



**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

**Background Note**

**for**

**Expert Group Meeting on Conflict Prevention, Peace-building  
and Development**

**United Nations Headquarters  
New York  
15 November 2004**

**Date of issue: 29 October 2004**

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**A. Introduction**

1. The United Nations has undertaken measures to promote a comprehensive approach on conflict prevention, peace-building and development. In these efforts, addressing the dynamics of the socio-economic causes of violent conflict and finding approaches and means to obviate them are a matter of primary concern. DESA's mandate and comparative advantages in the economic, social and related fields make it an important player in providing policy and programmatic advice and inputs into the UN system's efforts in this area. While individual Divisions of DESA have been integrating issues of conflict prevention and peace-building in their work, an overarching and strategic framework has yet to be developed on how best DESA can contribute to the work of other UN actors and how best it can mainstream conflict prevention, peace-building and development in its own work.

2. With this objective in mind, a DESA Task Force was established to develop a strategic framework; to devise methodologies, instruments, mechanisms and tools to mainstream issues of conflict prevention, peace-building and development within its own work; and play a greater role in integrating socio-economic issues in conflict prevention and peace-building in cooperation and collaboration with other actors.

3. The Task Force will hold an Expert Group meeting in New York on 15 November 2004, which will contribute to the on-going work within DESA by: (a) reviewing thematic areas and DESA's comparative advantages in these areas; (b) taking stock of approaches and activities being pursued by other UN entities in this area; and (c) developing a framework for DESA's future work on conflict prevention and peace-building. This Expert Group meeting is a first step of a process which will lead to the development of such a framework.

**B. Background**

4. The UN Charter<sup>1</sup> recognizes the nexus between peace and security and development. Peace enhances development opportunities while development can help prevent conflicts and reinforce peace and security. Wars and armed conflict clearly setback, if not destroy

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<sup>1</sup> Article 55

With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, the United Nations shall promote:

a. higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;  
b. solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational co-operation;  
and  
c. universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

development efforts. Their prevention, resolution and post conflict rehabilitation are, therefore, a matter of deep concern to all development actors.

5. Several Reports of the Secretary-General have addressed this question. In his report (A/52/871–S/1998/318 of April 1998): “The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”, the Secretary-General addressed the sources of conflict, responses to situations of conflict, as well as mechanisms to build durable peace and promote economic growth in Africa. Issues of social development, social justice, investment in human resources, and public health priorities were highlighted.

6. In another seminal report, “Prevention of Armed Conflict” (A/55/985 – S/2001/574 dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2001), the Secretary-General reviewed progress that has been achieved in developing conflict prevention capacity within the United Nations, and presented 29 recommendations on how these could be further enhanced. The report identified specific contributions that can be made by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice. Several recommendations on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and outside actors, such as regional organizations, NGOs, civil society and the business community in preventing armed conflict were also included in the report. The Security Council held an open debate on the report and adopted resolution 1366 (2001) welcoming its recommendations. The General Assembly adopted resolution 55/281 calling upon all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to consider the recommendations addressed to them and to inform the General Assembly of their views in this regard. Another resolution to continue consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict was subsequently adopted in September 2002 ([A/RES/56/512](#)). The General Assembly also decided to include in the provisional agenda of its 59<sup>th</sup> session (current session) the item: “Prevention of armed conflict”.

7. On 23 September 2003, the Secretary-General announced the establishment of a High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change with three distinct objectives: (a) to examine today’s global threats and provide an analysis of future challenges to international peace and security, including the connections between them, (b) identify clearly the contribution that collective action can make in addressing these challenges, and assess existing approaches, instruments and mechanisms, and (c) recommend the changes necessary to ensure effective collective action, including but not limited to a review of the principal organs of the United Nations. The Panel has been asked to address both “hard threats” to international peace and security, such as terrorism and proliferation, and “soft threats” emanating from socio-economic and environmental challenges. While announcing the Panel, the Secretary-General said: “*The United Nations must confront all these threats and challenges – new and old, “hard” and “soft”. It must be fully engaged in the struggle for development and poverty eradication, starting with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; in the common struggle to protect our common environment; and in the struggle for human rights, democracy and good governance*”. The report of the panel is expected at the end of 2004.

