

Conflict Prevention Newsletter

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Violent intra-state conflicts in the last decade such as those in Chechnya, Somalia, former Yugoslavia, Tajikistan, and Rwanda, have been extremely expensive. A high price had to be paid for the failure to effectively prevent these conflicts from escalating. In terms of human suffering and the destruction of national and regional economies in the first place, but also in terms of costs involved for the world community in diplomatic and other efforts to restore peace, provide humanitarian aid, rebuild infrastructures, etc. The enormous costs have persuaded more and more international leaders and organisations that it is more humane and cost-effective to try to keep these horrible and costly wars from arising in the first place.

The next question then is how this should be accomplished. The field of conflict prevention and peace building has been challenged by both its own organisations as well as by donor agencies and governments, to develop a 'science of conflict resolution'. More precise answers are needed on questions like: what kinds of preventive action actually work in specific contexts, what can be learned from this in other situations, and what are the criteria to call certain initiatives a success or a failure? Practitioners are increasingly expected to get tangible results in both potential and post-conflict situations toward the ultimate goal of a sustainable peace.

Evaluation practices and impact assessments have been initiated in order to increase the understanding on the outcomes of conflict prevention activities. These reflections have resulted in 'lessons learned' and 'best practices'. However, the issues of conflict prevention/transformation are far from well-defined concepts. Many different actors play a part; several approaches and policies exist. Designing an appropriate and effective evaluation methodology is extremely difficult. What methodology is applicable for more than

just one evaluation practice? Who should be involved in the process of evaluation? Who decides what defines 'success' in peace building? So far, the findings from the accumulated studies have been scattered and diverse, so they have not been consolidated or disseminated to the locations where they might be applied. What has been developed by way of evaluation skills and impact assessment often stays within the agencies. Not one organisation is solely focusing on lessons learned and evaluation practices.

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation has taken up the challenge to help develop better evaluation practices in this field by launching the international project Lesson Learned in Conflict Interventions and Peace Building. An expert meeting in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, May 2001 was the first gathering of practitioners discussing the subject. As one of the aims of the project is to disseminate the outcomes of evaluation practices, a large international conference Towards Better Peace Building Practice will take place in October 24-26, in the Netherlands. Academics, field workers, and government representatives are all invited to share their lessons learned and to increase their learning capabilities. Although one can still argue that the nature of activities in peace building and conflict prevention is not appropriate for an overall evaluation methodology at all, as peacemaking is a dynamic process which cannot be captured in formulas, the importance of lessons learned remains. One cannot look forward and develop new programmes and projects without a proper understanding of what is left behind, whether this is a failure or violent conflict or a success and a peaceful environment.

Paul van Tongeren, executive director of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention



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People Building Peace is a programme of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention which aims to document the initiatives of people working for peace worldwide. In May 1999 - *People Building Peace: 35 Inspiring Stories from Around the World* - was published and is available on the web-site of the European Platform. This newsletter will regularly illustrate the important role civil society can have in peace building in different continents

Kosovo

The Boll ma! campaign against violence

After the war in Kosovo, international NGOs initiated many campaigns to stop the violence and to increase tolerance in post-war society. From a Kosovan perspective, such initiatives and campaigns appeared unreal and idealistic in a society facing post-war traumas. At the same time, because Kosovan society was absorbed in the process of restoring life after the war and could afford to pay little attention to anti-violence campaigns, the existence of violence was denied ♦ By YLL BAJRAKTARI *

The Forum, a local Kosovan youth NGO, organised one of the first rallies against violence in the post-war period. The protest, a candle light vigil, under the motto 'One candle, one voice against violence' was attended by more than a thousand participants. Among those present were general Klaus Reinhardt of KFOR, general Agim Ceku of the Kosovan Protection Corps (KPC), representatives of UNMIK and the OSCE, political parties, and international and local NGO personnel. The event also allowed ordinary citizens to quietly express their protest against violence and, because the event was televised, to broadcast their message internationally.

The 'Boll ma!' campaign was launched in March 2001 after three months preparation. The Forum initiated the campaign in order to give Kosovan society an opportunity to express its strong opposition to the acts of violence that have plagued the country in the post-war period. 'Boll ma!' is a powerful Albanian expression that can be translated in English as 'Enough!'

The campaign includes

advertisements in broadcast media - TV and radio - and print media such as newspaper advertisements and poster campaigns in the Kosovo's seven largest towns, as well as self-initiated civic movements. In addition, the campaign includes a number of products such as 'Boll ma!' pin-badges and T-shirts.

The campaign is based around the seven largest towns which, as regional centres, means that the campaign covers the whole of Kosovo. It will last approximately four months.

'Boll ma!' started as a media-oriented, awareness-raising campaign and thanks to our efforts and the wide support it has gained in Kosovan society, it has become a Kosovo-wide campaign.

Numerous Kosovan NGOs, youth groups, women's groups, and other types of association have supported the campaign from the outset. These include both national and international organisations ranging from local NGOs, municipal assemblies, political parties all the way to embassies and the international presence in Kosova.

Local support

The campaign has attracted particularly strong support from young people in Kosovo. 'Boll ma!' T-shirts and badges are worn by every secondary school and university student in Pristina and the seven municipalities. Students regard participation in the movement as 'cool.' In the municipalities of Klina and Podujeva citizens have organised rallies carrying self-made 'Boll Ma!' banners. In the municipality of Kamenica, which is not covered in this campaign, people have displayed our posters in the shop windows and supported the cause with great enthusiasm. In two other towns, covered by the campaign, young people

are organising 'Boll Ma!' concerts. In recent months, many articles supporting the campaign have also appeared in different local daily newspapers. These articles were written as a result of the Forum's publicity campaign. The campaign has been divided into five different phases and so far is working as planned. The campaign started enigmatically by blasting the Kosovan public with provocative TV ads, posters, T-shirts and badges worn by TV anchors, prominent Albanians, and ordinary citizens. We have information that in some Albanian cafés in Skopje (Macedonia), young people have placed 'Boll Ma!' posters as a voice to stop the violence in this country.

The campaign entered its second phase in April and May. This entailed identifying the issues of the campaign and revealing the meaning of 'Boll Ma!' to the public. As expected, at this stage the campaign began to generate a nation-wide debate on the issue of violence. The second phase included very provocative TV ads, and an even more provocative poster showing an old Albanian crying with the slogan, 'Be a man and say enough to violence'.

The biggest debate over this campaign was raised during one of the town meetings in Ferizaj that was attended by more than 250 people. One citizen raised an important question, saying: 'two million citizens can say "enough" to violence but the words can not stop it.' This question was to be addressed in the third phase of the campaign.

The third phase of the campaign began in June and focuses on increasing co-operation between citizens and the KPS (Kosovo Police service), an institution created after the war in Kosovo. For the past ten years, since the Serbian Security forces assumed control, Kosovan citizens have hesitated to engage with the police department. The OSCE is responsible for providing the initial training for police officers. The OSCE has established and is operating the Kosovan Police Service School, located in Vucitrn, the traditional site of police training in Kosovo. To date there are more than 4,000 KPS, some 19 percent of whom are female, and around 17 percent are representatives of minorities (9 percent Serbs and 8 percent others). The third phase will invite citizens to report crimes, and to co-operate with the KPS and help establish a sense of



community development among the two.

The campaign has been closely followed by many media institutions, whose support was solicited before the campaign began. In addition to reporting closely on the campaign itself, the media also encouraged people to write articles on this issue. Several articles appeared in daily Albanian newspapers supporting 'Boll Ma!' and asking for the violence to stop at different levels of our society. Articles on violence in sport, the family, and against minorities, were written in close relation to the campaign.

International support

Together with Adelina and Beka, two of the most popular Albanian pop-signers, the campaign organisers are ready to launch a CD with what is to be the campaign anthem. All proceeds from the CD will be donated to children's charities working in Kosovo. The CD is

being financed by the Finnish Office in Prishtina.

A huge concert is currently being organised which will take place in Prishtina stadium. This will act as a climax to the campaign and hopefully will provide a new impetus to continue the campaign in the future

In his last visit to Prishtina, US envoy James Pardew held a press conference attended by all the news media operating in Kosovo. In his speech he said: 'With regards to violence in Kosovo, I have only one thing to say! Enough!' At which point he lifted a t-shirt of the Forum with the 'Boll ma!' logo emblazoned on the chest. The Head of the Mission of the US Office in Pristina, Christopher Dell also attended the conference and wore a badge of The Forum with the 'Boll ma!' logo. The interview was televised Kosovo wide and on satellite in Europe on three of the biggest TV stations in Kosovo. Some two million Albanian speakers are estimated to have seen this message. This recognition and support for our campaign was achieved through the assistance of the United States Office in Prishtina and the main supporters of this campaign: USAID, KTI and IOM.

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New publication

War Prevention Works

50 stories of people resolving conflict is a new 130-page report from the Oxford Research Group. It contains fifty short accounts from all over the world of what ordinary people are doing to stop war and killing - armed only with integrity, stamina and courage. These stories show how powerful non-violence can be. This is a valuable resource for practitioners, decision makers, students and activists alike. For more information or to order a copy, please contact:

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Outlook on Brussels

Jointly prepared by Saferworld and International Alert, this regular new Supplement to the Newsletter will focus upon developments in the European Union relevant to conflict prevention. It will aim to keep NGOs up-to-date with how European policy makers and opinion formers are responding to the challenge of preventive action. Each Supplement will provide the latest information and analysis on EU policy processes and conflict prevention initiatives.

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The Swedish Presidency **Rhetoric slowly translating into concrete proposals**

With the publication of the EC's Communication on Conflict Prevention in April and the agreement of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts at the Gothenburg Summit in June, conflict prevention is at last being treated as a high priority by the European Union. The Swedish Presidency worked hard to raise the profile of the issue and there are signs that the rhetoric of prevention is slowly translating into concrete proposals for EU action. The challenge now is to build on and implement these initiatives.

The Commission Communication is the most concrete enunciation yet of EU conflict prevention policy. It builds on the paper *Improving the coherence and effectiveness of EU action in the field of conflict prevention* presented by Javier Solana, the EU High Representative and Chris Patten, the Commissioner for External Relations, to the Nice European Council in December 2000. It contains a number of practical recommendations on a range of issues for enhancing the EU's conflict prevention capacity. Encouragingly, some of the measures build on proposals from the European Platform/Saferworld/International Alert paper *Preventing Violent Conflict: Priorities for the Swedish and Belgian Presidencies*. Here are some of the key elements.

Increasing coherence and co-ordination

The Communication addresses the need to develop integrated long-term strategies for preventing violent conflict towards specific regions. It cites the Stabilisation and Association process for the western Balkans as a good example of a co-ordinated peace-building approach and proposes to apply successful elements of that to other regions. As a basis, the Commission will set up a pilot system of information exchange with the Council Policy Unit and member state desk officers for the Balkans and the Great Lakes region. The challenge for the Belgium Presidency will be to get this system up and running and use it as a platform for coherent

action. Given the Belgian prime minister, Guy Verhofstadt's, recent criticism of the EU's 'arms-length policy' to the Great Lakes region as 'unacceptable', this is a vital opportunity (see Belgian Presidency article for more detail).

Country Strategy Papers

The Communication identifies Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) - drawn up for each country receiving assistance from the EU - as a key tool for ensuring that conflict awareness is integrated into long-term development policies and programmes. Importantly, each CSP will include an assessment of potential conflict situations. However, to be fully effective, the design and implementation of CSPs must be an inclusive process, which actively seeks the views of a wide range of state and non-state actors within developing countries. Research into the nature and extent of EU consultations with civil society groups in the Horn of Africa has shown that in most cases there has been little attempt to engage civil society in the drafting and inception of CSPs. Moreover, where consultations did take place, these were mainly through governments or networks comprised of the most powerful NGOs. As a result, local NGOs based outside national capitals, who often have useful information about conflict risks, rarely have the opportunity to feed this into the development of EU policy. The Commission should therefore expand the reference in the Communication on political dialogue to



explicitly state that they will consult widely with national and local NGOs and civil society in the development of CSPs. While individual country strategy papers are important, most conflicts have a regional and sub-regional dimension and therefore it is vital that EU approaches are multi-country if they are to be effective.

Small arms

The fact that the Communication recognises the need to address cross-cutting issues such as drugs, natural resource management, small arms and environmental degradation to tackle causes of violent conflict is welcome. The proposed measures however are in places quite meagre, and a more comprehensive approach is vital. For example, the Communication rightly highlights the need to focus on the customs sector in order to help address the problem of small arms proliferation. However, it is important that the Commission also addresses the issue of stockpile management and programmes to destroy surplus stocks. In addition, support is needed for programmes to reduce the demand for arms, including integrating marginalised communities, education and awareness raising initiatives, and improving police-community relations.

