

# Conflict Prevention Newsletter

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## Editorial

# Beyond 2005: the future of conflict prevention

The year 2005 was historic for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and conflict prevention work. The July Global Conference brought together at the United Nations the largest group of civil society and policymakers ever to approve a Global Action Agenda, reflecting three years of discussions and debate in the regions. This is in and of itself a significant marker of our progress. The regions, too, benefited from the conference, with Regional Initiators being increasingly solicited for input and expertise by ministries of Foreign Affairs in the months following the conference.

The Global Conference also led to an official Security Council debate in September on the role of civil society in conflict prevention. GPPAC participated in this discussion, which resulted in official recognition of the important ways civil society can contribute to state peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts. The meeting was a landmark in that it was the first time an African NGO (ACCORD) had ever addressed the Security Council. Subsequently, GPPAC was invited to speak at a Security Council seminar in December. We hope that this is the beginning of a more formal advisory role that GPPAC will play to high-level UN decision-making bodies.

Also of great importance in 2005 was the General Assembly's move to create a Peacebuilding Commission as a central office within the UN to coordinate peacebuilding activities. As Detlev Wolter spells out in his article (page 8-9), the establishment of the commission represents an important development in shifting the UN culture from reaction to prevention, even if the commission's prevention mandate is more limited than we had hoped for. GPPAC fought hard for the inclusion of civil society in the commission's work, and can claim some measure of success in securing mentions of this role in the World



Opening session of the Global Conference

Summit Outcome Document. We must now ensure that the country-specific groups of the commission adequately reflect civil society representation and that the linkages to regional organisations—where early warning efforts can be particularly effective—are robust. In partnership with other civil society actors, GPPAC will be closely monitoring and engaging with the commission to help ensure these outcomes.

### Crucial crossroads

Like the UN, GPPAC stands at a crucial crossroads in its work—having established its global and regional work plans, we must now operationalise our intentions to make them reality. All fifteen of the regions already held—or are about to hold—meetings to push forward the regional action agendas. Simultaneously, GPPAC's International Steering Group and Secretariat are hard at work developing a new four-year strategic plan. As we set our sights on 2010—when we expect the UN to hold a multi-stakeholder conference on conflict prevention and adopt a Global Action Plan—and beyond, in a very real way our work is just getting started.

Paul van Tongeren, Executive Director of the  
European Centre for Conflict Prevention.

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# Update on the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict GPPAC Global Conference at UN Headquarters

GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP  
FOR THE  
PREVENTION  
OF ARMED  
CONFLICT

On July 19, 2005, after more than three years of planning, organising, and strategising, one of ECCP's most ambitious undertakings—the GPPAC Global Conference—opened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Entitled *From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Violent Conflict and Build Peace*, the Global Conference brought together more than 900 people from 118 countries.

By Jim Wake\*

ECCP took the lead in organising the conference in response to a challenge issued to civil society organisations in 2001 by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan 'to organise an international conference of local, national and international NGOs on their role in conflict prevention and future interaction with the United Nations in this field'. In the subsequent years, ECCP forged a 'global partnership'—the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)—to serve as an umbrella for civil society actors focusing on conflict prevention, to draft a manifesto that could serve as a basic statement of principles, and to organise the conference itself. Since its inception, ECCP has served as GPPAC's International Secretariat.

The collectively negotiated *People Building Peace: A Global Agenda for the Prevention of Violent Conflict*, was compiled following the conclusion of 15 parallel regional processes, each of which resulted in a Regional Action Agenda. The Global Action Agenda was based on the regional agendas and articulates nine guiding principles for a prevention agenda.

Three primary objectives for the Global Conference, which was co-sponsored by three UN departments, were identified:

- to promote global and regional agendas aimed at achieving a shift

from reaction to prevention of violent conflict;

- to develop plans for implementing the Global Action Agenda; and
- to increase awareness about civil society's role in peacebuilding and prevention.

The conference included a mix of speeches from dignitaries, including United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Stephen Stedman, Nobel Peace Prize recipient Jody Williams, and President Xanana Gusmão of East Timor; as well as experts and activists. In addition to the serious discussions, there were inspiring performances by the Tomoekai Drum Troupe, Haitian singer Emeline Michel, and US singer Patti Smith. Apart from the business within the meeting rooms, several outside events were held, including a reception commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dag Hammarskjöld, second Secretary-General of the UN; 'A Festival of Peacebuilding Around the World' aboard the Peace Boat berthed in the New York harbour; and a 'People Building Peace Concert'.

### A working conference

But the great majority of the business of the conference was accomplished during the more than fifty meetings, occurring between the opening and closing plenaries, where issues related to the prevention agenda were discussed, debated, and clarified, and proposals and recommendations were generated.

