

Opportunities for information-sharing between the UN and other organizations must be expanded, so that different voices can be heard across the early warning system. But care must be taken in doing so, in order that neither the UN nor NGOs risk compromising their sources as a result.

Professor Stein noted that there exists a problem whereby middle and senior level officials in the UN Secretariat avoid pushing information up to higher levels within the organization for fear that it will be poorly received by the Security Council. It may be that other sources of warning, e.g. within the NGO community, do not suffer from such internally-imposed constraints. Thus it might be better not to co-ordinate the gathering of information, but rather co-ordinate the dissemination of warnings so that the various organizations that provide early warning could do so with a common voice.

The biggest problem is success. What the ICG is doing does not generate much media attention. More broadly, the international community may not know if small actions and efforts that are undertaken produce change, as the media tend to focus only on large-scale actions and results.