Security sector reform

Countries with unprofessional and unaccountable or abusive security forces, weak justice systems and inappropriate levels of military spending are particularly susceptible to violent conflict. Since many member states remain reluctant to target development assistance to security sector reform and are resistant to the Commission playing a substantial role in this, the commitment in the Communication to

step up the Commission's engagement in this sector is therefore particularly welcome. The proposed division of labour between the Commission and member states in support of reform of the security sector would improve co-ordination and consistency. Achieving consensus on appropriate roles in this area is a priority.

EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts

The EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts endorsed by the European Council at Gothenburg, represents a timely elevation of conflict prevention to the heads of state level. It is particularly welcome that conflict prevention is identified as 'one of the main objectives of the EU's external relations'. NGOs were able to input into the political debate during the Swedish Presidency through a series of meetings. In April, NGO members from EPLO met with ambassadors from member states who sit on the newly-created Political and Security Committee. In May, the Swedish Peace Team Forum and the European Platform hosted an international conference in Gripsholm on 'Promoting the Prevention of Violent Conflict and Building Peace by Interaction between State Actors and Voluntary Organisations'. And in June, EPLO members met with the Council's Policy Planning Unit to discuss with officials emerging conflict regions.

The EU Programme is not as detailed as many NGOs were hoping and it is really a statement of intent that provides a framework for future action. However, it does contain proposals for improving early warning, setting priorities for preventative action, enhancing the EU's instruments for long and short-term

prevention and building effective partnerships for prevention.

Many of the proposals in the Programme are affirmations of previous commitments but welcome new initiatives include:

- a Council debate on potential conflict issues at the start of each Presidency to identify priority areas and regions for EU action;
- a commitment for all relevant EU institutions to mainstream conflict prevention, and
- joint training programmes for UN, OSCE and EU field and headquarters personnel.

There is also a welcome commitment to 'develop instruments in areas such as expertise on human rights and democracy, fact-finding missions, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DD&R), and demining'. However, it is disappointing that there is no reference made here to security sector reform. This is an important area for the Union to engage in and the EU must ensure consistency and co-operation between the Commission and member states - the reluctance to fully endorse the Commission's development of work in this area should be overcome.

Conflict prevention is now firmly on the EU's political agenda. It is welcome that the Belgium Presidency will focus on the Great Lakes as this will be an opportunity to practically apply the commitments of the Communication and Action Programme. A report on progress in implementation is due to be submitted to the European Council in Seville in June 2002. This will be a test of whether the EU is really committed to 'improve its capacity to prevent violent conflicts and to contribute to a global culture of prevention'. <

Belgian Presidency to focus on Central Africa

The Belgian Presidency of the EU has signalled a potentially important shift in the focus of European foreign policy by pledging to concentrate on Central Africa. Until now, despite being the most conflict affected continent, Africa has not been a significant EU priority. Belgium also has responsibility for implementing the recent flurry of initiatives aimed at strengthening the EU's capacity to prevent violent conflict, including the Commission Communication on Conflict Prevention and the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict.

In his speech to the European Council, Belgium prime minister Guy Verhofstadt said, 'From a political point of view, the Balkans and the Middle East may seem more important, but from a humanitarian angle, our hesitancy and arms-length policy vis-à-vis the Great Lakes region of Africa is

unacceptable.' The Belgian government has called on the EU to pay greater attention to the Central African countries and in particular take a leading role in trying to resolve the conflicts in the Great Lakes region. A high ranking Belgium delegation led by the Belgian prime minister and including Foreign minister Louis Michel and Development Co-operation minister Eddy Boutmans visited the region in June. The death of Lauren Kabila and the accession of his apparently more conciliatory son, Joseph, has been seized upon by the international community as an opportunity to make progress on peace in the DRC. Belgium, as the former colonial power in the Congo has a particular interest in using the EU presidency to add Central Africa to the growing list of EU foreign policy priorities.

Belgian Action Plan

In late June the Belgian government approved its own action plan 'Construction of Peace in the Great Lakes'. Amongst the key challenges identified in the document are: the restoration of the DRC's territorial integrity and sovereignty; the establishment of democratic structures and state mechanisms; and the

restoration of basic infrastructure for the facilitation of economic and humanitarian activities. The Action Plan covers Rwanda and Burundi, although its predominant focus is the DRC. In a show of good will both EU and Belgium have recently agreed to resume aid to the DRC, however, future aid will be contingent on further progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Accords. Some degree of confusion remains though as to how the various Belgium and EU initiatives will be linked and complement each other.

The Presidency has been mandated by the General Affairs Council to prepare a specific policy on conflict prevention for the Great Lakes region, which will be presented to it when it meets in August. The principal objective is to establish an inventory of the instruments and tools at the disposal of the Commission and the Member States in the region. The General Affairs Council sees this policy as a concrete example of the implementation of the Common Position on conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa that it adopted in May. Although undoubtedly welcome, fostering a common EU approach will be difficult to achieve given the often historically competing interests of Member States in the region. Despite

the EU having a Special Representative and a number of joint statements on the Great Lakes in recent years, progress towards a coherent approach has been limited. A truly integrated regional vision in terms of political and development approaches to all countries in the region is necessary to promote peace and development.

Other Presidency priorities

The Belgian Government has also declared a number of other Presidency priorities:

- development of the common European Security and Defence Policy;
- establishment of operational structures in terms of military crisis management by December 2001;
- examination of the capacities necessary to achieve the Headline Goal of a Rapid Reaction Force in 2003;
- negotiations with UN and NATO to enhance co-operation;
- development of the civil crisis management capabilities of the EU (police forces ready to be deployed in conflict zones world-wide).

In many respects these priorities are a continuation of the commitments made during the Swedish Presidency and before aimed at developing the EU's crisis response capacity. The Belgium Presidency will, however, give prominence to the Cotonou Agreement as well. This arrangement, agreed last year between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, is a major vehicle for the disbursement of EC aid to these countries, and for the first time includes measures specifically relating to conflict (article 11).

Consultation with civil society in ACP countries has occurred already with the Belgian Presidency and General Secretariat of ACP holding a seminar aimed at gathering the reactions of 'new actors' (primarily civil society) of the South. The focus was on articles 4 and 7 of the Agreement, which defines the conditions of their new involvement.

On October 1-2, the Belgian Presidency will also hold a seminar on instruments best suited for co-operation with politically fragile countries, where analysis by the European Centre for Development Policy Management of development collaboration with six countries affected by conflict will be presented. The results of this civil society seminar and operational





conclusions aimed at improving co-operation with fragile states and strengthening its response capability in crisis situations will be presented to the Development Council on 8 November.

International and Belgian NGOs have been working hard to influence the agenda of the Belgian Presidency. A conference addressing issues of early

warning and conflict prevention and organised by the European Peace Building Liaison Office (EPLO) for the Belgian Presidency took place on September 17. NGOs in Belgium also have a whole programme of events and activities to coincide with the Presidency, including a forum focusing on Europe's role in promoting peace on

the 7 and 8 of December. (Further information on this and Belgian NGO activities around the Presidency can be found at http://eu.ngoforum.be/english/eng_index.html).

Further information and updates can be found at the web site of the Belgian Presidency: <http://www.eu2001.be> <

Progress on EU civilian crisis management Redressing the imbalance

By CATRIONA GOURLAY, ISIS Europe¹

While the build-up of civilian crisis management capabilities has received less attention than the development of EU military capabilities, the Swedish Presidency began to redress this imbalance by identifying concrete targets to fill capability gaps in this area.

It agreed a detailed action plan on how to attain, train and manage a capacity of 5,000 police for international missions by 2003, and identified targets in the priority areas of rule of law, civil administration and civil protection. Extending and implementing these plans so that civilian crisis management is operational by the Laeken European Council in December 2001 nevertheless remains a tall order for the Belgian Presidency.

The Swedish Presidency's report² states that the development of EU civilian crisis management capabilities should enable Europeans to respond more effectively to requests from lead organisations such as the UN and OSCE, as well as develop autonomous capabilities to act. The following four priority areas have received particular attention as the EU has sought to enhance its response to crises by developing civilian capabilities to control violence and to support the (re)construction of local judicial, penal and administrative structures.

Police

The EU seeks to employ police for international missions to strengthen local police capabilities and to perform executive policing functions when local structures are failing. The Presidency reported that member states responded strongly to a call for voluntary contributions to meet the headline goals set at the Feira summit in July 2000 of 5,000 police officers available for international missions, 1,000 of them to

be deployable within 30 days. Member States reportedly pledged a total of 4,300 police, except Germany that awaits authorisation from its regional governments³. These commitments will be confirmed at the Police Capabilities Commitment Conference later this year. During the Swedish Presidency Member States also agreed a 'Police Action Plan' for the planning and conduct of European policing operations. This identified five areas for the EU to develop:

- 1) arrangements for planning and conduct of police operations;
- 2) systems for command and control;
- 3) a legal framework;
- 4) a programme of basic and specialised training;
- 5) modalities for financing.

Rule of law

While member states acknowledge that 'strengthening the rule of law is a precondition for the consolidation of peace and security' their ambitions in this regard are limited by the difficulties of 'extracting' experts from their permanent engagements within member states and tailoring this expertise to match local needs. The Presidency reports that member states have, nevertheless, committed themselves to strengthening their capability to provide up to 200 judges, prosecutors, correctional officers and further categories of experts in the field of the rule of law to international missions by 2003. These targets require pre-identification, in terms of capacity

and functions needed, and basic training of a sufficiently large pool of member states' officials and experts as well as financial and logistical resources. The Commission will finance a programme for the development of common training modules for such officials.

Civilian administration

The EU has undertaken to establish a pool of experts able to carry out advisory, training, and monitoring as well as executive tasks in order to 'set up, or ensure the existence of, a functional administrative apparatus, while promoting transition to local ownership as early as possible'. Member states noted that civilian experts could provide: general administrative functions such as registration of property, elections and taxation; social functions such as education, social services and medical services; and infrastructure functions such as water supply, energy supply and telecommunications. Priority has been given to developing appropriate common standards and modules for training in this field and elaborating a list of functions and expert categories as well as identifying shortcomings in these capacities.

Civil protection

Civil Protection involves member states' resources within the emergency services, which are primarily organised for protection and rescue tasks at the national level. In recent years, however, civil protection has increasingly been used in crisis management situations, and it is envisioned that Civil Protection will be called on to assist, *inter alia*, humanitarian actors in covering the



immediate survival and protection needs of affected populations. This includes tasks such as search and rescue, construction of refugee camps and systems of communication. The EU has established the concrete targets, to be reached by 2003 of: 2-3 assessment teams of 10 experts to be dispatched within 3-7 hours; civil protection intervention teams of up to 2,000 persons; and supplementary specialised services from governmental or non-governmental services to be dispatched within a week. Operationalising these services will further require the development of EU- and national- level training and exercise programmes for crisis management, as well as the development of arrangements for co-operation with the armed forces for the use of military resources, such as transport capacity, where appropriate.

Future developments

The SGHR and the Belgian government are allegedly both enthusiastic about establishing multi-functional mission teams to be deployed in pre-violent crisis situations. It is therefore possible that the EU will explore the

development of expert teams similar to the OSCE's Rapid Emergency Assistance and Cooperation Teams (REACT) during the next Presidency.

The biggest procedural issue that remains to be addressed is that of financing. During the Swedish Presidency, the Council adopted a Regulation for a Rapid Reaction Mechanism to enable the Community to provide some rapid funding for civilian crisis management activities. The Swedish Presidency initiated work on identifying principles applying to the financing of operations with defence or security implications, but arrangements regarding the financing of police, rule of law and civil protection operations still need to be worked out.

What role for NGOs?

Civilian interventions are arguably far more invasive to local societies than military operations and require complex transitions to long-term peace-building and development programmes conducted by local actors and international NGOs. The EU has not yet begun to address how such transitions should be managed and how

governmental civilian experts will co-operate with military and non-governmental actors. More fundamentally still, there has been no strategic assessment about the collective capability of governmental and non-governmental actors in the EU and their respective areas of competence. While the Presidency report recognises the existence of non-governmental expertise in areas such as rule of law, civil administration and civil protection, there is no parallel process to build capacity in the non-governmental sector. Issues of relative competences are, however, likely to surface in the context of direct competition between member states and non-governmental actors for Community funding.