The concerns addressed in the 13 working groups, 29 workshops, 6 regional panels, and 7 interactive panels varied widely: 'how-to' sessions on topics such as networking and peace media; issue-specific discussions focusing on regional conflict resolution approaches, preventive diplomacy, development and peacebuilding, peace education, small

\* As a free-lance writer/journalist, Jim Wake compiled the official conference report



Opening session at the General Assembly

arms proliferation, and early warning and early response, among many others; and sessions focusing more generally on peacebuilding and organising strategies. Although no formal decisions were taken during the conference, certain themes, priorities and recommended courses of action did emerge.

### Highlights

Among the many special moments during the three-day conference, a few highlights, cited below, stand out.

At the opening session, conference facilitator Florence Mpaayei invited the regional initiators to present to the plenary the key messages that had emerged from the regional processes. One by one, the initiators addressed the plenary, each providing a particular perspective coloured by the regional priorities. Together, a strong message emerged of the global reach of the fundamental ideals of GPPAC: civil society working, in partnership with governments and international organisations, to effect a shift in conflict resolution strategy ‘from reaction to prevention’.

While UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was unable to attend the conference, he expressed his strong support for the GPPAC approach in a

## The Global Action Agenda

The Global Agenda articulates a vision for addressing the dangers and destructiveness of violent conflict through a strategy of *conflict prevention*—creating systems and mechanisms which allow for intervention before violence occurs and which preclude violence as an acceptable option for resolving conflict.

The Agenda articulates nine guiding principles and values, as follows:

- 1 Achieving peace by peaceful means
- 2 Primacy of local participation and ownership
- 3 Diversity, inclusiveness and equality
- 4 Multilateralism
- 5 Sustainability
- 6 Dialogue
- 7 Accountability
- 8 Transparency
- 9 Learning from practice

speech read by Assistant Secretary-General Stephen Stedman. The speech focused on the vital role that civil society has to play in various aspects of conflict resolution, disarmament, and human rights advocacy.

The opening plenary session also featured the official introduction of a new book on conflict prevention, *People Building Peace II: Successful Stories of Civil Society*. Two individuals whose activities were featured in the book then addressed the plenary: Katarina Kruhonja, of the Center for Peace, Non-

Violence and Human Rights in Osijek, Croatia, and Thelma Ekiyor, of the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET), an affiliate of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP).

For many, the highlight of the opening plenary was the keynote address of Nobel laureate Jody Williams, who spoke on the theme of ‘Human Security for Global Security’, stressing the linkage between ‘human security’ and human rights, sustainable development, arms control, the

involvement of women in conflict prevention, debt reduction, and fair trade. 'Every time we de-link those issues or fail to make the inevitable linkages crystal clear to the general public,' she said, 'we undercut our own efforts to promote a broader understanding and acceptance of a human security agenda.'

One of the high points of the closing conference plenary was a speech by President Xanana Gusmão of East Timor. President Gusmão endorsed the Global Action Agenda and called for a partnership including civil society, governments, and multilateral organisations to advance the conflict prevention agenda and to build capacity for conflict prevention work.

The closing session also provided an opportunity for feedback from the grass roots; conference participants were asked to tell what, metaphorically speaking, 'they would be taking home with them in their luggage'. The many varied responses certainly reflected the diversity of the 900 plus participants, but they were nearly all characterised by an enthusiasm for the GPPAC process and a commitment to carry forward with the work begun at the conference.

Finally, participants were clearly moved by the passionate keynote speech delivered by Vasu Gounden, Executive Director of the Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD). In a cautionary but hopeful message, Mr. Gounden implored the conference participants to build a progressive coalition bringing together civil society organisations, politicians, and business and religious leaders and to build 'a shared and common destiny ... so that we can live with each other and not kill each other'. Concluding, Mr. Goundon stressed the urgency: 'Now is the time, my friends, for courage and sacrifice. Now is the time, my friends, for you to stand up and be counted ... for a new dawn, a new beginning.'

### **Existential questions**

As with most conferences, much fruitful dialogue and debate at the GPPAC conference occurred during the informal meetings among the participants. Both inside the meeting rooms and in the hallways, much of the discussion focused on 'existential' questions on the very nature of GPPAC: What exactly is GPPAC? Can it succeed as a global movement? How can it interact with the grassroots, governments, and the United Nations?



A lively debate during one of the many working groups

## ***Themes, priorities, and recommendations emerging from the conference***

### *Strengthening civil society peacebuilding*

- Build specialised, focused networks based on common interests and issues
- Proactively engage other key sectors
- Mainstream prevention and peacebuilding
- Communicate more effectively, using accessible language
- Work toward shared ethical standards and strengthening accountability
- Continue the development of a regionally-rooted global network

### *Building institutional capacities and systems*

- Pursue proactive, problem-solving oriented, cooperative efforts to promote human security at all levels
- Establish transparent, multi-stakeholder early warning and response systems
- Build a stronger financial base and more effectively allocate available resources

### *Enhancing and implementing international standards*

- Focus on the High-Level United Nations Summit in September 2005
- Develop prevention and predictable response norms: Responsibility to Protect
- Establish a Peacebuilding Commission
- Effectively monitor and implement existing standards: Security Council Resolution 1325, Decade of Peace, etc.
- Work towards Millennium Development Goals in war-affected societies
- Work towards a coherent international framework and a programme of action for prevention and peacebuilding

How do we pay for it, publicise it, and organise it?