### **C. An overview of the existing approaches and frameworks to integrate conflict prevention, peace-building and development.<sup>2</sup>**

8. The challenges in addressing the linkages between socio-economic causes and armed conflict fall into two broad categories. Firstly, there is the challenge of working with Member States, Governments and the civil society before the eruption of violent conflict and to address their root causes. Secondly, there is also the challenge of ensuring that the UN peace operations and in post-conflict situations build capacity to address the root causes of conflict in a sustainable and integrated way. Both of these challenges can be addressed by approaching conflict prevention, peace-building and development in a more coordinated and comprehensive manner. There has been significant progress within the UN in addressing conflict prevention, peace-building and development more comprehensively through a wide array of political, developmental, humanitarian, and human rights programmes and mechanisms.

9. Increasingly, the Security Council has been integrating issues related to peace and security with development, human rights, gender, natural resources, small arms and cross-border issues in its resolutions and Presidential Statements. Likewise, in the General Assembly, as well as in the ECOSOC and its Functional Commissions, there is an increasing trend to look at these issues in a more interlinked and integrated manner. Within the UN Departments too, this trend has gained significant momentum. For example, the DPKO and DPA peace missions have been increasingly addressing socio-economic and developmental issues alongside the enforcement of peace and security. Similarly, in its analyses of political situations, the DPA has been integrating development, human rights and humanitarian issues. The UNDP too has been actively involved in crisis prevention, early warning and conflict resolution and recovery along with its role as a development agency.

10. Despite the positive trend, it is widely acknowledged that the UN needs to achieve a greater coordination and coherence of its activities in conflict prevention, peace-building and development. In this respect, several inter-agency processes have been set up which bring together UN actors in order to work towards a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to conflict prevention. Two such processes may be mentioned here. The UN Interdepartmental Framework for Co-ordination on Early Warning and Preventive Action ("Framework Team" or "FT"), created in 1995, brings together 23 UN agencies, departments, offices and programs under one umbrella to initiate and coordinate early preventive action in situations that potentially may develop into a complex emergency or violent conflict. The FT has helped in linking the field work of the UN with the evaluation at headquarters.

11. The UN has also made efforts to analyze the politico-economic causes of conflict. In July 2003, the Senior Management Group established an inter-agency group called: Informal Group on the Political Economy of Armed Conflicts, (Chaired by the

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<sup>2</sup> Annexure 1 provides details of the work of the United Nations entities and others in the realm of conflict prevention and peace-building

Department of Political Affairs), to propose tools, mechanisms and programmes whereby the UN system can better address the economic incentives and disincentives that underlie armed conflicts. The group is in the process of developing an Action Plan addressing the linkages between economic factors and armed conflict such as, the illicit exploitation and transfer of valuable natural resources; profitable war economies; small arms; drugs; profitable soldiering; and the role of the organized corporate sector.

12. Analyzing the current state of the UN system's institutional response to conflict prevention (A/58/365 – S/2003/888 of 12 September 2003), the Secretary-General notes that "(T)here is also a trend towards multidimensional and long-term approaches to conflict prevention, building systematic linkages between developmental and political conflict prevention activities of the United Nations system".

#### **D. DESA's role and comparative advantage in addressing conflict prevention, peace-building and development.**

13. DESA is also pursuing this approach in its work. Its comparative advantages in building on the inter-linkages between conflict prevention, peace-building and development are based, inter alia, on the following strengths:

- its capacity to *convene and promote norm-setting* on development issues, including in situations of potential conflict and in the post-conflict stages, particularly, through the GA, ECOSOC and its Functional Commissions. Few other UN Departments service a wide array of Functional Commissions, their coordinating body (ECOSOC) and Committees of the General Assembly;
- its *analytical work* at the global level contributes to improved research and analyses of the underlying causes of violent conflict and helps promote early warning and its prevention (e.g. its flagship publications: The World Economic and Social Survey, The Report on the World Social Situation, The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, The World Population Monitoring, and The World Public Sector Report);
- its *subject-specific expertise* in the domains of economic and social development, sustainable development, governance, gender, *et al*, effectively adds value to conflict prevention and peace-building policies, programmes and activities;
- its strong *links and outreach with civil society* networks and development actors provides it with a unique capacity to mobilize such networks and actors both at the international as well as at the local levels;
- its programmatic links with the *UN Regional Commissions* provides a two way mutually reinforcing channel for both receiving and providing information, analyses, research and expertise on programmes and activities on conflict prevention, peace-building and development.

- Its *coordination mechanisms* like EC-ESA (Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs) provide it with a vehicle to mainstream the issue of conflict prevention and peace-building with its development related work.