Notes

- 1 This is an abridged version of an article that appeared in the *European Security Review*, Issue 6, June 2001. (www.isis-europe.org)
- 2 Presidency Report to the Gothenburg European Council on European Security and Defence Policy (www.eu2001.se)
- 3 *Janes Defence Weekly*, 30 May 2001, p. 21

Update from the EU

By Catriona Gourlay and Sibylle Bauer
ISIS-Europe

The Council

Arms exports

In February 2001, the Swedish Presidency, in co-operation with Transparency International, held a colloquium on Corruption in the Arms Trade¹. The Swedish Presidency also sought to help extend the implementation of the Code of Conduct to Candidate countries through a series of informal meetings on arms export policies between representatives of the EU Member States and of Candidate countries.

Common Position on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution in Africa

The General Affairs Council adopted this Common Position on 15 May 2001. It aims to strengthen African capacities for conflict prevention, ensure regular surveys to identify potential violent conflict in Africa, improve the support for African peacekeeping capacities, and highlights the strategic role of development cooperation in conflict

prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation. The Council invited the Belgian Presidency to develop the application of these policies with reference to the Great Lakes region.

The Gothenburg European Council

The Swedish Presidency's concluding report on European Security and Defence Policy² included an update on the development of an EU military capability, including the creation of a rapid reaction force by 2003, and a substantial section on how the EU plans to improve its civilian crisis management capabilities³. In addition, the Presidency's enthusiasm for conflict prevention was formalised in a separate document - the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts⁴. This identifies over 20 actions that the EU might undertake to improve policy coherence, strengthen EU instruments for conflict prevention, enhance co-operation with other organisations and NGOs and encourage implementation at national levels and by the Commission.

The European Parliament

Small arms

During its March plenary session, the week preceding the last preparatory committee for the UN small arms conference, the European Parliament adopted an urgency resolution 'on the EU Conference on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects to be held in July 2001'⁵. The EP called on the EU to negotiate a number of concrete measures to combat the uncontrolled trade in small arms. Unfortunately, however, most of these demands were not ultimately realised⁶.

Arms exports

The EP Foreign Affairs Committee is in the process of agreeing a report by Gary Titley, MEP on the Council's 2000 Annual Report on the Implementation of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. The report responds directly to the Council's consolidated report, draws on briefings given to the EP by the Swedish Presidency and will ultimately be adopted in October.



Annual report on EU Human Rights Policy

The annual EP report on EU human rights policy was adopted in the July plenary session⁷. The report underlines that respect for human rights should be an integral element of all EU activities, including EU conflict prevention and peace-building efforts. It specifically calls on the Council and the Commission to elaborate more focused thematic human rights common strategies (on issues such as child soldiers) and calls on the Commission improve its evaluation mechanisms to assess whether EU action promotes democratisation and respect for human rights in third countries. The report also reiterates EP demands for progressive EU action in relation to the UN small arms conference and to strengthening arms export controls.

The European Commission

Communication on Conflict Prevention

This Communication⁸ was the Commission's contribution to the development of the EU Conflict Prevention Programme. It was adopted on 11 April 2001 and provides an overview of the EU's policy instruments to prevent conflicts. It identifies that Country Strategy Papers will be the principal tool by which the EU plans to mainstream conflict prevention in development assistance. The European

Parliament's response to the Commission Communication will take the form of a report to be agreed by October.

Communication on Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development

This Communication was published in May 2001 and responds directly to the EU's acknowledged failing to effectively co-ordinate the activities of the EU, its member states and UN agencies. Like the Communication on Conflict Prevention, it suggests using Country Strategy Papers as a central reference for guiding interventions at different stages of the crisis cycle. It specifically suggests adding a work programme to these Papers in cases where ECHO or the Rapid Reaction Mechanism (RRM) funding will be utilised.

Communication on Human Rights and Democracy

This Communication, adopted on 8 May 2001⁹, forms the legal basis for budget lines for human rights, democracy and conflict prevention. It emphasises the need to improve the coherence of EU action in support of human rights and democratisation and the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policies and suggests ways of mainstreaming human rights and democratisation issues into assistance programmes and political dialogue with third countries. The Communication also identifies four priority areas for funding under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

Notes

- 1 The report is available on the Swedish Presidency website www.eu2001.se.
- 2 This Presidency Report to the Gothenburg European Council is available on www.eu2001.se.
- 3 See article 'Redressing the imbalance' in this issue for a summary of the developments in civilian crisis management and issue 6 of the European Security Review on www.isis-europe.org for a summary of military developments.
- 4 This document is available on www.eu2001.se. For a summary of the document see issue 6 of the European Security Review on www.isis-europe.org.
- 5 The text can be found on the EP website www.europarl.eu.int. It is document number B5-0189/2001.
- 6 See article on the EU and the UN small arms conference.
- 7 The text can be found on the EP website www.europarl.eu.int under: activities/plenary sessions/reports.
- 8 Available on www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/cfsp/news/com2001_211_en.pdf
- 9 Available on www.europa.eu.int/human_rights/doc/com01_252_en.pdf

International Calendar

October

- 1-2 Seminar of the Belgian Presidency on developing cooperation with fragile countries
- 8 Council General Affairs meeting, Brussels
- 11-12 Informal meeting of Defence ministers
- 19 Informal meeting, European Council, Ghent

November

- 8 Development Council meeting, Brussels
- 19-20 Council General Affairs meeting, Brussels

December

- 10 Council General Affairs, Brussels
- 14 European Council of Brussels, Laekan (Brussels)

European Parliament meetings

- 12-13 September Committee on Development and Cooperation meeting, Brussels
- 17 September Conflict Prevention Policy in Africa, Brussels
- 19 September Joint ACP-EU Assembly, Brussels
- 10 October Committee on Development and Cooperation meeting, Brussels
- 19 November Committee on Development and Cooperation meeting, Brussels
- 26 November Committee on Development and Cooperation meeting, Brussels

NGO European Network meetings

- 17 September EPLO (European Peace-building Liaison Office) Conference: 'Towards a Coherent EU Conflict Prevention Policy in Africa: Challenges for the Belgian Presidency' European Parliament, Brussels.
- 24-26 October European Platform on Conflict Prevention and Transformation International Conference: 'Towards Better Peace Building Practice', Soesterberg, The Netherlands.

Belgium NGO Platform Events

- 11-12 October Public actions during the Informal Defence Council
- 18 October Round Table in the European parliament on conflict in Central Africa
- 7-8 December International Peace Conference

A new title

Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia

An Overview of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities

edited by Paul van Tongeren, Hans van de Veen, and Juliette Verhoeven

Searching for Peace in Europe and Eurasia offers much-needed insight into the possibilities for effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding throughout the region.

Presenting surveys of the violent conflicts in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, the contributors offer a unique combination of background information, detailed descriptions of ongoing activities, and assessments of future prospects for conflict resolution and peacebuilding. A major focus of their work is the efforts of regional organizations and NGOs to make civil society part of any peace process, and they thoroughly cover the activities of grassroots groups. A directory of more than 400 organizations working in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the region is also included.

More than 40 experts and organizations in Europe and Eurasia have collaborated in the compilation of this important work, which includes a foreword by Max van der Stoep (the former OSCE high commissioner on national minorities) and contributions by such prominent scholars and practitioners as Mari Fitzduff, Michael S. Lund, Valery Tishkov, Raymond Detrez, and Kevin Clements. The work was coordinated by the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, an NGO dedicated to contributing to the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena.

Paul van Tongeren is founder and executive director of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), based in Utrecht. **Hans van de Veen** is senior journalist and head of the Journalistic Office of Environment and Development Productions, Amsterdam. **Juliette Verhoeven** is coordinator of the ECCP's program on Europe and Eurasia.

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Introduction. REFLECTIONS. Conflict Prevention and the EU. Conflict Prevention and the OSCE. The History and Heritage of the Soviet Union. Minority Issues in Eastern Europe. Intergroup Conflicts in Western Europe. Regional Cooperation as a Prerequisite for Peace. Calling for a Broad Approach to Conflict Resolution. The State of the Art of Conflict Transformation. An Infrastructure for Conflict Prevention in Europe. Some Lessons Learned. SURVEYS OF CONFLICT PREVENTION. Bosnia-Herzegovina. Chechnya. Croatia. Cyprus. Daghestan. Ferghana Valley. Georgia. Kosovo. Macedonia. Moldova. Montenegro. Nagorno Karabakh. North Ossetia. Northern Ireland. Serbia. Spain. Tajikistan. Turkey. Yugoslavia. DIRECTORY. Profiles of European and Eurasian NGOs involved in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, organized by country, as well as government agencies and international networks and organizations.

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Lessons Learned



International Conference

Towards Better Peace-Building Practice

Soesterberg, The Netherlands, October 24-26, 2001

Organised by the *European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation (EPCPT)*
and *Kontakt der Kontinenten (KdK)*.

It is widely acknowledged that the field of conflict prevention and peace building is in need of greater coherence and that it lacks an integrated body of knowledge. To meet this need, several publications have recently been issued, which draw on years of experience. These valuable publications show a movement from a pioneering, into a more reflective stage of increased professionalism. It is now time to capitalise on this and stimulate the development of a more coherent analytical frame. Clearer insights into what does and what doesn't work will not only increase the support for the field itself, it will also raise political and public interest in conflict prevention and peace building.

This special issue is written and compiled by ANNEKE GALAMA and PAUL VAN TONGEREN, European Centre for Conflict Prevention

Inside this issue:

Establishing a Framework to Capture Lessons Learned • Aid & Conflict • Assessing Lessons Learned by Sida • Norwegian Church Aid • Preventive Diplomacy Analysed • Aid, Conflict and Peace Building in Sri Lanka • Service Information • Conference Programme.

Establishing a framework to capture lessons learned

In February 2000, a meeting entitled 'Lessons Learned in Conflict Interventions' was held at INCORE in Derry, Northern Ireland, organised by the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation.¹ At this meeting, which gathered together an international group of conflict-resolution practitioners, the issue of Lessons Learned was discussed and debated.



The possibilities of a more coherent set of activities and tools in evaluation and impact assessment practices were outlined. One of the obstacles in exploring the lessons learned debate is that the matter as such is very complex. There are many levels of analysis, such as regional, local, national and international. Also, several different actors all with different agendas and rationales need to be taken into account such as governments, armies, militias, development, humanitarian and peace-building NGOs, and civilians. Moreover, different instruments and strategies exist in the field of conflict prevention and peace building: early warning, lobby and advocacy, reconciliation, etc. Within this complexity, the important tasks in collecting lessons learned and conducting evaluation practices lies in bringing together common lessons and promoting greater integration of existing knowledge within the field of conflict prevention. There is a need for a methodology or a framework in which lessons learned can be captured, discussed and analysed. However, such an overall methodology does not yet exist. Here we outline some ideas and thoughts on how to work towards a possible framework or approach to the complex matter of lessons learned.

Mainstreaming

Over the past ten years the field of conflict prevention has grown considerably in the sense that several sectors have discussed and addressed the notion of conflict prevention in their activities. These sectors not only include conflict-prevention and peace-building organisations but also organisations in the development, economic, humanitarian, ecological and human-rights sectors. This mainstreaming activity follows from the belief that conflict prevention as such is not a specific activity, belonging to a specific type of organisation. Conflict prevention and peace building comprise a large range of activities and are based on a large number of different approaches, all focusing on a reduction of violence and the promotion of peace. But with so many different activities, the danger is that conflict prevention will lose its distinctive value-added meaning. Therefore, it is important that the field of conflict prevention continues answering the question of effectiveness, as outlined by Michael Lund. The different decision-making levels in the international system at which prevention activity is operating, should be identified in order to capture some lessons learned on what is effective.²

Preventive diplomacy analysed

Opportunities Missed, Opportunities Seized: Preventive Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War World is the title of a very interesting publication of the the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflicts. The book, edited by Bruce W. Jentelson. (www.ccpdc.org) presents expert studies of major cases that challenged the preventive diplomacy capacity of the international community. It also outlined important lessons that could be discerned from patterns across the cases. Below are some of the key lessons.

Missed opportunities: the international community had specific and identifiable opportunities to limit, if not prevent, the conflicts. But its statecraft was flawed, inadequate, or even absent.

Case evidence of successes: in addition to

the evidence of how the failures could have been successes, there are the successes that quite plausibly could have been failures, had it not been for preventive diplomacy.

Purposive sources of ethnic conflict: While all these conflicts have deep historical roots, the driving and dominant dynamic was more purposive than primordialist, much more the consequence of a volitional calculus than historical determinism.