Of course, these were questions without clear answers. But what is clear is that the Global Conference marked a moment when an idea formulated in

2002 began to realise its promise and potential. As ECCP's Executive Director Paul van Tongeren said in closing the conference, 'I believe that we reached our goals and much more, but there is still much work to be done.'

## Kofi Annan: 'A shared mission'

During the opening plenary session, Assistant Secretary-General Stedman read a statement from Secretary-General Annan in which he spoke of the 'shared mission' that civil society and the United Nations have undertaken to advance the cause of prevention. Here are some further excerpts from his speech.

It is with profound appreciation that I accept the Global Partnership's completed Global Action Agenda for the Prevention of Violent Conflict today. I am heartened by the engagement and commitment that have gone into it. Your regional conferences over the past three years, culminating in this Global Conference, serve to implement a major recommendation of my 2001 Report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict.'

'There is no higher goal than preventing armed conflict. This calling is even more pressing today, because of the interconnected nature of today's threats. Around the world, a triad of poverty, disease and war creates a cycle of death. Civil violence, human rights abuses and poverty make weak States vulnerable to transnational organised crime, terrorism and illicit trafficking in human beings, drugs and weapons.'

'I look to civil society to act as our partners in helping to defuse potential conflicts. As experience tells us, you will be most effective by coordinating with bilateral and intergovernmental actors—and with one another.'

'As civil society organisations, you have a vital role to play. You are uniquely placed to facilitate local conflict

resolution; to mobilize public support for peace settlements; to support disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants; to champion human rights; and to build trust to encourage healing and reconciliation.'

'Failure to prevent conflict is often attributed to lack of 'political will'. But this may be more a description of what happens than an explanation. What is really lacking is full recognition of our increasing interdependence, and its implications. Violent conflict is a 'threat multiplier', not only within the country where it happens, but far beyond. None of us can afford to wait passively until it erupts. All of us should feel concerned, from the moment the threat of conflict appears on the horizon. But we should be clear: Such a new security consensus will require us to respond to violent conflicts far more equitably—wherever they erupt.'

## Jody Williams: 'Not the fuzzy dream of utopian idealists'

A high point of the opening plenary session of the Global Conference was a keynote address from 1997 Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams. Ms. Williams shared that honour with the organisation she helped to establish, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, in recognition of the leadership she and the organisation showed in their successful campaign to bring about an international treaty banning landmines. Ms. Williams addressed the conference on the theme of 'Human Security for Global Security'.

In her view, human security presupposes a 'more humane world where every individual is guaranteed freedom from fear and freedom from want'. Working to implement a human security agenda, she said, means working for human rights, sustainable development, arms control, the involvement of women in conflict prevention, and debt reduction and fair trade. 'Every time we de-link those issues or fail to make the inevitable linkages crystal clear to the general public,' she said, 'we undercut our own efforts to promote a broader understanding and acceptance of a human security agenda.'

Fundamental to effective campaigning, said Ms. Williams, is



Jody Williams

setting the agenda and keeping focused on the objectives. 'To frame a new agenda,' she insisted, 'we must have clear messages about where we are going or we will not be able to campaign effectively to get there. If we really want to move the world away from constantly reacting to conflict and toward its effective prevention, we must work consistently and collectively—as women often do—to change the global mind set about what really makes global security.'

Indeed, she continued, 'If we want to

prevent armed conflict we must not only work to demilitarise our planet, we must work to demilitarise hearts and minds of each and every human soul living on earth'. In that effort, civil society has a pivotal role to play, she added.

Nonetheless, she emphatically disputed the oft-repeated assertion that 'creating a peaceful world is the fuzzy dream of utopian idealists,' while acknowledging that refuting this widely-held perception poses a 'huge challenge'.

# Opening session of the Global Conference

## Voices from the regions

### **A VISION FOR PEACEBUILDING**

'As civil society organisations from the Arab world, we look forward to the day when the term 'conflict prevention' will no longer be considered an oxymoron- a contradiction in terms. We cannot and will not work alone, and insist on partnership between all concerned stakeholders, so that, one day, achieving 'just peace through peaceful means' will be a realistic, reachable, and legitimate aspiration for ordinary citizens as well as political leaders.'

