A nation state needs a crisis prevention that is worth our common efforts. For this aim and objective "crisis prevention" is a challenge and a duty of the IFIMES. We have common goals and objectives: IFIMES is a very important part in the world-wide network. The Reality tells us that many nation states do not have the instruments for "crisis prevention" nor the political resolve to start. Let's start with a nation state.

How should "crisis prevention" work?

Political leaders and the public learn about crises and conflicts if and when CNN cameras transport the horrifying pictures via TV monitors into our homes. Political leaders enjoy their surprise about emerging crises and conflicts in Rwanda, Haiti, Former Yugoslavia, Ivory Coast, Con go, Middle East, Former Soviet Union, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Afghanistan – just to name a few. They react – and sometimes overreact – in panic, pour a lot of resources into damage control and promise to improve the next time. The reality tells us that many nation states do not have the instruments for "crisis prevention"; they are not political leaders to use this knowledge on their desks. He has to "sell" it to the decision-makers – including the adviser – who should do what and when and how?

Expect the unexpected?

"Crisis prevention – still an illusion?"

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INFORMATIONS ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

IFIMES – International Institute for Middle-East and Balkan studies, based in Ljubljana - Slovenia, gathers and selects various information and sources on key conflict areas in the world. Based on the selected information, the Institute analyses mutual relations among parties with an aim to promote the importance of global conflict resolution of the existing conflicts and the role of preventive actions against new global disputes.

Idea to establish IFIMES Institute is a reflection of our common reality and the needs of the world to reach for common solutions – now more than ever in the past. Common interests and bonds among different policies, nations, religions, world regions and diverse interest parties in the unipolar world are essential. Constant search for differences and rejections is like searching for a needle in a pack of hay, while insisting on cooperation and respect for diversity provides a chance to create a better world.

The area of research and work of IFIMES Institute is the Middle East (Gulf states) and the Balkans (South-Eastern Europe), where relations among different entities are based on religious, ethnic, national and racial grounds. Associates of the Institute are respected experts, scientists, managers, journalists and researchers, who are introducing younger colleagues from all over the world to work, with a purpose of additional education, promotion of knowledge and scientific achievements with an emphasis on the political and economic connections within the region, among the regions and on the global level.

The IFIMES Institute is through organizing seminars, symposiums, conferences, round tables, (with participants from various interest groups: scientists, politicians, managers, representatives of religious institutions, journalists, artists and others), performing analyses, studies and projects, as well as through its own publications presenting the results of its work and achievements, also targeting leading international media.

IFIMES will in the future cooperate with relevant institutions from the USA, EU, Gulf states and countries from South-Eastern Europe on projects, studies and analyses prepared individually or based on specific demands from a known party. The activities of IFIMES are especially directed towards the areas of international (foreign) politics and economy, international relations, counselling the state institutions, companies and individuals and more.

IFIMES is searching for and recommending political solutions to the govern-
ments of the world, especially and foremost for the regions of the Balkans and the Middle East.

The International Institute IFIMES is a partner of:

- World Security Network, New York
- Globalvision News Network, New York
- Mejdunarodniyi obchestvenyi fond »Eksperimentalniyi tvorcheskiyi centr«, Kurginyana Center, Moscow

The International Institute IFIMES is a co-founder of the International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC), Herzliya, Israel.

The Global Development Network from Washington has marked the relevancy of the researches performed by the International Institute IFIMES with the relevancy rate of 93,00%.
FOUNDERS OF ICTAC - INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC), was established at ICT’s third international conference in September 2003. The ICTAC’s members include leading counter-terrorism researchers and research institutes from countries around the globe. Among ICTAC’s goals: developing and expanding academic cooperation in counter-terrorism; conducting research that will lead to more efficient decision-making in counter-terrorism; promoting new policies and initiatives to fight terrorism:

- International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Israel
- International Institute for Middle-East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES), Slovenia
- Unconventional Concepts, Inc., USA
- Georgia International Law Enforcement, Exchange-Dept of Criminal Justice, Georgia State University, USA
- Center for Tactical Counter-Terrorism for the NYPD Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), Singapore
- International Foundation Experimental Creativity Center, Russia
- Center for High Studies on Counter-Terrorism and Political Violence (Ce.A.S.), Italy
- Oklahoma Regional Community Policing Institute, USA
- National Center for Emergency Preparedness at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, USA
- Environmental Planning Specialists, Inc-and-Georgia State University, USA
- Counter-Terrorism Research Center of Georgia, Georgia
- Center of Security & Terrorism Research, Institute of Political Studies, SCG
- Center for Globalization Studies, SCG
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED?