Key and unavoidable role of international actors: While not necessarily determinative, the actions and inaction of international actors have major impact on whether domestic actors make a conflict or a co-operation calculus. This means most importantly that there is no non-position for international actors.

Early-warning availability: Where opportunities for preventive diplomacy were seized, it was in part due to the timely availability of reliable intelligence and other early warning information. Where opportunities for preventive diplomacy were missed, it was despite early warning availability. All told, and contrary to what is often argued, early warning was not the problem.

Flawed analysis, but correctly so: A key part of the warning-response problem was misanalysis of some or all of the following factors: the likelihood of escalation to violent conflict, the impact on national and international interests, the risks and costs of inaction, and the viability of preventive actions. The case studies show this to be more a matter of faulty assumptions, inaccurate framing, and other correctable analytical flaws than of inherent problems of unknowability.

Conspiracy of success

Arguably one can define a lesson as something that has been ascertained as a means which will accomplish a specific end. Achieving this end would be considered a 'success'. However in terms of conflict resolution and peace-building work, what is success? What criteria are used in defining whether a certain peace initiative is successful or not? Is success the achievement of sustainable peace or is it any action that has improved a situation, thus more a measure of degree than a definitive outcome? Success can be defined in terms of the process or in terms of the outcomes. This subjective character of the concept of 'success' should be analysed carefully when drawing lessons and conclusion out of evaluation practices.

In learning lessons, it is crucial to acknowledge and gather failures as well. However, agencies are often reluctant to outline the less positive outcomes of their activities as these evaluations are often made for donor agencies and consequently, failures might mean decreased funding. But less successful results are just as important as the successes as the latter can be explained *through* identifying what went wrong in other situations. A challenge that needs to be taken therefore is to develop evaluation mechanisms for donors and agencies that are perceived as safe for admittance of failure and not as threatening.³

Avoid the tidying tendency

In trying to move beyond chaos and complexity into order, one should resist freezing the process of lessons learned. Instead, evaluating and defining what has been learned should be regarded as a process. Boxes should be avoided as they often distance the project from the field. A mapping exercise linked to an open-ended process is needed rather than fixing the results in boxes that do not represent reality. In this process it is very important to let field workers participate in a lessons-learned exercise. They should confirm or reject the findings of evaluation.⁴

Accounting and accountability

Violence tends to last as long as it is seen as the most cost-effective option. Despite the fact that accounting the costs and benefits of violence now receives more attention, a much more comprehensive accounting system in which both

humanitarian and economic costs and also social, political, cultural, and ecological costs are taken into account has to be included in evaluation practice. In this way, the costs and benefits of different conflict management options can be balanced.

Secondly, evaluation should focus on accountability. The question, 'do peace efforts actually pay off?' needs to be addressed. This means that actors involved in peace-building and conflict-prevention activities should be held accountable for what they do. Not only in defining their successes and failures but also the impact of their work.⁵

In this special issue a few initiatives in designing a methodology for evaluation practices are outlined, as in the case of Sida, and lessons learned in preventive diplomacy - as analysed by Bruce W. Jentleson - are described. Furthermore, as the development and humanitarian fields have already produced some worthwhile assessment exercises, the debate on aid and conflict is introduced with the projects of the Do No Harm project, DFID and Norwegian Church Aid.

The question remains whether the nature of activities in conflict prevention and peace building is appropriate for a general approach or methodology at all. Peacemaking is not easy, it cannot be done mechanistically, according to formulas. Instead, what is required in peacemaking is a flexible and informed response to every new context. Despite this complexity of multiple levels and contexts, it is crucial to conduct evaluation practices and impact assessments. Through an intensive process of dissemination of the lessons learned coming out of different projects and different actors, synergy could start to take place.

Notes

- 1 See for detailed information Report of the Expert Meeting Lesson Learned in Conflict Interventions, Londonderry, 2001. Contact the ECCP (euconflict@euconflict.org) for order information.
- 2 Based on a presentation by Michael Lund, Management Systems International Inc., at expert meeting in Londonderry.
- 3 Based on a presentation by Cheyanne Church, Policy and Evaluation Unit, INCORE, at expert meeting in Londonderry.
- 4 Based on a presentation by Susan Collin Marks, Search for Common Ground, at expert meeting in Londonderry.
- 5 Based on a presentation by Luc Reyhler, Leuven University, at expert meeting in Londonderry.

Aid and conflict: intrinsically linked

One of the most important lessons that field workers, academics and policy makers have learned is that aid and conflict are not two separate issues. Moreover, the context in which humanitarian agencies provide food, shelter and other necessary material to people affected by war, cannot be separated from the conflict or post-conflict situation.



Aid can have positive effects on people in war as it can give them physical and psychological strength to seek for peaceful solutions to the conflict. But aid can also have negative effects as it can be interpreted as a partisan act by the warring factions. Unequal distribution of aid will further increase the tensions between peoples and improving the humanitarian conditions of people will give them space to resume fighting. In the last decade this lesson

has led to several studies and publications on how to make development work more sensitive to conflict.

The fact that aid should be provided to people in need is not questioned. Notwithstanding their intention, the accountability of NGOs who deploy activities in post-conflict situations could, however, be greater. The debate on aid and conflict has been stimulated by donor agencies that now prioritise the linkage between poverty, conflict and aid. Institutions and donors such as CIDA, SIDA, DFID, the World Bank, the EU and the OECD are developing guidelines for policy practice in order to increase the conflict-sensitive approach.

In this article we will outline one successful project concerned with assessing the linkage between aid and conflict. We will also touch briefly upon the difficulties facing NGOs when designing a conflict-sensitive approach to development.

Do No Harm

The Local Capacities for Peace Project, conducted by the Collaborative for Development Action is one of the major projects assessing the possible impact of aid on conflict and peace. Mary B. Anderson's book *Do No Harm: How aid can support peace - or war* provides a good insight into the reality within which field staff work.¹ It is crucial for people interfering in complex interactions between people involved in war, to understand and learn the so-called 'connectors and dividers'; in every society people's ideas, thoughts, values, interests, symbols, systems and institutions can either connect or divide them. Marketplaces for example can connect people during the day as they depend on each other's economic

transitions. At night, the same people's values and ideas make them divide from each and the fighting continues. Knowing these connectors and dividers could inform peace builders of people's capability to seek for more peaceful solutions and they give ideas for possible peace initiatives. But connectors and dividers also

show the willingness of people to take up arms and the capability for violent action. Experience and research shows that people embody both capacities at the same time. Therefore, aid interventions have an opportunity to influence the prominent capacities for peace and conflict at the same time.

The second step therefore is to look at aid's impact on conflict through resource transfers carried out by humanitarian agencies. Because aid resources represent economic wealth and political power, people, warriors and non-combatants engaged in conflict will always want to control them. The humanitarian principle that victims on all sides have a right to aid, might therefore not always be universally beneficial. Goods are often stolen or traded for higher prices. Also, aid can distort patterns of local production, employment and trade but at the same time create financial resources to further 'feed the war'. In addition to delivering goods and services, aid carries a 'message' within a certain situation.

The tasks for aid workers, getting knowledge on the connectors and dividers for war and peace, and understanding the consequences of resource transfers and the content of implicit ethical messages, could lead to the improvement of project planning. The Framework for Considering the Impact of Aid and Conflict identifies the categories of information that are crucial for a specific situation. Then it organises



Kosovo, bridge across the river Ibar, dividing Mitrovica in a majority Serb and Albanian part

this information and reveals the relationships between categories.

Mainstreaming

Although the necessity for development agencies to accept, analyse and apply the relations between aid and conflict is clear, the question remains how exactly to implement this task. Lewer and Goodhand argue in a paper entitled *Potential and challenges for NGOs in mainstreaming conflict prevention*, 2001, that mainstreaming conflict prevention is easier said than done.² Mainstreaming means incorporating a particular perspective or approach into an agency's thinking and practice. The question is, how far should this mainstreaming

be extended? Should development NGOs change into peace-building organisations as well? NGOs should indeed try to tackle the roots of the conflict, working 'on' conflict but also develop a linkage between the conflict and their work, i.e. developing a conflict sensitive approach, working 'in' conflict. One important

lesson outlined by Lewer and Goodhand is that before policymakers decide on the actual agenda of development NGOs, the voices of those actually engaged in the conflict should be heard. What are the experiences and views on the conflict reality they are faced with in their every day lives. And what is their view on engaging development NGOs into the peace-building activities? When deciding to expand their mandates, NGOs should take caution not to overtake their responsibility to engage themselves in the conflict dynamics as such. However, as the concept of conflict prevention is not easy to grasp and to translate in explicit activities, development- and humanitarian NGOs and workers have so far even more rejected the mainstreaming of conflict prevention than implemented it.

However the work of Norwegian Church Aid is a good example of a development NGO that did expand its mandate successfully. Secondly at the same time, the research of DFID on Sri Lanka shows how difficult it is for development agencies to address the need for a conflict sensitive approach. These two examples will be outlined on the next pages

Notes

- 1 See for details on this book the *Service Information* section in this special.
- 2 Draft paper produced for meeting of the Conflict Prevention Network: Concept and Practice, The Hague, 8/9 June 2001.

Aid, conflict and peace building in Sri Lanka

A good research example on the conflict sensitive approach to poverty-focused programmes, is the recently published report of DFID on Sri Lanka.



The reason for writing this report was two-fold. First of all, Sri Lanka has historically been one of highest per capita recipient countries of aid. This aid has been directed to both the promotion of liberalisation, structural adjustment and human rights and poverty alleviation. Secondly, after almost 40 years, the conflict in Sri Lanka dominates society to such an extent that violence has conferred important benefits on certain groups and individuals. Violence has become a means to attain legitimacy, wealth and protection. Therefore, as the current prospects for peace in the near future are remote, aid donors and agencies working in Sri Lanka are now rethinking their past achievements and acknowledge the need for change in future strategies.

The report mentions several issues that are particularly important in designing and implementing this new approach. Three are mentioned below.

- Donors should undertake more political analyses in order to better understand the working of political systems and incentives of political actors in Sri Lanka. Who gains and

who loses from certain programmes or strategies and for what reasons? Knowing the answers to these questions is crucial before a strategy is designed.

- A lot of conflict-sensitive approaches have a limited impact as they do not link up to other projects and/or policies. For example, there is a wide gap between national and strategic levels on the co-ordination of aid programs in the north and in the south. In the north the aid programmes are rather tight as the conflicting parties are determining the activities of the aid-agencies, and in the south, where the conflict is less pronounced, the programmes tend to be less connected.
- Donors and operational agencies should develop long term, strategic engagement plans. The crux of the problem is that short-term thinking and mandates based on short-term funding are being used to react to long-term problems and needs.

The report concludes that an important constraint on current policy and practice is the lack of a methodology or framework for agencies working in Sri Lanka. However, agencies such as Oxfam and the World Bank are currently developing peace and conflict impact assessment tools (PCIAAs).

The report *Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka* (November 2000), can be ordered at DFID's website: www.dfid.gov.uk.

Norwegian Church Aid: Extending the humanitarian mandate

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), a development and humanitarian NGO which was established in 1947, has incorporated peace-building activities into its mission statement. For this purpose, a special Department of Policy and Human Rights was established within the organisation in 1999.



NCA's involvement in peace-building activities grew 'organically' out of its long-term commitment to the development of the areas where it worked. Being present in a country made NCA operatives realise to what extent conflict was affecting and influencing their work. Moreover, the local population themselves asked NCA-workers to become involved in conflict resolution activities as they were regarded by the local population as effective peacemakers. Thirdly, the Norwegian government encouraged the inclusion of peace building in the policy making of development NGOs as its own focus on conflict prevention was also broadened.

Two projects are often regarded as having formed the 'NCA approach' to peace work. The first was its involvement in the Eritrea/Ethiopia conflict. The second was in Mali, where the

NCA became involved following the drought in 1984. When violent rebellion broke out in the 1990s, the NCA decided to stay although almost all other agencies left. After the tragic death of five NCA employees who were accused of partiality, one NCA representative decided to use official means in order to re-establish the role of the NCA. He started diplomatic talks with government representatives while at the same time other NCA people set up unofficial and informal dialogues with the main actors in the conflict. Slowly and carefully people were also brought together in more local settings. The purpose of these meetings was to encourage local communities to establish immediate practical and transparent methods for resolving local inter-group conflicts without violence. More than 37 such meetings were held, most of them with positive outcomes.