*Samuel Rizk, regional coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa*

### **HUMAN SECURITY**

'We believe security of people is as important as the security of states and each has the potential to be mutually reinforcing. When states are unwilling or unable to fulfill their basic responsibilities to their citizens, the international community has a responsibility to act decisively. This responsibility must only be pursued in accordance with international law and clearly defined criteria and does not constitute a free license for military intervention. The primary responsibility is to prevent.'

*David Lord, North America*

### **WOMEN AS PEACEBUILDERS**

'The role played by women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding is fundamental. In the search for positive peace, women's organisations are essential to the hard processes of confidence building in conflict communities. There can be no sustainable peace and no democracy without human development, good governance as well as gender equality.'

*Tina Gogueliani, Caucasus*

### **NETWORKING**

'Violent conflicts in Southeast Asia have resulted in unprecedented human tragedy and humanitarian crisis like in East Timor, Aceh and Burma. The

potential for more violence is high, more so as we are targeted as the second front in a distorted version of a 'war on terror'. Civil society organisations are strongest when they work together, and networking is one of our greatest strengths. The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict will make it possible for local peace practitioners to share their expertise and work more closely with others in their region and globally.'

*Augusto Miclat, Southeast Asia*

### **PEACE EDUCATION**

'An important means for achieving sustainable peace is peace education. It changes personal behavior and helps nurture the skills of conflict resolution. Peace education can help explain the causes of conflict, foster trust and reconciliation, promote respect for cultural diversity, and support democratic cultures and processes. Media can also do much more to contribute to peace efforts by raising awareness.'

*Tatjana Popovic, Balkans*

### **EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE**

'Prevention indeed is possible. We need systematic collaboration between the United Nations, regional organisations — such as the example in West Africa between the Economic Community of West Africa States, ECOWAS and civil society organisations led by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP, at headquarters and in the field to monitor situations and develop effective strategies to prevent and transform violent conflict. Systems need to be rooted in the unique knowledge and capacities of local people in conflict-affected communities, while emphasizing that ownership of the process of building peace resides in the people.'

*Emmanuel Bombande, West Africa*

### **REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

'The causes and consequences of violent conflict rarely stop at the state borders. This gives regional organisations an essential role to play in prevention. They must encourage cooperation to address factors generating conflict and set-up systems to mediate disputes. They will be more effective through greater cooperation with civil society organisations.'

*Oscar Tembo, Southern Africa*

### **CIVIL SOCIETY**

'The most lethal conflicts occur within states, and their impact is felt most directly at the local level. With our strong roots in communities, we are uniquely placed to respond. In the course of our work, civil society organisations assist victims of conflict, help resolve disputes, bring divided communities together, and accompany refugees home. The civil society organisations of Central Asian countries are not guests in communities; we are *part* of them and we can and do work in places and situations where governments and international organisations cannot.'

*Raya Kadyrova, Central Asia*

### **SHIFTING FROM REACTION TO PREVENTION**

'Promoting peace and security in the 21st century requires a fundamental shift in how governments and the international system respond to the challenges posed by conflict.'

A paradigm shift from reaction to prevention is necessary to avoid the massive human and economic costs of war. Violent conflict undermines development and deepens poverty, inequality and economic stagnation, creating the conditions for further violence and intractable tensions. Conflict prevention is thus vital to enabling sustained development, and to ensure that gains already made are not lost. An essential step in achieving a shift to prevention is the development of more effective early warning systems

and the political will to translate this information into early action.'

*Gottlieb Duwan, North America*

### **AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

'A comprehensive international programme of action, utilizing the capacities of all relevant actors, is needed to mainstream prevention as the fundamental goals of security institutions and international policy and practice. Drawing on the Global Action Agenda of the Global Partnership, such policies and practices should be based on three principles: first, justice as the ethical and political standard of action; second, participatory nature of all conflict prevention and transformation programmes; and third, dialogue as the supreme procedure.'

*Sridhar Khatri, South Asia*

### **DEVELOPMENT**

'Many conflicts are rooted in social and economic disparities and unequal access to power and resources. Development begins by empowering individuals and communities. Yet governments and the international community must do more to address the structural causes of poverty, address the specific needs of marginalised groups and mainstream conflict-sensitive approaches into development. Minorities must be empowered to participate in decisions that affect them. In the Pacific Regional Action Agenda, we have called for sustainable and equitable policies for the development of land and other resources to address the needs of women, ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, the disabled and the youth who lost education opportunities because of violent ethnic conflicts in two Pacific countries.'

*Jone Dakuwula, Pacific*

### **THE UN PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**

'We support the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission. Yet we are concerned that it will not be effective unless it is bold and works toward a

comprehensive approach to violent conflict, including prevention, as part of an overall strategy for building peace. It needs to include cooperation with CSOs, especially those from the societies where it is working, as a central feature of how it operates.'

*Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer, European Union + Norway & Switzerland*

### **ARMS REDUCTION AND RESETTLEMENT**

'If we can reduce arms, so many societies suffering from violence can be helped. Governments must implement the UN Programme of Action on small arms. And they must adopt a comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty covering conventional weapons. They must also allow conscientious objection to military service. Northeast Asia civil society agrees that conflict prevention and peacebuilding must be based on non-violent and non-military means, such as article 9 of the Japanese constitution. The Korean peninsula is now threatened very seriously with nuclear crisis. We need the international community to support regional disarmament and the creation of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. It is very important.'

*Yoshioka Tatsuya, Northeast Asia*

### **REBUILDING AFTER WAR**

'A number of countries in East and Central Africa, and indeed the entire continent, have made commendable progress towards negotiating peace agreements. However, the risk of relapse into violence remains very high. There is no better moment for the world to stand with these countries. This moment must not be lost. The cycle of violence can be broken by investing in long-term peacebuilding. Efforts are needed to improve implementation of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration; foster justice, healing and reconciliation; support the rule of law; invest in education; fund long-term development; and create incentives for business investment.'

*George Wachira, Central & East Africa*

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

'Preventing violent conflict costs money, but is still cheaper than rebuilding a war-torn society. Prevention requires more resources, better administered for quick response and sustainable funding of long-term peacebuilding.

Mechanisms, similar to those used for dealing with humanitarian crisis, must be applied for support of local initiatives in the field of peacebuilding and prevention of violence. Even small and simple steps in this direction made at UN Headquarters will lead to significant improvements in the field. For example, including a thematic sector for initiatives promoting social cohesion and peacebuilding, in the structure of Consolidated Humanitarian Appeals would greatly encourage coordinated NGO and IGO action in this field.'

*Andre Kamenshikov, Western Commonwealth of Independent States*

### **PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

*'Nosotros en América Latina y el Caribe creemos firmemente que paz y desarrollo son las dos caras de una misma moneda. Una paz sostenible no puede ser alcanzada sin desarrollo sustentable y sin equidad. Este es nuestro compromiso para el futuro de nuestra región. Asimismo, construir vínculos y puentes, desde el sur al norte, del este al oeste, de lo local a lo global, de lo global a lo local, es la base para construir una paz sostenible en nuestro planeta. Nosotros, la gente, debemos construir la paz. Y ese es nuestro compromiso como movimiento global.'*

*(translation)*

'We, in Latin America and the Caribbean firmly believe that peace and development are two sides of the same coin. Lasting peace is impossible without sustainable development, and without equity. This is our commitment for the future of our region. In the same way, building links and bridges from the South to the North and the East to the West, from the local to global and from the global to the local, this is the necessary basis if we are to create sustainable peace on our planet. We the people must construct peace; this is our commitment as a global movement.'

*Andrés Serbin, Latin America & the Caribbean*

# The next phase of GPPAC 'The past is prologue'

The UN conference was a milestone in GPPAC's work, the successful result of three years of planning and consultation. In a real sense, however, it was only the beginning. Now that the parameters of our work have been set-through the People Building Peace Global Action Agenda, created in collaboration with all 15 GPPAC regions-the mission now is to harness the momentum and put the agenda in to practice. There is a growing sense within the Partnership that, as Shakespeare put it, 'the past is prologue', and our real work is just getting started.

In October 2005, GPPAC's International Steering Group (ISG) met to, among other things, identify key strategic priorities for the next four years. Drawing on the Global Action Agenda, the ISG agreed on the following five essential GPPAC functions:

*Promote the ideas of conflict prevention at the global and regional levels.* There is much work still to be done to encourage 'buy-in' for the conflict prevention approach among regional and global stakeholders. First among GPPAC's priorities will be to both widen and deepen an understanding and acceptance of the conflict prevention programme.

*Support civil society early warning and early response mechanisms.* Improving civil society's ability to effectively

anticipate and respond to signs of impending conflict is central to the next phase of GPPAC's work. GPPAC will also bring pressure on governments, regional organizations, and the UN system to respond to early warning information.

*Advocate for more effective, more inclusive conflict prevention policies and structures.* GPPAC will apply its collective knowledge and experience to advocate for more effective conflict prevention policies, structures and practices-and for a greater role for civil society in conflict prevention initiatives.

*Build national and regional capacity for prevention.* Over the next four years, GPPAC will work to increase the capacity of its regional networks and their national consistencies to

undertake collective preventive efforts.

*Generate and disseminate knowledge.* GPPAC will seek to increase its role as a 'knowledge hub' of information and expertise between the regions and other stakeholders on existing and emerging conflict prevention methodologies and mechanisms, best practices and lessons learned.