14. Given these comparative advantages and in the context of its mandate covering a wide range of social and economic development issues, DESA has a pivotal role to play in addressing socio-economic factors that underlie violent conflicts. Specifically, DESA can add value in the following areas:

(a) ***in conflict prevention*** by identifying and addressing socio-economic and institutional causes of potential conflicts through research, analysis, information sharing with Member States, civil society and other UN entities; and

(b) ***in peace-building***, particularly, in peace processes and in post conflict rehabilitation through policy development, capacity building, advocacy and information sharing, including on best practices.

#### **E. DESA's activities in conflict prevention, peace-building and development.**

15. DESA has been focusing its attention on conflict prevention, peace-building and development by:

- Providing substantive support to the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African Countries Emerging from Conflicts, such as the Group on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi and the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, working closely with DPA, UNDP and relevant agencies, which facilitates a coordinated evaluation of the social, economic and security issues in those countries;
- Enhancing DESA's participation in such mechanisms as the Framework Team;
- Mainstreaming gender and bringing gender perspectives to the center of peace processes, including, conflict prevention, management and resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building;
- Strengthening technical cooperation activities for capacity building at the country level in conflict prevention and peace-building;
- Developing a conceptual/operational framework: "Social Integration as Peace-building: By, For and With People", which addresses the inter-relationship between social integration and peace-building;
- Analyzing the impact of conflict on natural resource management and the relationship between natural resource endowments and causes of conflicts.

16. Several divisions of DESA have subsumed conflict prevention and peace-building within their programmes and activities. In doing so, they have built upon the comparative advantages that it has in this area. The following paragraphs will provide a brief

overview of the work of some of DESA's Divisions in the area of conflict prevention, peace-building and development:

(a) *Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination*: The Division coordinates the substantive servicing of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups. There are three Advisory Groups: (i) on Haiti (1999; revived in 2004), (ii) on Guinea-Bissau, and (iii) on Burundi. The Advisory Group examines humanitarian and economic needs of the country concerned; reviews relevant programmes of support and prepares recommendations for a long-term programme of support, based on its development priorities through the integration of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development into a comprehensive approach to peace and stability; and also provides advice on how to ensure that the assistance of the international community in supporting the country concerned is adequate, coherent, well-coordinated and effective and promotes synergy. Recently, the Council evaluated the performance of the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Burundi and Guinea-Bissau and decided to extend their mandates. It also decided to revive the Group on Haiti.

(b) *The Social Integration Branch of the Division for Social Policy and Development*: is addressing the interrelationship of social integration and peace-building based on the commitments contained in the "World Summit for Social Development". An approach of social integration as peace-building is being developed through research and participatory dialogue with UN entities and civil society practitioners. The focus is on people-centered conflict resolution and development conceived "by, for and with people". Outreach is being undertaken to interested constituencies, such as, Indigenous Peoples, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. The current research and dialogue will feed into proposed technical meetings and field testing that, in turn, will support a policy dialogue on people-centered peace-building.

(c) *The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI)*: promote the incorporation of the gender perspective into all UN conflict prevention and resolution, peace-building, peacekeeping, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. DAW and OSAGI have successfully advocated for a strong focus on the role of women in peace-building and conflict resolution in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Security Council and in the General Assembly. The CSW discussed the issue of women and armed conflict as a priority theme in its 42<sup>nd</sup> Session in 1998 and again in its 48<sup>th</sup> session in 2004. Women and armed conflict forms one of the critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action and in the Outcome Document of the UN Special Session Women in 2000. Successful advocacy by OSAGI and DAW led to the inclusion of a thematic agenda: "Women, Peace and Security" in the Security Council in 2000. The Council adopted a resolution 1325 (2000) which, inter alia, highlighted the importance of bringing gender perspectives to the center of peace processes, including, conflict prevention, management and resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building. Its implementation is being monitored by the Council annually.

(d) *Division for Public Administration and Development Management*: Among the core areas of its work are: (a) capacity building of government institutions in conflict prevention and management; and (b) post-conflict reconstruction of governance and public administration institutions. The Division assists in building capacities of governance and public administration in managing conflict and promoting development in post-conflict situations.