The reason why the NCA has been able to set up successful peace-building activities next to its development projects, is primarily the high degree of mutual trust between NCA staff and local people and politicians. Also, concrete and visible development work has given the NCA a positive image of really taking care of the people's material welfare. Another reason for its success that has been identified by the NCA-staff is their church-based identity. They argue that because of

their strong belief in religious values and ideas, they create mutual respect for both parties.

Individuals in field sites give other interesting explanations why they were able to put so much trust in the work and approach of the NCA. Local people felt they still owned the process entirely as the NCA did not lead, only facilitated the peace-building initiatives. They provided first class tickets for people who, at the invitation of the Norwegian government, hold negotiations in Norway. In providing these 'frames' for peace building, people from conflict areas felt they were taken seriously which encouraged them to continue their dialogues and efforts to seek solutions to the conflicts.

In thus establishing a formal department for activities focusing on peace building and conflict resolution, one can conclude that the NCA has successfully extended its humanitarian mandate. It has done this not by losing its commitment to providing basic support to people affected by war, but by creating ways and means to provide peaceful long-term solutions to the conflict context as well.

For more information: www.nca.no
Also, the work of the NCA is one of the case studies of the Reflecting on Peace Practice Project initiated by Collaborative Development Action, www.cdain.com.

Regional conference on peace building in Africa

From August 6-8 a 3-day conference on conflict prevention and peace building in Africa was held in Accra with participants devising a more integrated and coherent framework to tackle violent conflicts plaguing the continent ♦ By MOMO KANNEH (WANEP)



Over 30 participants from Africa and Europe attended the conference. It was under the auspices of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP). In brief closing remarks, Mr. Samuel Gbaydee Doe, executive director of WANEP, urged participants to continue to be hopeful as peace builders in the midst of the many conflicts in Africa. He thanked participants for their commitments to peace.

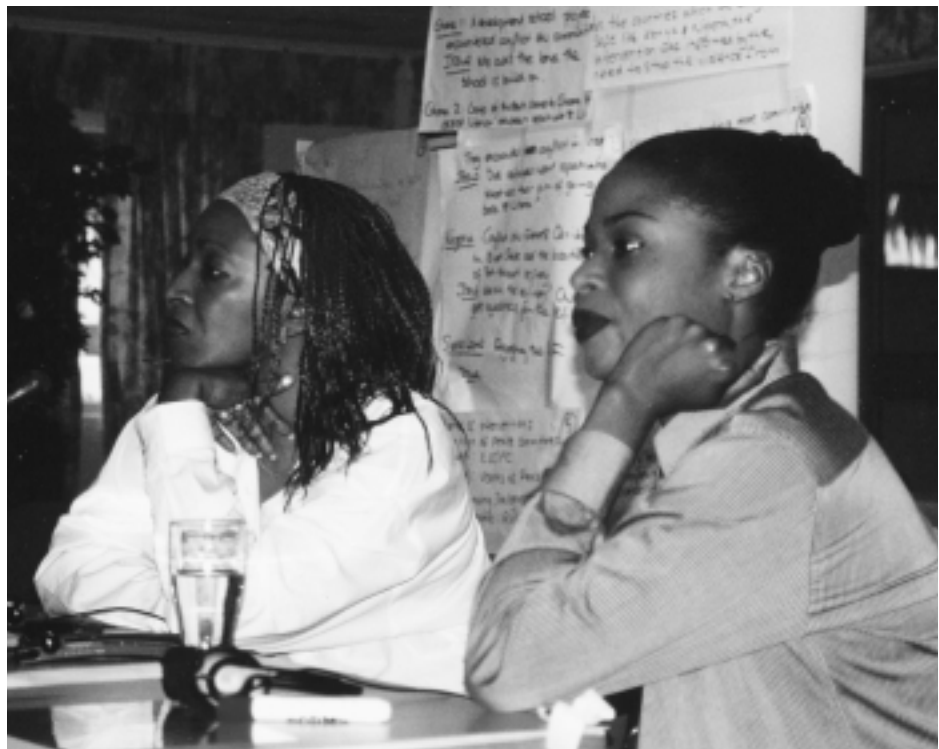
Earlier, the Programme Coordinator for Africa and Asia of the ECCP, Monique Mekenkamp, said she was impressed by the self-awareness the conference generated and the willingness of participants to share their experiences, a process which, she said, will further enhance the prospects of an international conference scheduled for this October in Soesterberg, the Netherlands.

Dubbed the Africa Conference on Lessons Learned in Conflict Prevention and Peace Building, the conference brought together practitioners who shared lessons they have learned in conflict prevention and peace building in their assignment areas. Participants, among other things, discussed strategies for intervention and the

critical nature of networking, research, documentation and information dissemination in mapping out the trends of conflicts in Africa.

The role of women in conflict resolution and the African traditional methods of conflict intervention were also highlighted.

The Africa Conference is the third of such conferences under the sponsorship of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation. The first two conferences were held last April in Sarajevo and last May in India and Sri Lanka. The three conferences are a prelude to the October conference on the theme: Towards Better Peacebuilding Practices. Anneke Galama, Project Officer for the Lessons Learned Project of the ECCP, noted that this regional meeting and its outcomes formed a crucial input for further steering the international conference in October.



The international project on Lessons Learned in Peace Building

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation has taken the initiative in responding to the need for a more integrated approach to the practice of conflict prevention and peace building. Lessons learned need to be captured, evaluation practices should be more widely discussed and impact assessment deserves more attention. To meet these needs a number of activities have been developed.



During an *expert meeting* in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, February 1-4, 2001 some 35 participants made a first attempt to construct a framework for the Lessons Learned-project and discussed the complex issues outlined in this special edition of the Newsletter. Secondly, *regional seminars on Lessons Learned* have been organised in Sarajevo, Colombo, New Delhi and Accra. At these meetings regional experts were invited to share their perspectives and ideas on the specifics of their

region and type of conflict they are dealing with. The relation between western, more academic, analysis and local views and perspectives were discussed.

Also, the question was raised whether or not regional lessons should be linked up with the more international debate on peace-building practice. In another initiative, a special workshop on Lessons Learned was held during the conference 'Promoting the Prevention of Violent Conflict and Peace Building by Interaction between State Actors and Voluntary Organisations'. This event was organised together with Swedish NGOs and with the support of the Swedish government in May. Many government representatives were present.

Lastly, the ECCP has the lead in steering the process on establishing an *international working group on Lessons Learned in Peace Building*. This project should facilitate an open international network for lessons learned in peace building. The aim is to further improve and develop the knowledge and understanding on peace building, focusing especially on lessons learned, best practices and evaluation. <

Programme of the International Conference 'Towards Better Peace Building Practice', October 24-26, 2001, Soesterberg, The Netherlands

The overall aim of the conference is to contribute to the improvement of evaluation and impact assessment practices on conflict prevention and peace-building activities. We strive towards this aim through the following set of goals:

- to *stimulate* and *broaden* the debate between key-actors, in particular, governments, IGOs, development-, humanitarian- and peace-building NGOs
- to *share* experiences and questions and to *illustrate* this debate with as much input on specific issues and from as many conflict regions as possible.
- to *integrate* different programmes and projects on evaluation and lessons learned of the key-actors.
- to facilitate *networking*, internationally and especially with conflict regions on these issues.
- to *disseminate* key lessons learned and best practices by working documents and the conference report.

Around 18 working groups will be organised by key NGOs. In principle, every working group will consist of two sessions, each lasting 90 minutes. A working document will

be published before the conference, which will guide participants into the content of the working groups and provide some general background material on evaluation practices and lessons learned. The programme of the conference consists of three plenary sessions with among others Mary B. Anderson (Collaborative for Development Action, USA), Vasu Gounden (African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, ACCORD, South Africa), Michael Lund (Management Systems International, Inc), Robert Ricigliano (Peace Studies Program, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), George Wachira (Nairobi Peace Initiative, Kenya), Kevin Clements (International Alert, UK) and Bineta Diop (Africa Women Solidarity). Two panel debates, on I. Religion & Conflict and II. Aid & Conflict will also take place.

For more information on the conference programme, working groups, guest speakers and registration, please check www.kdk-nl.org or www.euconflict.org

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Key publications on Lessons Learned in Peace Building

- **Responding to Conflict** (UK) recently published *Working with Conflict; Practical skills and Strategies*. It provides a range of practical tools, developed over a number of years by RTC, in collaboration with practitioners from around the world. It is divided into four parts: Analysis; Strategy; Action; and Learning. RTC is a British organisation that trains people in conflict areas. Available: www.respond.org
- The **Mott Foundation** (US) published *Reaching for Peace* on the lessons learned from the conflict resolution grant-making programme 1989-1999. Available: www.mott.org
- **Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management** (Germany) has developed a manual for publication on the internet: *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation*. This Handbook provides practitioners with an orientation guide illustrating state-of-the-art approaches in the field of conflict resolution and transformation, with special emphasis on peace building in crisis regions. Available: www.berghof-center.org/handbook/index.html
- **Collaborative for Development Action** (USA) and the **Life & Peace Institute** (Sweden) are jointly implementing the project: *Reflecting on Peace Practice*. The project brings together agencies working on conflict to gather experiences from a variety of past-conflict focused actions through case studies. The purpose is to improve practice by comparing and analysing these experiences, in order to identify what works, what does not work, and under what circumstances. A list of the 27 cases is included in this document. Available: www.cdainc.com
- **Collaborative for Development Action** (USA) published *Options for Aid in Conflict: Lessons from Field Experience*, an excellent report on the relation between development and humanitarian aid and conflict. It outlines the dilemmas and problems for NGOs when operating in conflict. It also offers ideas and suggestions for better policy-making practice. The report is based on Anderson's book *Do No Harm: how aid can support peace-or war*, 1999, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. Available: www.cdainc.com
- In the series of the **Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict**, Bruce Jentleson edited *Opportunities Missed, Opportunities Seized*, a publication that assesses the feasibility of preventive diplomacy. It includes not only cases in which preventive diplomacy failed, but also ones in which it largely succeeded. Available: www.ccpdc.org
- *Accord: An International Review of Peace Initiatives* is a series of publications by **Conciliation Resources** (UK). Provides detailed narrative and rigorous analysis of specific war and peace processes, combining readability with practical relevance. Available: www.c-r.org/accord/index.htm
- *Compendium of Operational Frameworks for Peacebuilding & Donor Coordination* prepared for the CPR Peacebuilding Network by the **Peacebuilding Unit of CIDA** (Canada). This Compendium contains lessons learned and best practices in conflict prevention, mid-conflict engagement and post-conflict transition and reconstruction. Among the issues covered are Early Warning, Gender and Conflict, Measuring Results, Security Sector. Available: www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/peace
- The **Conflict Prevention Network** (based in Brussels, Belgium) published a manual with an overview and an evaluation of specific means of intervention of the EU: *Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention in Developing Countries: A Practical Guide*. It lists approximately 130 measures or tools, like awareness raising; capacity building; strengthening the role of political institutions; political dialogue; demobilisation and reintegration. Available: www.swp-berlin.org/cpn
- The **Conflict Prevention Network's** Yearbook 1999/2000 *The Impact of Conflict Prevention Policy; Cases, Measures and Assessments* takes up the subject of how to measure the impact that specific policies have on the ground. Edited by Micheal Lund and Guenola Rasamoelina it centres on the question of what is effective in conflict prevention. Available: www.swp-berlin.org/cpn
- The Belgian-based NGO **Field Diplomacy Initiative** has published *Peace-building: a field guide*, 2001, Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc. edited by Prof. Luc Reyckler and dr. Thania Paffenholz. With contributions from over 50 international experts, and sections on: preparing for the field; working in the field; and surviving in the field. Information: info@fdi.ngonet.be
- **International IDEA**, an intergovernmental organisation based in Sweden, produced a handbook of options and lessons learned entitled *Democracy and Deep-Rooted Conflict: Options for Negotiations* (1998). It provides practical advice for policy-makers and political leaders in post-conflict societies and presents a wealth of options that can be drawn upon to build sustainable peace. It is part of a series of handbooks. Available: www.idea.int
- **UK Department for International Development (DFID)** recently published a paper *Aid, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka*. It deals with the relation between western donor-policies and the Sri Lanka conflict. It outlines the need for a more conflict-sensitive policy and programming of relief and development projects and in capacity building programmes. Available: www.dfid.gov.uk
- **Swedish Int. Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)** has published two reports on *Assessment of Lessons Learned from Sida Support to Conflict Management and Peace Building*. Firstly, *State of the Art/Annotated Bibliography(00/37:1)* and secondly, *Final Report (00/37)*. Available: www.sida.se
- **Saferworld, International Alert and Int. Development Research Centre** have published a paper, *Conflict-Sensitive Approaches to Development* which draws on their findings, research, policy dialogue and field work on approaches to peace and conflict-sensitive development. Available: www.international-alert.org/publications.htm



THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

The Conflict Prevention Newsletter and Conflict Trends, the magazine of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, have agreed to a regular exchange of articles. ACCORD will provide a special focus on Africa for our Newsletter. For this occasion, Senzo Ngubane reflects on efforts to establish peace and in Somalia.