In addition to these priorities, the ISG identified six key topics that will remain important to the network's work to prevent armed conflict. These are: dialogue and mediation; peace education, early warning/early response systems, civil society interaction with regional and UN agencies, governance and democratization, and disarmament, demilitarization and arms control. A strategic workplan describing the key activities GPPAC will undertake over the next four years is in development and will be finalized for the upcoming ISG meeting in late March 2005. Once approved, the plan will be the basis of discussions with donors. This important process will help determine the framework of work for the coming phase, and where we will be in 2010! ◀

## UN World Summit

# From reaction to prevention?

The UN World Summit was in some ways the culmination of fundamental shifts in peace and security policy developments in recent years. These include the rise of the concepts of human security and the responsibility to protect as principles for stronger multilateral intervention, the strengthening of preventive capacities of the UN, the mainstreaming of prevention into development policies, and a wide-ranging reform effort focused on UN peacekeeping. But did the World Summit effectively build on these developments? Most importantly, did it signal a true move from reaction to prevention?<sup>1</sup>

By Detlev Wolter\*

The Summit Outcome Document contains important general endorsements of the objective to strengthen conflict prevention capacities

at the UN. In particular, it underlines the need to strengthen UN mediation and 'good offices', build the role of women in the prevention and

peacebuilding and improve the protection of children in armed conflict. It also fully supports the mission of the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. In addition, it commits all Member States for the first time to develop a notion of 'human security' that recognizes that all

1 This article is adapted from the report of the same name by Detlev Wolter and Joern Mueller appearing in *Friedenswarte, Journal of Peace Research*, Berlin 1-2/2006. A longer version will be available at the ECCP website.



The presentation of the Global Action Agenda

individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want. However, the crucial role of civil society, in particular local actors, while mentioned in general terms, should have been highlighted more specifically.

The Outcome Document similarly embraces the concept of a '**responsibility to protect**' of each state to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It also spells out the responsibility of the international community to act through the Security Council when national authorities fail to meet their obligations and when peaceful means prove to be inadequate. This represents significant progress, since the concept was initially opposed by a number of states who feared it might infringe on their sovereignty. Unfortunately, a stronger legal mandate to intervene—for example, to prohibit veto-wielding Security Council members from halting engagement in cases of genocide or grave human rights violations—was not secured. Similarly, it was not possible to decisively resolve how to deal with perpetrators of such serious crimes. Thus, further work needs to be done to

fully enshrine the 'responsibility to protect' and to end impunity.

The establishment of the **Peacebuilding Commission** is certainly the most important institutional decision of the Summit in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and it fills a long-recognizing gap in the organisation's infrastructure. Unfortunately, the preventive mandate of the Commission falls short of expectations, though the Co-Chairs of the negotiations, Denmark and Tanzania, succeeded in securing at least a preventive role in 'exceptional circumstances' when requested by a Member State 'on the verge of lapsing or relapsing into conflict'.

One previous uncertainty about the Commission was the composition of the Organizational Committee, which has now been fixed with the permanent members, two elected members of the Security Council, five of the ten top troop contributors, and five of the ten top financial contributors. In addition, seven members elected by the Economic and Social Council and seven elected by the General Assembly will also sit on the Committee for renewable terms of

two years. But as the Secretary-General has pointed out, the composition of the country-specific committees is of equal importance to the Organizational Committee. These will be constituted on a case-by-case basis and require the care to ensure that the views and voices of all relevant stakeholders are included.

As a major innovation, the Commission directly links the international financial institutions and other international donors, such as the European Community and Regional Banks, to the peacebuilding work of the United Nations, inviting them to participate in its meetings. Thus, for the first time, the financial backers and the decision-makers on peace and security can sit together in one body, laying the basis for coherent and sustainable financing of post-conflict state building, security sector reform and reconstruction. The 60th General Assembly set a further strong preventive mark by also adopting a special resolution on conflict causes in Africa, expressing its support for Africa's ambitious goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by the year 2010, and by establishing a new Central Emergency Response Fund.

One significant disappointment should be highlighted. A focus on controlling **the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons**—the overwhelming tools with which today's armed conflicts are fought—was absent from the Outcome Document. Since it is widely acknowledged that the overabundance and ongoing demand for small arms can be an important factor in precipitating conflict, and have catastrophic development effects, at the upcoming 2006 review meeting, UN Member States should commit to new binding guidelines on small arms controls takes place this summer.

Overall, the reforms do, however, signal a turn from reaction to prevention. But will they help prevent a future Rwanda, Srebrenica or Haiti? Only rigorous implementation, consolidation and

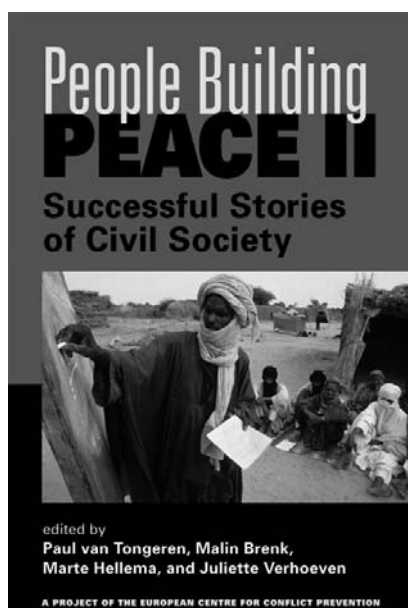
financial resources can translate these guidelines into real progress. We await the Secretary General's Comprehensive Report on Conflict Prevention, as mandated by the 56th General Assembly. The report should operationalize and implement the shift from reaction to prevention signaled in the Summit Outcome Document and the GPPAC Global Conference. The Group of Like-Minded States in the UN should then draft a new GA resolution that mandates the necessary institutional, operational and structural implementation of the Summit in the area of conflict prevention. This should be presented to the General Assembly for approval in 2006.

