kigali, Rwanda
5-17 February 2004

Africa
Kristiana Powell, Stephen Baranyi
The North South Institute
October 2005

Delivering on the responsibility to protect–Reforming the security sector to protect the most vulnerable in Burundi
Willy Nindorera, Kristiana Powell
he North South Institute
2006

Forging Partnerships and Addressing Forced Displacement in Africa
BT Costantinos, PhD
Africa Humanitarian Action and the African Centre for Humanitarian Action

From Non-intervention to Non-indifference: the Origins and Development of the African Union's Security Culture
Paul D. Williams
African Affairs, April 2007

From Rwanda to Darfur: Responsibility to Protect Humanity in Africa and Our Common Future.: A Darfur Case Study. **BT Costantinos, PhD.**
Power Point Presentation: The African Union and the "Responsibility to Protect": From non-interference to non-indifference
Addis Ababa, 8 June 2007

Humanitarian Negotiation: A Handbook for Securing Access, Assistance and Protection for Civilians in Armed Conflict **Deborah Mancini-Griffoli, André Picot**
Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
October 2004

Humanitarian Protection: A Guidance Booklette•
Hugo Slim Louis Enrique Eguren
ALNAP

The lessons of Darfur for the future of humanitarian intervention
Touko Piiparienen
Volume 13, Issue 3
July – September 2007

ICISS: The Responsibility to Protect
www.ciise-iciss.gc.ca/report-e.asp

The International Responsibility to Protect: The Tasks Ahead
Address by Gareth Evans, President, International Crisis Group and Co-Chair of International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty,
to the seminar "Africa's Responsibility to Protect"
The Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town,
23 April 2007   http://www.ony.unu.edu/seminars/2007/R2P/R2P%20Gareth%20Evanspdf

Interpreting Violence: Anti-civilian Thinking and Practice. How to Argue Against it More Effectively
Hugo Slim, Deborah Mancini-Griffoli
Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2007

Killing Civilians: Method, Madness and Morality in War
Hugo Slim Hurst and Co: London, 2007

*The Pitfalls of action and inaction: Civilian protection in MONUC's peace•
keeping operations*Joshua MarksInstitute for Security Studies, African Security ReviewVolume 16, Issue 3November 2007

Proactive Presence: Field Strategies for Civilian Protection
Liam MahonyCentre for Humanitarian Dialogue2006*Protection: An ALNAP guide for humanitarian agencies•
Hugo Slim and Andrew BonwickALNAP: London, August 2005

*The Responsibility to Protect and the Case of the African Union Mission • in Sudan Cristina Badescu, Linnea Bergholm*Paper presented at the annual meeting of the ISA's 49th Annual Convention,
Bridging Multiple Divides March, 2008

The Responsibility to Protect: East, West and Southern African Perspectives on Preventing and Responding to Humanitarian Crises
Greg Puley September, 2005

The Responsibility to Protect: From Document to Doctrine – But What of Implementation
Harvard Human Rights Journal, Vol. 19

Responsibility to Protect: From Principle to Practice
World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy
R2PCS: Responsibility to Protect Engaging Civil Society
New York, USA

The Responsibility to Protect: is anyone interested in humanitarian intervention?
Macfarlane, S.N., Thielking, C.J., and Weiss, T.G.
Third World Quarterly, Vol. 25, No. 5, pp 977–992. 2004
http://shanghaijournal.squarespace.com/file-storage/DarfurUSA.pdf

Responsibility to Protect-R2P: Perspectives of the South and the North International Workshop Working Group on Development and Peace
Gruppe Friedens-Endwicklung, Floriane Feigs, Annette Lohmann Bonn, Germany October, 2006

Rights to Assistance: Meeting Peoples Need
International Legal Instruments, Policies, Principles and Codes of Practice
BT Costantinos, PhD
Africa Humanitarian Action
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia October 2007

Rwanda: the Preventable Genocide
Report of the African Union

Safeguarding Civilians: Delivering on the Responsibility to Protect in Africa
David Mepham, Alexander Ramsbotham
IPPR: London, 2007

Special Report: Civilian Protection in Armed Conflict
OCHA and IRIN www.irinnews.org

UN Charter
http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/

United Nations Security General Ban Ki-Moon statement on R2P
http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sgsm10996.doc.htm

*The Use of Force and the Responsibility to Protect: A Human Rights
Organisation's Perspective*
Joanna Weschler
Roundtable discussion on UN reform "Building a New Role for the United Nations: the Responsibility to
Protect"
FRIDE: Madrid, 3 June 2005

Why Protect Civilians? Innocence, Immunity and Enmity in War
Hugo Slim
International Affairs Journal, No. 79, Vol. 3, 481-501
2003

All people have the right to human wellbeing. This right, however, is often taken away from them.

The African Union has committed to the concept of non-indifference to human suffering and the right to intervene in states where civilians are not being protected by their own governments. This belief that international actors have the responsibility to protect civilians is purely humanist in ideology and has become a guiding force in humanitarian work.

Regardless of the global commitment to protect civilians, the African Union and its member states face many challenges. Civilians across the continent suffer in humanitarian crises due to the inaction of both their state governments and the intergovernmental entities who have committed to their protection.

African civil society organizations have an important role to play in advocating to the African Union for civilian protection. Civil society organizations work with or near civilians who need protection. These organizations also have the ability to influence the African Union to promote protective action. It is critical for African civil society organizations to build upon their inherent strengths to help protect their fellow Africans.

This toolkit aims to support African civil society organizations to enhance their capacity in advocacy to the African Union as a means of providing a much needed voice for civilian protection.