Peacemaking and state making **Lessons from Somalia?**

The initiative to recreate the state of Somalia took approximately three grueling months of talks in Arta, Djibouti. At the end, the process seemed to yield positive results when a Somali Transitional National Assembly (TNA) and a new president were elected. The aim of this article is twofold. Firstly it is a critical appraisal of the Arta conference and secondly, it delves on the post-conference situation in Somalia by looking at the challenges faced by the TNA ♦ *By SENZO NGUBANE**

The Somali National Peace Conference was an initiative aimed at ostensibly to rebuild the state of Somalia. It was held in Djibouti under the aegis of that country's president, Omar Guelleh, but fell under the overall endorsement and support of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The conference resumed on May 2, 2000, and drew leaders and representatives from civil society, various clans and sub clans, politicians, business leaders and intellectuals. The conference was designed such that the representatives were drawn from both inside the country as well as those who remain in exile. In essence, the Somali peace initiative should be perceived as one of many crucial steps, which need to be pursued in order to restore a sense of belonging, identity and nationhood to all the people of Somalia.

The Somali leaders who gathered in Arta, agreed on a clan-based, power-sharing system as the modus operandi for the TNA. Accordingly, 245 seats were created for the Transitional Authority and they were allocated in this way: the four main clans: Dir, Darod, Digil-Mirifle and Hawiye received forty-four (44) seats respectively; other small

clans were given twenty four (24) seats; women representatives were allocated 25 and the remaining 20 seats shared among the political parties. The clan-based system of government was viewed as an appropriate step towards forging unity in Somalia. The question of unity is indeed an important feature for a nation that had, hitherto seen no central authority or government for almost a decade. Instead, Somalia was reduced to a territory run by various warlords whose immediate interests was nowhere close to reconstituting a state of Somalia. Furthermore, the conference in Djibouti also reached agreement on the following:

- the election of the president and the appointment of a prime minister by the president;
- the formation of a government of national unity which would be in place for a two year period;
- the creation of mechanisms to start a constitutional drafting process and;
- the setting up of all necessary institutions that would enable the country to hold elections during the transitional period.

The next step after the formation of the TNA was the election of the interim president. The TNA voted for Abdiqasim Salad Hasan, a former deputy prime minister and interior minister of former president, Siad Barre. President Hasan was sworn in on 27 August and immediately after his appointment he embarked on visits to Libya, Saudi Arabia and New York. During his visit to Libya, the president met with one of the faction leaders, Hussein Aided of the Somali National Alliance (SNA), who was one of the faction leaders who turned down an invitation to attend the Djibouti process

and who continues to oppose the interim order. Following his election as president and in accordance with the Djibouti agreement Ali Khalif Galayhd was appointed as prime minister during this transitional period.

What is the significance of this peace initiative? Are there any lessons that can be drawn from such an initiative?

The Djibouti conference was important to the extent that it led to the creation of a firm belief that ordinary Somalis would one day have their peace. However, given the current problems that the interim authority is facing, the initiative also serves as a firm reminder that peace is elusive and as such, any negotiation attempts should be viewed as a process rather than an event. It would have been incorrect for the representatives who gathered in Djibouti to assume that the formation of a transitional authority would mean an end to the country's crises.

Furthermore, the Djibouti conference serves as a useful case study of how different methods of conflict resolution at a state level can be creatively and simultaneously used to arrive at an agreement. That is, the initiative agreed to have a clan-based political agreement, thereby recognising the role that traditional and community leaders can play during the peace process in Somalia. Over and above this however, the Djibouti initiative also recognised the fact that the creation of a new state would also require the inclusion of other stakeholders, for instance, political parties and members of civil society. This creative combination suggests that the Djibouti initiative, inter alia, took into cognisance Somalia's socio-political composition.

The second lesson, which is concomitant to the above, is that the

question of the ownership of the peace process. Conventional wisdom states that, those that are directly affected by the conflict should have some form of ownership of any attempts to bring about peace in their troubled territory. Therefore, in the case of Somalia, the fact that the conference involved over 2,000 delegates drawn from across the political spectrum is indicative of the fact that the Somalis drove the initiative. Thus the issue of ownership of the process was one of the catalyst that helped the negotiations to move ahead in Djibouti.

Furthermore, another lesson from this initiative was the realisation that for the first steps towards the resolution of the conflict in Somali did not lie with the warlords and their militias who, for a long time, thrived on the continued destruction of Somalia. The initiative was focused on laying the basis for resolving the conflict in Somalia and, therefore an opportunity was given to all the non-armed players in Somalia. One is not in anyway implying that the warlords should never be considered. On the contrary, because of their capacity vis-à-vis the non-armed opposition, they have to be part of a process. However one is emphasising the point that by including the other stakeholders, the Djibouti peace conference showed that the armed groups are not the only key players necessary to resolve a conflict. In fact, what this process has done, is to throw the gauntlet at the warlords who now have to prove to the international community and more importantly to ordinary Somalis that they want to end civil strife in the country.

Notwithstanding this historic achievement in the life of Somalia problems abound and the interim authority will have to invest its time in attempting to deal with them. Firstly, there is a need to further explore all possible avenues to secure the support of the political leadership from Somaliland and Puntland who boycotted the peace conference. This is necessary, because any successful transitional process ought to be inclusive. Despite the fact that these two administrations boycotted the first crucial proceedings, they still have a role to play in the long-term nation building and reconstruction initiatives.

The situation around Puntland and Somaliland is however very complex making it one of the key challenges faced by the current transitional government. What complicates the situation is that both Puntland and



‘The Somali peace initiative is one of many crucial steps, which need to be pursued in order to restore a sense of belonging, identity and nationhood.’

Somaliland maintain that they are ‘autonomous states’. For example, Somaliland has its own government structures for instance, a parliament. Recently, a referendum was held in Somaliland where the results showed an overwhelming support for a new constitution, which among other things asserts the territory’s independence. Even though Somaliland has not received international recognition as an autonomous state, the result of the election poses a serious problem for the TNA and its ideal of a single united state of Somalia.

In the same vein, the new Assembly will have to engage with the factional leaders inside Somalia, in order to ensure the internal sustainability of the peace process. This is particularly important because one of the faction leaders, Hussein Aided, has refused to recognise the new president, seeing him merely as another ‘faction leader’ who represents the ‘Arta group’, rather than an impartial representative of a central Somali authority. The success of the new parliament and the future of the government are also dependent on the manner in which the faction leaders (and ‘their concerns’) are dealt with. A thorny issue that the interim administration has to contend with is the existence of the Somali Restoration and Reconciliation Council (SRRC) formed by the factional leaders.

The SRRC is led jointly by Hussein Aideed and Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf,

the president of Puntland. The sustainability of the Djibouti initiative and the future survival of the interim authority depends on the manner in which it deals with this ‘parallel process’. So far, the interim government has received overwhelming support of from the international community as a legitimate representative of Somalia and this should serve as a sign that the SRRC could not be perceived as an alternative to the Djibouti process. This is perhaps, one of the lessons for future peace initiatives; that is, the process would always be negatively affected by other elements who either felt excluded or who are merely bent on disrupting the main initiative. Therefore mechanism to deal with such destructive elements ought to be in place in order to ensure the sustainability of the process.

Lastly, another issue that is of concern, is whether or not the new government should institute a mechanism whereby war criminals are prosecuted. A decision regarding this issue would go a long way towards either ensuring accountability by prosecuting, or ensuring reconciliation by not prosecuting. This issue is further complicated by the fact that some of the members of the TNA are allegedly implicated in such crimes. A possible solution to this dilemma could be a Truth Commission that seeks to reconcile the Somali people, as opposed to merely seeking retribution.

Any peace effort has its own problems and faces a number of challenges. That this has been the case with the Arta Conference is without doubt and it has been reflected above. However, the conference and its subsequent outcomes have provided a framework within which elementary steps towards peace could be taken. It is in this context that the Somali peace initiative deserves even more support from the IGAD, particularly considering its relative successes thus far. Also, for this initiative to be sustainable, the international community will have to play its role by supporting all efforts towards peace in Somalia. Accordingly, the move by the UN to consider a mission for Somalia is a step towards a right direction. The country’s last ten years remain a firm reminder that anything contrary to this could drag Somalia into an abyss of civil strife once again.

* Senzo Ngubane is research officer at ACCORD but the views expressed here are those of the author.

News from the European Platform

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation is a network of more than 150 key European organisations and international NGOs involved in the prevention and/or resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena. Its mission is to facilitate networking, to encourage co-operation and to facilitate the exchange of

information as well as to develop advocacy and lobbying activities among participating organisations. The European Centre for Conflict Prevention acts as the secretariat of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation and initiates, co-ordinates and implements the activities of the Platform.

Networking and information exchange

- European Platform meetings are organised annually. The last meeting took place in Sweden in May 2001. See also further on in this Newsletter.

- The European Platform aims to include participant organisations from all European countries.

Optimally, these should be national platforms or networks, such as have already been established in countries such as Finland, Germany, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the UK among others. In countries where no such focal point exists, the Platform aims to support the creation of one.

- The *Conflict Prevention Newsletter* is one of the few general newsletters on conflict prevention and resolution in the world. It has a circulation of 2,500 world wide. Regular contributions to the Newsletter from prominent organisations such as International Alert, Saferworld and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) greatly enhance its international focus as well as its quality of information.

Clearinghouse

- The Platform's web-site (www.euconflict.org) is one of the most comprehensive sources of information in the field of conflict prevention, and records an average of 100,000 hits per month. Background information is presented on conflicts and peace-building activities, combined with other service information including contact persons, addresses of organisations, web-sites and databases, all kinds of networks in the field, new literature, conferences and other events in the world. Work is in progress to improve the accessibility of the web-site.

- The International Directory was published by the Platform in 1998. It provides an overview of 475 organisations active in the field of

conflict prevention and resolution, and lists their activities.

- The Information Centre maintains a large collection of material produced by organisations around the world involved in conflict prevention. Its focus is upon unpublicised 'grey literature' produced by NGOs.

Searching for Peace programme

The Searching for Peace programme is aimed at recording, describing and analysing prevention and management efforts in the main violent conflicts in the world. Surveys of these efforts are produced per region, as well as complementary directories, which contain profiles of the main local and international NGOs working in the field of peace building and conflict prevention. Searching for Peace in Africa was the first publication in this programme. The programme is ongoing, with publications on Europe & Eurasia, and Asia & the Pacific planned for the year 2002.

Raising awareness

- People Building Peace is a project aimed at collecting and publishing inspiring stories of peace building, with special attention to examples of successful peace building by different actors, such as women groups, churches, media, the corporate sector, etc. The first publication was issued in May 1999: *People Building Peace - 35 Inspiring Stories from Around the World*.

- In the Netherlands the European Centre established a Special Chair of Conflict Prevention and Management at Utrecht University. The first courses started in September 2000.

- Media & Peacebuilding is a project aimed at developing an operational framework for peace-building activities of media. It will be implemented by the Platform in close collaboration with IMPACS (Canadian NGO) and the European Centre for Common Ground (Brussels-based NGO).

Lobby and advocacy

A group of organisations active in the field of conflict resolution and peace building recently established the *European Peace-building Liaison Office*. The primary tasks of the Liaison Office will be to service NGOs working in the field of conflict prevention and resolution with information on relevant developments within the EU institutions and to facilitate their interaction with these authorities. EPLO is linked to the European Platform through one of its members, the European Centre.

- In June 2000 the European Platform, in close co-operation with International Alert and Saferworld, published a lobby document - *The G8 and Conflict Prevention. Turning declarations into action - aimed at influencing the agenda of the G-8 summit in Japan in July*.

- Targeting the Swedish and Belgian EU presidencies in 2001, the European Platform has launched the awareness-raising project 'Promoting a Culture of Prevention' This project consists of several activities including: creating a lobby document, *Preventing Violent Conflict - Opportunities for the Swedish and Belgian Presidency of the EU in 2001*, produced by International Alert, Saferworld and the European Platform in December 2000; an expert meeting on common lessons learned in February 2001; and the Gripsholm-II conference in May 2001.