The UN should then follow up these outcomes with a special summit meeting in 2010 on conflict prevention

and human security. The UN should organize the summit and take the lead in the development of the agenda, with the active participation of civil society. The goal of this meeting would be to adopt a **Global Action Plan on Conflict Prevention and Human Security**, to include concrete agreements for allocating the resources necessary to bring peace planning, conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies to fruition.

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## People Building Peace II: Successful Stories of Civil Society



When covering war, today's media focuses on the negative: violent clashes, failed peace processes and other negative developments. We only seldom hear about the successes in peacebuilding, let alone the inspiring work of how people are working to make their lives better. What makes a difference are the unknown experiences of how people are working creatively to overcome violence, building bridges and seeking creative ways to live together in peace.

**This book, *People Building Peace II*, is a testimony that peacebuilding from below can be effective.**

It is a rich collection of 65 successful and inspiring stories of how people are working for peace. It reflects on a variety of activities initiated by a broad range of actors including women's group, youth groups, and faith based organizations. Many of these stories have never previously been documented. The book also explores topics such as reconciliation, dialogue and traditional methods of conflict resolution.

The stories are accompanied by thematic analysis and insights from key experts in the field of conflict prevention such as Hizkias Assefa, Catherine Barnes, Norbert Ropers and Andrés Serbin, and by personal anecdotes from a number of high-profile peacebuilders such as President Xanana Gusmão, Desmond Tutu, Her Majesty Queen Noor, together with a foreword by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

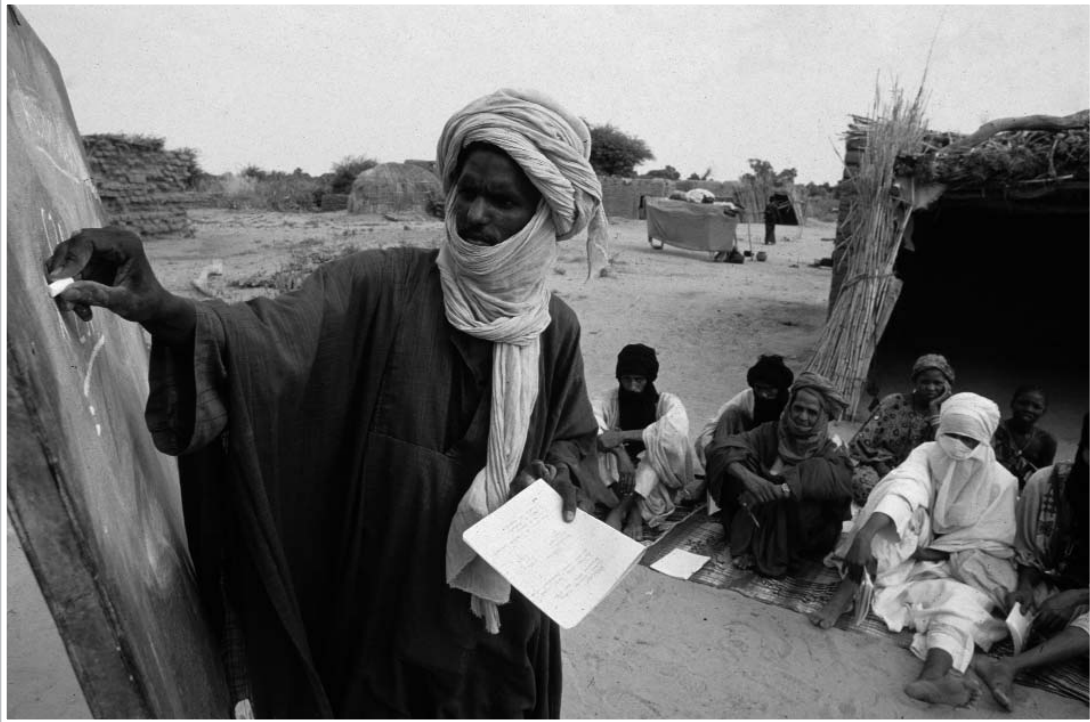
*People Building Peace II. Successful Stories of Civil Society.* Edited by Paul van Tongeren, Malin Brenk, Marte Hellema and Juliette Verhoeven. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005, 697 pages.