(e) *The Division for Sustainable Development*: has a watching brief on key and emerging policy issues relating to natural resources and conflict, in the context of its work on integrated natural resource management. Analysis of the impact of conflict on resource management and the relationship between natural resource endowments and causes of conflicts has been incorporated in the normative and analytical tasks performed by the Division, including by providing inputs for the Secretary-General's reports. In 2003, the Division liaised with the World Bank and was tasked with coordinating UN inputs to the World Bank work on Governance of Natural Resources and Conflict. The Division also worked on several technical cooperation projects in post-conflict areas.

(f) *The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests*: is analyzing issues related to conflict timber and other socio-economic and political factors, in the context of sustainable forest management. It is also liaising with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, particularly the World Bank, CIFOR, UNDP and FAO in the preparation of analytical studies on the impact on and the role of forests in armed conflicts, as well as examining the potential contribution of the forest sector in conflict prevention and peace building.

#### **F. What gaps exist in DESA's work in this area?**

17. While DESA's activities have helped to promote inter-linkages between conflict prevention and development, they have often been disparate and have been carried out within the limited thematic perspective of its individual Divisions. For example, the Division for the Advancement of Women has approached the issue from the gender perspective, Division for Sustainable Development through the natural resource lens etc. What is needed now is the development of a cohesive and seamless approach to the treatment of conflict prevention, peace-building and development. The absence of such a unified framework or approach that looks at the issues holistically and strategically has reinforced the fragmented and disjointed nature of DESA's work in this area. This gap may also explain the absence of a robust socio-economic developmental contribution to the political processes that seek to defuse crisis and prevent the break-down of peace or to mechanisms that seek to build peace or enforce peace. Due to the same reason, the developmental dimension has also not found a significant niche within the human rights regime or in that of the rule of law. In another area where the nexus between conflict prevention, peace-building and development could have been made cross-cutting and this has yet to take place, is in the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and in the integrated follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

18. While DESA has been interacting with, and providing inputs to, other Departments and organizations in their work related to conflict prevention, peace-building and development, this has yet to be done in an institutionalized manner. This is also true in the case of DESA's representation in the different mechanisms and processes dealing with this issue. There is a need for some sort of a focal point to ensure intra-departmental integration and inter-departmental coordination as well as DESA's appropriate representation on mechanisms on conflict prevention, peace-building and development.

19. The imperative now is to put together a single strategic framework along with coordination mechanisms that, literally speaking, "joins the dots" within DESA. Such a strategic framework would significantly contribute to greater coherence and a common understanding on issues related to conflict prevention, peace-building and development within DESA and strengthen its inter-linkages with other UN entities. The development of such a **framework** is therefore a central challenge.

#### **G. What can to be done to bring about greater coherence and increase the impact of DESA's work in this area?**

20. Recognizing this challenge, DESA has started taking steps toward a more integrated, focused and coherent<sup>3</sup> approach in its work on the nexus between conflict prevention, peace-building and development both (i) internally and (ii) with other UN departments and agencies, as well as with member states and the civil society. Towards this end, a **DESA Task Force** on conflict prevention has been convened to develop such an integrated framework. The Task Force has been meeting to discuss various aspects of the issues and as a part of its ongoing consultative process, it will hold an Expert Group meeting on 15 November 2004 which will bring together UN practitioners, academicians and other stakeholders in order to obtain inputs and possible approaches for DESA's work, and to develop a conceptual strategic framework on the nexus between conflict prevention, peace-building and development.

#### **H. Expert Group Meeting (15 November 2004)**

##### ***a) Objectives of the Expert Group Meeting***

21. Based on DESA's expertise, strengths and institutional challenges that it faces, the following issues have been selected for discussion in the Expert Group meeting:

- Structural causes of conflict and the role of sustainable development: conflict prevention and peace-building perspectives, with specific focus on (i) socio-economic development policies and conflict prevention and (ii) natural resource governance and conflict prevention;

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<sup>3</sup> The UN Secretary-General in his report on "Prevention of Armed Conflict" (A/55/985-S/2001/574) of 7 June 2001 presented a compelling rationale for moving the United Nations from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention. He observed that there are activities of the UN system that have preventive effects or at least preventive potential but they are often disparate and inchoate. He identified the central challenge as how to mobilize the collective potential of the United Nations system with greater coherence and focus for conflict prevention.

- Socio-economic and institutional challenges of post-conflict peace-building and development: a long term perspective
- Partnerships and civil society: roles and capabilities in conflict prevention and peace-building
- Institutional approaches and mechanisms for conflict prevention, peace-building and development

22. The Expert Group meeting will also take stock of existing approaches and activities being pursued by various Offices in the United Nations in the area of conflict prevention, peace-building and development and in that context, review DESA's work and delineate its comparative advantages.