Lessons Learned

The Lessons Learned project aims to formulate common lessons learned in the field of conflict prevention. It should contribute to expertise and policy-making on conflict prevention and conflict management. Lessons learned and best practices which experts have judged to be crucial will be formulated and integrated to stimulate greater coherence and create an integrated body of knowledge in this field.

Publications

Free publications, brochures, reports:

- *Annual Report 2000* of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation / European Centre for Conflict Prevention, April 2001
- *Code of Conduct*. Conference report, June 1999
- *Conflict resolution in schools*. Report of the international seminar held on March 2 and 3, 2000, the Netherlands, in co-operation with Sardes Educational Services, March 2000
- *G8 and Conflict Prevention-Turning Declarations into Action*. By Saferworld and International Alert, June 2000
- *Lessons Learned in Conflict Interventions I & II*, Background papers for the Lessons Learned Expert Meeting held on February 1-4, Northern Ireland, January 2001.
- *Peace Studies and Conflict*

Resolution: An overview of University Programmes and Training Courses in Europe, July 2001

- *Conflict Prevention Newsletter*

Books

- *Prevention and Management of Violent Conflicts - An International*

Directory. 1998 (\$25)

- *People Building Peace - 35 Inspiring Stories from Around the World*. May 1999 (\$15)
- *Searching for Peace in Africa. An Overview of Conflict Prevention and Management Activities*. October 1999 (\$30).

New Brochure! *Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution: An overview of University Programmes and Training Courses in Europe*. This brochure is an update of an earlier edition, which was published by the Centre together with the University of Bradford's Department of Peace Studies and Kontakt der Kontinenten in 1998. This new, updated and expanded edition includes 100 pages of descriptions of a total of 44 University programmes and 30 training courses related to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building in Europe.

The brochure will be of assistance to students, people working in NGOs and policy makers who are interested in expanding their knowledge and experience in the field of conflict resolution and peace studies. The brochure can be ordered from the European Centre for Conflict Prevention and costs 5 euro. Later this year, the contents of the brochure will also be put on the website of the Centre at <http://www.euconflict.org>.

Gripsholm II

From May 2 to 4, practitioners, academics, representatives from several governments and representatives from the EU, gathered in the Swedish Red Cross Educational and Training Centre in Mariefred, near the castle of Gripsholm. This was the venue of a conference, called 'Promoting the Prevention of Violent Conflicts and Building Peace by Interaction between State Actors and Voluntary Organisations (Gripsholm II)'. The conference was organised by the Swedish Peace Team Forum and the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation, in close co-operation with International Alert and Saferworld

In four working groups the following issues were discussed: lessons learned; the role of the European Union in conflict prevention; civilian peace services; and national infrastructures for conflict prevention and peace building. The recommendations of the conference were presented to Lena Hjelm-Wallén, deputy prime minister of Sweden, representing the Swedish Presidency of the EU.

The formula of the conference, facilitating open dialogue and stimulating the search for new areas of co-operation between state and non-state actors, was welcomed very much by all participants. The importance of dialogue and early interaction is consequently one of the central

conclusions of Gripsholm-II. A report of the conference will be published in September. The recommendations of

the conference are available at the European Centre.



MAUDE FRÖBERG

Better staffing equals better missions

In February/March of this year, at the suggestion of and facilitated by Paul van Tongeren of ECCP, Paul LaRose-Edwards, executive director of Canadem, visited a number of interested European countries to share Canada's experience in creating a national roster of civilians for international operations. This article looks at two key issues: the need for national rosters so as to enable the UN and others to effectively undertake multinational staffing; and the advisability of national rosters operating with government funding but functioning as NGOs ♦ By PAUL LAROSE-EDWARDS*

From national short-lists to international selections

The UN Brahimi Report is the most recent study to argue again that the enhanced professionalisation of international missions as well as UN headquarters in New York and elsewhere is dependent on the ability to rapidly recruit the right staff. The right team will succeed despite weak mandates and minimal budgets. The wrong team can waste massive resources and fail to capitalise on strong mandates.

The OSCE's new and exciting REACT mechanism recognises those same fundamental truths. OSCE REACT also understands that international agencies should not monopolise all staffing functions. National level mechanisms can more effectively carry out many rostering, screening, and short-listing functions, while the OSCE, UN and others should concentrate on the final selection from national short-lists.

Canada has created such a national roster. Called *Canadem*, it is a rapid reaction mechanism for the UN, OSCE, other international organisations, NGOs and the Canadian government, to identify skilled Canadian civilians. It includes experts in human rights, democratisation, rule of law, peace building, admin-logistics, security, and reconstruction. These Canadian experts come from NGOs, professional organisations, business, civil service, parliaments, judiciary, universities, police, military, and individuals in their

own right. After three years of operation Canadem has over 2,500 registrants and has put forward screened candidates to over 90 separate agencies, ministries, departments, or organisations, and to over 50 field missions.

Canadem's fundamental premise is that, like military peacekeeping, the civilian components of international operations can benefit immeasurably from national-level civilian standby arrangements which facilitate the rapid deployment of properly screened personnel. Note that Canadem only provides short-lists of screened candidates, it does not deploy individuals. It is up to end-users such as the UN or the Canadian government to actually select, hire, and deploy individuals. There is no charge for Canadians registering, nor is there a charge for organisations receiving the résumés of screened short-list candidates.

One major value-added of Canadem is that it is far more effective and cost efficient for Canadians to screen Canadians. Canadem screening concentrates on critical skills that are more easily determined at the national level. While technical skills are confirmed, most screening focuses on interpersonal skills and capacities. Do they work well in teams, handle field stress well, have a sense of humour, have flexibility and handle uncertainty well?

Being knowledgeable of the cultural and linguistic peculiarities of Canadians, Canadem can more effectively identify Canadians having these requisite interpersonal skills. Non-Canadians would miss the myriad of indicators of strengths and weaknesses. Similarly, Canadem would feel particularly unsuited if asked to screen

other nationalities such as British, French, Mexican, or Indonesian. Therefore, national-level roster mechanisms such as Canadem are best placed to screen fellow nationals to the short-list stage of international recruitment.

Then at that stage it is far more effective and efficient for the staff of the UN or other international agencies to further screen these short-listed candidates and select the optimum candidate for a particular job. This 'two-stage recruitment' appears to be the obvious route to enhance international staffing. Two-stage international recruitment is premised upon a division of tasks driven by the inherent division of insight and capacity that exists between the national and the international, with screening being a good example. The obvious conclusion is that every country needs to have independent merit-based rosters.

The recent European visit by Canadem confirmed that most countries in the world do not yet have rosters, while western European countries have but inconsistently so. Some well developed organisations like NORDEM and RedR pre-date Canadem, and there has been a recent proliferation of small rosters that tend to focus on a narrow skills set. And a number of foreign ministries have created ad hoc mechanisms to second candidates to the OSCE. However a number of countries like the Netherlands and Germany are looking for new ways to both enlarge national rosters and possibly rationalise the proliferation of rosters.

The Canadem model has been a good fit for Canada where a more 'holistic' mechanism was needed, and was politically and financially possible. Those interested in knowing more about Canadem can start by checking its web-site at www.canadem.ca and then E-mail further queries to us. One key issue that came out of the discussions in European capitals was who should house such national rosters?

NGO with government funding - dream scenario

Canadem is an NGO yet all of its funding is provided by the Canadian

'While technical skills are confirmed, most screening focuses on interpersonal skills and capacities.'

foreign ministry (DFAIT) and other government departments. Strengthening multilateral organisations is a primary Canadian foreign policy objective, and Canadem is seen as a valuable Canadian support mechanism for staffing multilateral organisations such as the UN and the OSCE.

The option of setting up Canadem within the Canadian Foreign ministry was considered but quickly dismissed. By making Canadem an NGO there have been substantial financial savings and major operational advantages such as ease of access, reaction speed, and screening.

One such NGO advantage is that UN desk officers and others can access Canadem directly without feeling that they need to use official channels. Many UN officers would actively avoid staffing through official channels which invariably are lengthy and political. Canadem as an NGO is rapid and neutral, and does not inject another layer of bureaucracy but truly lightens the load of overworked UN officers. Similarly, as Canadem candidates are not *official* Canadian candidates, UN desk officers do not feel any pressure to select a Canadian and can focus on merit.

When official Canadian candidates are required, Canadem simply responds

‘Many western European countries need to catch up with other Europeans or Canada, and we all need to further enhance international recruitment.’

to requests from the Canadian government by providing short-lists and the government selects and puts forward the official Canadian candidates. Thus Canadem as an NGO plays a dual role: directly with international agencies for unofficial candidates, and in tandem with the Canadian government for official candidates. This maximises the use of the roster - more end-users can easily access Canadian experts.

There are many other advantages to not being housed within the foreign ministry yet remaining funded by it. Of course what else would we say, so assessments should also be directed to

the Peacekeeping Division of the Canadian foreign ministry.

Conclusion

International staffing is best achieved through a two-stage process which takes the ability of national level rosters to better screen fellow nationals to a short-list stage, and combines it with the ability of international agencies to be better at selecting the optimum candidate for a particular post from such merit-based short-lists.

Every nation requires rosters so that international agencies can get short-list candidates worldwide. And those rosters will tend to work best if they operate independently from governments even if governments provide all or most of the operational funds. Many western European countries need to catch up with other Europeans or Canada, and we all need to further enhance international recruitment.

In all of this it is critical to remember that the objective is not how to get more Canadians or other nationalities hired, the objective is to strengthen international agencies by enhancing their staffing capacity.

* Paul LaRose-Edwards is Executive Director of Canadem

SEARCHING FOR PEACE

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Developments and news regarding the European Platform’s multi-annual Searching for Peace Programme are reported quarterly in this Newsletter.

The Searching for Peace Programme records, describes and analyses prevention and management efforts in the main violent conflicts in the world. Conflict surveys of these efforts are produced, as well as complementary Regional Directories, which contains profiles of the main local and international NGOs working for peace in specific regions.

The purpose of the Searching for Peace Programme is to fill the gaps in information, communication and coordination. The ultimate aim of the project is to contribute to a peaceful transformation of violent wars and conflicts around the world.

The Programme consists of several Regional Projects. Each Regional Project starts with the organisation of one or more preparatory seminars and results in a published review of conflicts in the area, and regularly updated web-site information. Furthermore policy seminars are organised where results of the published reviews are discussed, aimed at applying the lessons learned and formulating policy recommendations for governments, inter-governmental organisations and NGOs. Regular contact and continuing co-operation with the build-up network of regional experts and organisations is envisioned and stimulated. The Regional Projects involve close co-operation between the European Platform and academic institutions, networks and NGOs in the specific regions.

Since starting the programme, we have been approached by an increasing number of people looking for details of contacts or wishing to make suggestions. This shows the need and usefulness for this inventory of who is doing what. Besides the supply of information, also the networking between people in different countries and different backgrounds is stimulated by, and throughout, the programme.

Africa

In October 1999, the publication *Searching for Peace in Africa* was finalised in co-operation with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD, South Africa). It presents an overview of conflict prevention and management activities of local and international organisations in conflict areas in Africa. Included are 31 surveys of conflict prevention and management activities, several introductory articles, and regional articles that look at recent developments and their relevance in terms of de-escalating violent conflict. Furthermore it contains a directory with profiles of some 100 African organisations working in the field of conflict prevention and management. Instrumental were the co-operation with ACCORD, and with academic institutions, networks and NGOs in the North and in the conflict areas and the expertise of an international advisory group and regional contacts.

Comments, suggestions and news are welcomed and will be incorporated in the updates. In November/December 2000 most of the conflict surveys on our web-site were updated.

Europe & Eurasia

Draft surveys of conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities in violent conflicts in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia have been available on the European Platform's web-site since the Spring of this year. These drafts are written by experts, scholars and practitioners from the region and were discussed at several consultative roundtable seminars that we have organised. In mid April a three-day regional roundtable seminar was organised in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The theme of the seminar was 'conflict prevention and peace building & NGOs in the Balkans - lessons to be learned.' The discussions focussed on issues such as local capacities for peace, the role of international NGOs, partnerships between agencies in peace work and challenges and lessons to be learned in the Balkans. The seminar brought together 35 participants from all countries in South Eastern Europe and several local organisations gave a presentation on their experiences and the challenges in their work. The seminar participants especially appreciated the opportunity for networking and sharing information and experiences across borders.