For years “Crisis management” and “Crisis prevention” have been key words in the political debate. Unfortunately, no significant progress has been achieved. The world still has to live with surprises – crises and conflicts emerge without early warnings. Political leaders and the public learn about crises and conflicts if and when CNN cameras transport the horrifying pictures via TV into our homes. Political leaders express their surprise about emerging crises and conflicts in Rwanda, Haiti, Former Yugoslavia, Ivory Coast, Congo, Middle East, Former Soviet Union, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Afghanistan – just to name a few. They react – and sometimes overreact – in panic, pour a lot of resources into damage control and promise to improve the tools for “crisis prevention” – and then forget the crisis and measures for “crisis prevention until the next crisis emerge. Is this cycle a natural law? Are those political crises – like Tsunami – a fact of life we have to live with fatalistically? Are we not capable with all our instruments of world-wide access to information, communications, computers, exchange of knowledge within a nation, between nations and alliances, state and non-state organisations to net a safer world? Are we not willing to spend some money to prevent crises and conflicts? Is there no political resolve to - at least – reduce the number of surprises?

HOW SHOULD “CRISIS PREVENTION” WORK?

Let’s start with a nation state. Governments of nation states should feel the obligation to develop an “early warning system” – at home and abroad. The governments should define their vital national interests: What do we need to know from selected countries and regions?
The factors which might lead to crises and conflicts are well-known:

- Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
- International terrorism combined with organised crime
- Production, transport and consumptions of drugs
- Human trafficking
- Ethnic minorities under pressure
- Religious tensions
- Social tensions – such as the level of unemployment especially of young people
- Territorial claims
- Rift between the have- and the have-not
- Level of education
- Status of women
- Status of health care
- Environmental problems
- Cultural tensions
- Strains from history
- Shortage of strategically important raw material, energy, crude oil, gas and water and resulting dependencies
- “no future” feeling of the “losers” of industrialisation and globalisation
- demographic development – over ageing and overpopulation in poor countries
- Flight from the country into “Megapolis”
- Migration
- “failed states”
- Non-state armed groups
- Shortage of food

These factors do not need further explanation, they are self-explanatory. Where and when some factors are combined crisis and conflicts become almost inevitable.

A nation state needs a “National Security Adviser” who systematically observes the factors which might create crises and conflicts at home and abroad. He needs an interdisciplinary team with expertise from all walks of politically relevant areas.

This team forms a hub in a national and international network of state and non-state organisations - UN, NATO, EU, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, African Union, ASEAN states, G-8, G-21, OECD, OSEC, research institutes, multinational companies – and so forth.

Computer freaks can use the opportunities of the internet. As “Open source intelligence (OSINT)
All these sources fill an ocean of information. The art of “crisis prevention” is to select the relevant information and transfer this “unfinished intelligence” into knowledge as “finished intelligence”.

**WHAT TO DO WITH “FINISHED INTELLIGENCE”?**

It makes no sense if and when the “National Security Advisor” keeps this knowledge on his desk. He has to “sell” it to the decision-makers – including the advice: who should do what and when and how? That’s not an easy task.
Governments in democracies tend to think and act in short periods of time – looking at the next election. Why should a government invest scares resources when a crisis is still beyond the horizon of public awareness? Why should they tackle a problem of the future under pressure of pressing actual competing issues? The reality tells us that many nation states do not have the instruments for “crisis prevention” nor the political resolve to start. They accept to be surprised and to react instead of pro-active decisions and actions.

**WHAT IS THE PRIZE FOR FAILED “CRISIS PREVENTION”?**

The prize for failed “crisis prevention” can be seen in the media. Crises and conflicts are very expensive. Losses of lives, destruction of infrastructure, deployment of military and police forces, costly damage control, expensive reconstruction of the infrastructure as well as nation and state building. If crises and conflicts are not brought to a satisfying end the next crisis and conflict is borne. Responsive governments and individuals have to break this vicious circle in the interest of mankind.

**THE VALUE OF IFIMES’ CONTRIBUTION**

As consumer I appreciate very much the contribution of IFIMES in the area of “Crisis prevention”. The in-depth going analyses about the development in the Middle East and in the Balkans are very helpful for decision-makers and other institutions which work in a similar way. These analyses are part of an “early warning system” telling decision-makers where crises and conflicts might occur. IFIMES is a very important part in the world-wide network. As Global Editor of www.worldsecuritynetwork.com I benefit from the products of IFIMES. We have common goals and objectives: Network a safer and better world. For this aim and objective “crisis prevention” is a challenge and worth our common efforts.