<p>Some possible questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) What are the current approaches of different UN entities in the integration of socio-economic aspects of conflict prevention and peace-building?</li> <li>ii) In the continuum from “relief to development”, how are different UN entities approaching the underlying socio-economic causes of conflict?</li> <li>iii) How can DESA contribute to the integration of conflict prevention, peace-building and development keeping in mind its own comparative advantages?</li> <li>iv) What should be DESA’s role in UN efforts to achieve a comprehensive and coherent approach to conflict prevention, peace-building and long term development?</li> </ul>
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23. Drawing from the above exercise, the Expert Group meeting will help in developing a vision and a well-defined strategic framework for DESA's future work on conflict prevention and peace-building and development that will strengthen coherence and complementarity of its mandated activities and optimize its inherent strengths.

<p>Some possible questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i.) How should DESA organize itself in order that its comparative advantages are maximized and it provides analyses, reports, and policy papers to the Charter bodies that it services, to the UN entities, and to Member States, effectively and in a more coordinated manner?</li> <li>ii.) What institutional mechanisms or approaches should DESA employ to integrate the issue in its work and what mechanism or</li> </ul>
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tools should be in place for its coordination with other UN actors in this field?

***b) Expected Outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting***

24. The meeting is expected to contribute to the following objectives:

- Development of a *clearly defined framework/approach* to consolidate and deepen the on-going activities of DESA in this area and to give a clear direction for its future work;
- Promote *intra-departmental coherence, coordination and common approach* to the issue;
- Development of mechanisms to *strengthen institutional linkages* with other organizations and departments working in this area;
- Proposals on *specific initiatives and/or projects* on which DESA could embark in order to deepen its work and contribution in this field.

***c) Participants***

25. Participants will include academicians, practitioners, representatives from relevant UN entities, including the World Bank, and DESA staff members.

***d) Programme of the meeting***

26. A programme of the meeting is attached.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

Since there is no single consensual definition of the terms: “conflict prevention” and “peace-building”, for purposes of this Note, the two terms will have the following meaning which have been drawn from Secretary-General’s reports and Security Council resolutions.

### **Conflict prevention**

Conflict prevention involves actions meant to prevent the outbreak of violent conflicts and serve as an alternative to costly politico-military operations to resolve conflicts after they have broken out. One of the principal aims of preventive action is to address deep-rooted socio-economic, cultural, environmental, institutional and other structural causes that often underlie the immediate political symptoms of conflicts. An effective conflict prevention strategy encompasses political, diplomatic, humanitarian, human rights, developmental, institutional and other measures. Conflict prevention and sustainable and equitable development are mutually reinforcing.

**(A/55/985-S/2001/574 dated 7 June 2001)**

### **Peace Building**

Peace-building is aimed at preventing the outbreak, the recurrence or continuation of armed conflict and therefore encompasses a wide range of political, developmental, humanitarian and human rights programmes and mechanisms. This requires short and long-term actions tailored to address the particular needs of societies sliding into conflict or emerging from it. These actions should focus on fostering sustainable institutions and processes in areas such as sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and inequalities, transparent and accountable governance, the promotion of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence.

**(S/PRST/2001/5 dated 20 February 2001).**

## Activities of UN and other entities in conflict prevention

### Department of Political Affairs

The primary political responsibility within the United Nations for conflict prevention, peace-building and peacemaking rests with the Department of Political Affairs (DPA). DPA's focus is on the Organization's capacity for early warning, good offices and non-military measures to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts and for resolution of conflicts that have erupted. A considerable part of the preventive work of DPA is done in support of special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General, as well as field-based missions and offices. Peace-building support offices work closely with country teams and non-resident UN agencies/offices, in developing multifaceted programmes that address many root causes of conflicts. Examples include improving support for democratic principles, equitable access to public media, security sector reform, promoting tolerance and respect for human rights and providing technical assistance for the constitution and national institutions. As part of DPA, the UN Electoral Assistance Division in cooperation with UNDP has provided assistance in more than 150 electoral processes. DPA is also strengthening its capacity to carry out its role as focal point for post-conflict peace-building within the UN system and to support the increasing number of UN peace-building operations, in partnership with other UN actors. As such, DPA has launched the following initiatives: (i) joint UNDP/DPA project on conflict prevention initiatives. Among others this aims to integrate the conflict prevention lens into the UNDAF/CCA and includes the peace and development advisor. The funding for this initiative is provided by the UN foundation; and (ii) Interdepartmental working groups hosted by DPA on three topics, respectively; (a) newly restored democracies; (b) political economy of conflict; and (c) resource group on conflict prevention