Searching for Peace in Europe &

Call for information and comments

We call upon our contacts and readers of this newsletter to inform us of interesting projects and organisations in the regions that are covered. We are especially looking for information about local NGOs and resource persons. Also information such as articles, conference reports, publications, web-sites etc. are very welcome. For more information about this project contact Paul van Tongeren, executive director, Monique Mekenkamp, project co-ordinator Africa & Asia, or Juliette Verhoeven, project co-ordinator Europe & the Middle East, at the European Centre.

Eurasia - An Overview of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities will be published in February 2002. The Centre for Nonviolent Action in Sarajevo, International Centre on Conflict Negotiation in Tbilisi and Center for Conflict Management in Almaty were instrumental in compiling the directory of organisations working with conflict prevention and peacebuilding workers in these regions. More than 40 experts and lead organisations in Europe and Eurasia have collaborated in the production of this publication. Some 400 profiles of organisations will be published. With a foreword by the former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoep, and contributions from prominent scholars and practitioners in the field such as Mari Fitzduff, Michael S. Lund, Kevin Clements, Ananara Tabyshalieva, Jonathan Cohen, Valery Tishkov and Raymond Detrez to name only a few, this publication offers an unique insight into varying approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding as used by Europe's and Eurasia's leading organisations in the field.

The book will be launched at a large international seminar about conflict prevention and the role of the OSCE in Central Asia that we will organise on together with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, Netherlands on March 7-8. If you would like to receive more information about this seminar please contact Juliette Verhoeven at the European Centre.

Asia & the Pacific

In the past six months, draft surveys and articles on conflict prevention in

South Asia have been written by experts or teams of experts from the relevant countries. The drafts were discussed at two preparatory seminars in India and in Sri Lanka. The purpose was to discuss the accuracy of the information presented in the surveys, neutrality and impartiality of the descriptions and provide additional information on official conflict management and NGO activities (successes and failures). The preparatory seminars are critical for the quality and legitimacy of the surveys and articles. This process is extremely important as we strive to ensure that the articles and surveys are as neutral, balanced and comprehensive as possible. Besides commissioning local researchers and experts to write the articles and surveys, local input is further ensured by this consultative process. The authors incorporated the comments and suggestions into their survey texts and this led to a more balanced description of the conflicts and a qualitative improvement of the surveys in general. These second drafts are sent to a broad group of resource persons and experts for further comments and suggestions.

Additionally, a workshop/training session on conflict resolution was organised by the ECCP, the Tribal Welfare Society and the Impulse NGO Network, from May 26 - 29, 2001 in Shillong, Meghalaya, Northeast India. About 30 young grassroots practitioners were present. The problems and conflicts in Northeast India were discussed and differences and similarities were highlighted. Most participants found this to be a learning experience as it was one of the first times that people had sat down together to discuss the problems in such a setting and across state borders. Furthermore some instruments for conflict resolution were shared.

Two volumes on Asia & the Pacific will be published: Volume I focussing on Central & South Asia, in June 2002, Volume II on Southeast & East Asia, early 2003.

We are very glad that we have found a publisher for the *Searching for Peace* series, Lynne Rienner Publishers, US. Lynne Rienner specialises in the area of peace and conflict. Consequently, we expect to broaden and enlarge the sale and outreach of the publications. Libraries and universities, a target group that we ourselves were not able to reach sufficiently, are expected to be especially important customers.

New Literature on Preventing, Managing and Resolving Conflicts

compiled by Albert J. Jongman (PIOOM) and Esther Kloos (European Centre for Conflict Prevention)

Susan Collin Marks, *WATCHING THE WIND. CONFLICT RESOLUTION DURING SOUTH AFRICA'S TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2000, 225p. ISBN 1 878379 99 2

In its series on peacemaking in Africa, the US Institute of Peace has again found an inspiring author who presents a very personal account of her experience as a peacemaker in South Africa. Susan Collin Marks describes the activities of local peace committees during one of South Africa's most critical periods, the period of the signature of the National Peace Accord in 1991 to the first majority elections in 1994.

As an active member of the executive committee of the Western Cape Regional Peace Committee she presents the sometimes frustrating work of local peace workers confronted by daily violence. The study underlines the importance of the work at the grassroots level. Marks boiled down her experiences to a number of important lessons and to four important principles of peacemaking: 1) Top-down and bottom-up mechanisms need to be incorporated into the peace process; 2) All the stakeholders must be invited to join; 3) Relationship-building and healing mechanisms must be included; and 4) Socio-economic and political development must accompany any peace process aimed at institution and nation-building.

In the opening chapter Marks describes the development of the National Peace Accord that bounded the signatory parties to a code of conduct and provided a framework for reducing violence and solving problems collaboratively. Thousands of local peace workers were active in this process, and in the second chapter Marks describes the profiles of six of them who played critical roles. In the chapters three and four Marks describes how they gradually found ways to prevent uncontrollable situations during mass gatherings under very stressful conditions. The next three chapters deal with specific mechanisms or techniques, including the role of training workshops to raise the level of conflict resolution skills, the role of forums to engage diverse stakeholders and interest group around a common problem and finally the transformation of the police from an instrument of government repression to an agent of civilian protection. The techniques and mechanisms will not have the desired effects if there is no spirit of reconciliation to give meaning to the whole process. Marks dedicates her last chapter to Ubuntu, the African spiritual doctrine, which contributed to the choice for a win-win, non-adversarial culture embedded in a multicultural democracy.

Marks, who is currently vice-president of Search for Common Ground, is convinced that some principles and skills that worked in South Africa, may be equally useful in other conflict regions of the world. The problem is identifying which ones have a wider use when there is no definitive blue print to provide an answer. After the 1994 elections the politicians resumed control and disbanded the peace committees. It can be debated whether this was a good idea as South Africa remains a very violent society with one of the highest crime levels and various protracted communal conflicts that the politicians have not been able to solve. Fear of a new popular uprising in the West Cape is still present.

Jentleson, B.W. (Ed.). Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield *OPPORTUNITIES MISSED, OPPORTUNITIES SEIZED. PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD* Publishers, Inc., 2000, 431p. ISBN 0 8476 8559 4

This study belongs to the spin-off of the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict that began its work in May 1994 and issued its final report in December 1997. The commission looked at the strengths and weaknesses of various international entities in conflict prevention and considered ways in which international organisations might contribute toward developing an effective international system of non-violent problem solving. In the past year the world saw at least four conflicts escalating to high-intensity levels causing humanitarian emergencies. Cynics use these cases to question the validity of the preventive diplomacy framework. Bruce Jentleson counters this cynicism by showing that preventive diplomacy is not just an oversold and noble idea, but is a viable real world strategy that is still in need of much more refinement, elaboration, modification and adaptation.

The first goal of the study is to present studies of ten major cases that challenged the preventive diplomatic capacity of the international community in the first years of the post-Cold War era. The second goal is to discern and assess patterns across the cases in the successes and failures of preventive diplomacy. In order to blend analytic skills and first hand experience, a number of academics and diplomats were invited to analyse the ten selected cases (Croatia-Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Chechnya, Macedonia, Congo(Brazzaville), Russia-Latvia/Estonia, Russia-Ukraine and North Korea) on the basis of a structured framework with the aim of testing arguments about what strategies work and which do not, and why and how they succeed or fail. The case studies with detailed reconstructions of the development of the conflicts and the international response can be read independently. There is much to be learned from them because the need for prevention is not going to subside in the immediate future.

Unfortunately the likelihood and strength of concerted preventive action appears to be stronger in interstate conflicts with high strategic interests. The dynamics of intrastate conflicts, however, contradict the assumed preferability of a wait and see attitude. In many of the intrastate conflicts the interests were underestimated and the costs were miscalculated. The standard calculus for preventive diplomacy therefore has to be reassessed. After having shown the validity and the value of preventive diplomacy the author presents a number of lessons for a more successful diplomatic strategy and how major obstacles can be overcome. Critical issues such as political will, leadership, decisiveness, and credible preventive military force are discussed. The author holds the view that a fair but firm strategy includes a credible threat to use military force which is essential for both deterrence and reassurance objectives. At present the international community still lacks such a coercive component which is a critical element of success.

Literature from NGOs, institutes and Governments

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Other literature

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Andrew Knight, W. (Ed.) **Adapting the United Nations to a Post-Modern Era. Lessons learned.** Hampshire: Palgrave, 2001. - 304 p. ISBN 0333 80150 4

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Nye, Jr., J.S. **Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History (3rd Ed.).** New York: Longman, 2000. - 244 p. ISBN 0321 033327 2

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Calendar of Events and Conferences

- TOWARDS A COHERENT CONFLICT PREVENTION POLICY IN AFRICA: CHALLENGES FOR THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY

September 17, 2001 Brussels, Belgium

The conference, organised by the European Peace-building Liaison Office (EPLO) in co-operation with the Development Committee of the European Parliament and the Heinrich Boell Foundation, will address how the EU can bridge the gap between its Common Foreign and Security Policy and Development Cooperation policy to prevent conflicts in Africa. Regional workshops will focus on the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes and West Africa. Info: Catriona Gourlay, ISIS Europe
Tel: +32 2 230 7446
Fax: +32 2 230 6113
E-mail: info@isis-europe.org
www.isis-europe.org

- FROM SYSTEMS TO PEOPLE

September 24 - 29, 2001, Katowice, Poland

5th European Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict. This conference will address social, political, economic, and environmental problems of Eastern European countries, as well as developments experienced by all post-communist countries. Scholars, practitioners, politicians, and social workers are encouraged to participate in developing and disseminating theory, research, and experience that is useful for understanding conflict situations and improving conflict resolution and peacemaking on different social levels. Panels will address such topics as conflict and social change, processes of globalisation, and local and global sustainable development. Info: Anna Adamus-Matuszynska
Tel/fax +48 32 587 536 or 598 ext. 2500
Email: adamus@figaro.ae.katowice.pl

- ETHNIC CONFLICTS AND THEIR SOLUTION: MODELS AND EXPERIENCES

October 4 - 7, 2001, Burg Schlaining, Austria,

The focus is on ethnic conflicts, to be studied in the context of peace research. The conference should be a forum to a multitude of approaches, the debate restricted to empirically proven case studies and theoretical reflections with an emphasis on the historical background of the conflicts. Organizer(s): Europ. Research Forum on International Migration and Ethnic Relations
Contact: Europäisches Migrationszentrum, EUROFOR
fax: +49 30 444 10 85
E-mail: EMZ@compuserve.com
http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~migratio/eurofor/eo1_01.htm#35

- TOWARDS BETTER PEACE BUILDING PRACTICE

October 24 - 26, 2001, Soesterberg, The Netherlands

It is widely acknowledged that the field of conflict prevention and peace building is in need of greater coherence and that it lacks an integrated body of knowledge. To meet this need, several publications have recently been issued, which draw on years of experience. These valuable publications show a movement from a pioneering, into a more reflective stage of increased professionalism. The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation and Kontakt der Kontinenten have taken up the initiative to organise the conference 'Towards Better Peace Building Practice'. Around 18 Working Groups, all organised by key-NGOs will take place, invited guest-speakers will give presentations, and two panel debates on Aid & Conflict and on Religion will take place. For the updated conference program and a registration form consult the web site of Kontakt der Kontinenten
Kontakt der Kontinenten
Amersfoortsestraat 20
3769 AS Soesterberg, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 346 351755
Fax: +31 346 354735
E-mail: peacebuilding@kdk-nl.org
Web site: <http://www.kdk-nl.org>

- PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL (PBI) 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

October 26-27, 2001, Konstanz, Germany and Romanshorn, Switzerland

On celebrating the 20th anniversary of PBI the international conference brings together representatives and individuals from a wide range of backgrounds in peace and human rights movements and organisations as well as state and inter-governmental bodies. The conference presents an excellent platform for the international exchange of ideas and for establishing new partnerships. Theme: Promoting Nonviolence and Protecting Human Rights - The Role of Civilian Third Party Initiatives in Conflict Areas. Info: Jurgen Stork, Peace Brigades International
E-mail: pbizurich@dataway.ch
<http://www.peacebrigades.org>

- DIALOGUE OF CIVILISATIONS: A KEY PRIORITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY?

October 29 - November 1, 2001, Sussex, UK

How can greater understanding and constructive interaction between different cultures, especially Muslim and Christian, be best pursued? Are fairer media coverage and much more extensive people-to-people exchanges key needs? Can diaspora communities and religious bodies do more to promote dialogue? Is the internet having a significant impact in promoting contact? Is the globalisation of western culture a harmonising or divisive influence?
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