### Department of Peacekeeping Operations

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations' (DPKO) mission is to plan, prepare, manage and direct UN peacekeeping operations, so that they can effectively fulfill their mandates under the overall authority of the Security Council and General Assembly, and under the command vested in the Secretary-General. DPKO provides political and executive direction to UN peacekeeping operations, and maintains contact with the Security Council, troop and financial contributors, and parties to the conflict in the implementation of Security Council mandates. The department also provides guidance and support on military, police, mine action, and logistical and administrative issues to other UN political and peace-building missions. Each peacekeeping operation has a specific set of mandated tasks, but all share certain common aims - to alleviate human suffering, and create conditions and build institutions for self-sustaining peace. Peacekeeping operations may consist of several components, including a military component, which may or may not be armed, and various civilian components encompassing a broad range of disciplines. Depending on their mandate, peacekeeping missions may be required to: (a) deploy to prevent the outbreak of conflict or the spill-over of conflict across borders; (b) stabilize conflict situations after a cease fire, to create an environment for the parties to reach a lasting peace agreement; (c) assist in implementing comprehensive peace agreements; and (d) lead states or territories through a transition to stable government, based on democratic principles, good governance and economic development.

## **Department for Disarmament Affairs**

The department promotes the goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the strengthening of the disarmament regimes in respect to other weapons of mass destruction. It also promotes disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially land mines and small arms. Practical disarmament measures were undertaken when the General Assembly invited interested States to establish a group in order to assist those states that face problems arising out of post-conflict or post-turmoil situations (e.g., demobilization, reintegration of former combatants into civil society, weapons collection programmes). A group of “interested States in practical disarmament measures” was set up with an initial objective to examine, and wherever possible, support concrete projects of practical disarmament, particularly as designed and initiated by affected countries. At the recommendation of the group, the Secretary-General created in 1998 a Trust Fund for the Consolidation of Peace through Practical Disarmament Measures, which supported a number of projects including one in Albania where the civilian population is encouraged to voluntarily surrender weapons in exchange for community development incentives. The activities of the department concerning disarmament and development are carried out within a framework adopted by the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development established by the Secretary-General in 1999 in order to revisit the relationship between disarmament and development in the context of current international relations. The Steering Group, which meets as and when required, consists of the heads of the DDA, DESA, DPKO and UNDP. DDA also focuses on the issues of gender and disarmament as well as children and disarmament.

## **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) was established pursuant to the adoption of the Secretary-Generals programme for reform. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/182, the Emergency Relief Coordinator’s functions are focused in three core areas: (a) policy development and coordination functions in support of the Secretary-General, ensuring that all humanitarian issues, including those which fall between gaps in existing mandates of agencies such as protection and assistance for internally displaced persons, are addressed; (b) advocacy of humanitarian issues with political organs, notably the Security Council; and (c) coordination of humanitarian emergency response, by ensuring that an appropriate response mechanism is established on the ground, through Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) consultations. As a tool for early warning and possible prevention, the Humanitarian Early Warning System (HEWS) identifies crises with humanitarian implications. Through multi-sectoral analysis of indicators, both long-term and short-term, evaluation of trends and in-depth field-based information, HEWS informs decision-makers at headquarters about the likelihood and extent of crises. An extensive database of base-line information for more than 100 countries supports this activity.

## **UN Office on Drugs and Crime**

The activities of UNODC contribute to the prevention of armed conflict in two main areas: first, activities to counter transnational crime, particularly the illicit trafficking of drugs and money-laundering, diminish the fund-raising capacities of potential insurgents/aggressors; second, activities to curtail illicit trafficking in firearms reduce the availability of such weapons and thereby the readiness of antagonists to engage in armed conflict.

## UNDP

UNDP has been actively involved in crisis prevention, early warning and conflict resolution and recovery. The UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery assists the field offices to set up and provide support to justice and security reform, small arms reduction, disarmament and demobilization, mine action, conflict prevention and peace-building, and recovery. BCPR builds capacities of governments and civil societies to analyze potential risk factors that could give rise to violent conflict and to develop strategies to address structural root causes. In 2002, UNDP launched its global Crisis Prevention and Recovery Knowledge network to enhance exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

### **The UN Interdepartmental Framework for Co-ordination on Early Warning and Preventive Action ("Framework Team" or "FT")**

This Framework brings together the various arms of the UN under one umbrella, devising conflict prevention strategies, encompassing the relevant thematic areas directly related to the work of the UN. The Framework Team was created in 1995 to co-ordinate planning and operational activities among the humanitarian, peacekeeping and political sectors of the UN Secretariat in connection with peacekeeping missions. The FT's objective has since evolved to initiate and coordinate early preventive action among 23 UN agencies, departments, offices and programs. The FT addresses situations with the potential to develop into a complex emergency or violent conflict. The FT's role in the UN system is to act as a catalyst, to draw attention to early warning signs and to instigate action to diffuse a potentially violent situation. It is intended as "gearbox" between the field and Headquarters, channeling early warning information and suggestions on preventive and preemptive measures from the field to the appropriate forum and decision-making bodies at Headquarters. The actions suggested by FT are usually brought to the Executive Committees on Peace and Security and for Humanitarian Affairs, or directly to the Secretary-General for endorsement.

### **Informal Group on the Political Economy of Armed Conflicts**

In July 2003, the Senior Management Group of the UN decided to establish inter-agency group, Informal Group on the Political Economy of Armed Conflicts, chaired by the Department of Political Affairs, to propose tools, mechanisms and programmes wherein the UN system can better address the economic incentives and disincentives that underlie armed conflicts. In particular, the Group was tasked to assess the current framework of interaction between the security and development parts of the UN system and refine or adapt it to better respond to the political economy of conflicts. The Group is in the process of developing an action plan, which will largely focus on building of effective system of governance that can ensure an equitable distribution of key natural resources, inhibit the illicit exploitation and transfer of precious minerals, and guard against drug trafficking and illicit trade in small arms in a just and equitable manner. The Group has also identified the types of interventions that would be required to implement this plan.

### **The World Bank**

There are five essential elements of the **Framework for World Bank's involvement in Post-Conflict reconstruction** (endorsed in 1997) which include a *Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Unit (CPR)*, *Conflict Analysis Framework*, which is focused on key factors influencing conflict, namely, social and ethnic relations; governance and political institutions; human rights and security; economic structure and performance; environment and natural

resources; and external factors. The World Bank has developed its analytical work on the root causes, catalysts, indicators and policy implications of conflict and post-conflict recovery. *The Post-conflict Fund (PCF)*, *Poverty reduction strategy Papers (PRSP)* and *Country Assistance Strategies (CAS)* are the three remaining elements of the framework.

The **Low Income Countries Under Stress (LICUS)** Initiative by the World Bank is a new approach for engagement in countries where traditional aid programs have often not been effective. LICUS are characterized by weak policies, institutions and governance; lack of capacity or inclination to use finance effectively to reduce poverty. LICUS Initiative has included country level strategy work, institutional reform, and operational research partnerships with other donors. A LICUS Unit was established in 2002 and in the beginning of this year the LICUS Trust Fund was launched, which is designed to help the most severe LICUS that have been marginalized from assistance by the international community.

The LICUS initiative is not intended to complement the World Bank work on conflict and reconstruction. The teams working on LICUS and post conflict within the Bank have developed a joint process to assist and guide preparation of LICUS pilot strategies.

## **OECD**

OECD's work on security and development nexus is largely focused on the delivery of aid. OECD governments are increasingly seeking ways to improve the coherence of their policies in dealing with security and conflict issues. They are looking at the question of how conflict prevention can be incorporated into all arenas of policy, especially military and foreign policy as well as development policies. The principal body for the work on conflict, peace and development is the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). DAC work in this area is carried primarily through the Network on Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation (CPDC Network). The Network brings critical issues affecting the structural stability and fragility of states to the attention of the DAC, other OECD bodies, and policy makers in foreign affairs, trade, commerce and defence communities. DAC adopted Guidelines on conflict, peace and development cooperation in 1997. A supplementary work, *Helping Prevent Violent Conflict: Orientations for External partners* addressed some new challenges and changes in certain areas. The DAC High Level Meeting in 2004 launched a new phase in donor approaches to the close linkage between development and security. This also includes Security System Reform, which is meant to help developing countries address their overall public security systems, including the functioning of police and justice systems, civilian control of the armed forces, and protection of human rights.