**People Building Peace is a project of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention.**

Copies can be ordered by Lynne Rienner Publishers [www.rienner.com](http://www.rienner.com) or at the European Centre for Conflict Prevention [www.conflict-prevention.net](http://www.conflict-prevention.net).

# People Building Peace II

## The book



**People Building Peace II: Successful Stories of Civil Society** is a volume showcasing inspiring examples of civil society actors working to build peace, often under extremely challenging conditions. It also includes essays on various peacebuilding approaches.

The book is a project of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention, developed to support the GPPAC process by researching and documenting the role of civil society in conflict prevention.

This Newsletter's special feature focuses on the **People Building Peace** publication, by including excerpts from the chapters on the role of civil society, on discourses on peace practices and on faith-based organisations. It also includes key messages from the book, as well as a case-study on religious reconciliation in Nigeria: *The pastor and the imam—From rivals to partners for peace.*

*'This book offers a treasure trove of ideas on what civil society can do to help build peace, and on how effective partnerships with governments and international organizations can be forged. Readers will draw inspiration from the stories of civil society groups working in countries all over the world. The collection shows how good intentions can be turned into good, and effective, deeds. I am glad to commend it to a wide global audience.'*

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations

# Weaving the web

**Outsiders can never make peace for others; people and societies must create their own systems for working through their differences. While governments must play a crucial role in this process, the people are the key to long term conflict transformation—with outsiders potentially playing important supportive and enabling roles.<sup>1</sup>**

By Catherine Barnes\*



In a globalizing world, preventing war and armed conflict and building sustainable peace requires strategies that address structural causes of conflict, many of which may be

inherent in the global system. It also needs partnerships between civil society actors at the local, national, regional and global levels with governments, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and potentially businesses. In addressing this challenge, there seem to be three basic orientations that motivate civil society groups to work on conflict-related issues.

First, there are pre-existing civil society groups—such as women’s organizations or faith-based groups—that do not consider working on conflict as a part of their core focus but who feel compelled to respond to the challenge that conflict and war poses for their constituents. For example, women’s organizations may aim to ensure that women’s needs are met and women are represented at the negotiating table. These sectoral CSOs often call upon others in their wider networks to extend solidarity, thus helping to mobilize resources and make a powerful contribution to raising awareness. Second, there are CSOs that aim to address underlying structural problems that give rise to conflict in general through efforts aimed at policy reform and systems change, yet who are not directly focused on efforts to resolve or transform specific situations of conflict. Third, there are groups that are focused primarily on responding to specific conflict situations. Their role is the focus of the remainder of this text.

## Roles of CSOs

The UN Secretary-General has made it clear that the primary responsibility for responding to conflict rests with local actors. CSOs rooted in conflict-affected communities are crucial to this equation. While they often work in partnership with civil society actors from other parts of the world, who help to support their efforts, the most crucial efforts are made by those within the societies concerned. Civil society groups bring a number of important qualities for responding to specific cases of conflict. In general:

- Their independence—and, in some cases, the unique status they hold because of their perceived expertise, integrity or moral authority—enables them the freedom to

act swiftly and flexibly.

- CSOs often rely on innovative, creative and non-coercive strategies to persuade people to engage in peaceful processes based on dialogue and deliberation to address problems and reconcile relationships.
- CSOs can act when—for various reasons—official actors are immobilized (often related to mandates, lack of political will or the implications conveyed by their official status). This can include the capacity to talk to those in militant movements in order to clarify conflict issues and explore opportunities for entry into negotiation processes.
- CSOs can improve communication and relationships by fostering interaction across conflict divides through informal exchanges and joint projects. While they can facilitate dialogue between the protagonists in armed struggle, CSO-led processes are often focused on helping ordinary people to articulate what they really need and then helping to find a common ground from which they can work to establish peaceful co-existence.
- By mobilizing ‘people power’, CSOs can put pressure on decision-makers to reach a peaceful settlement. They can push for policies and practices designed to address root causes of conflict.
- CSOs can bear witness to violations in powerful ways that undermine the moral authority and legitimacy of abusers, sometimes stimulating conditions that lead to the collapse of regimes over the long term. They can routinely monitor events and generate attention when violations occur or agreements are unfulfilled.

## The limits of involvement

It is rarely possible for CSO initiatives to be able to achieve peace on their own. Governments and other political actors—especially those who make decisions over the deployment of military force—are often decisive. Inter-governmental and multilateral organizations also have tremendous political, technical and other resources they can bring to processes of working with conflict. CSOs often have limits in the scope of the conflict dynamics they can address.

- Few are able to effectively deal with the *political economy of war*—i.e., the greed that leads armed forces to have a stake in keeping the war going—although there are promising global campaigns that are trying to address these factors systemically.
- Many CSO initiatives are *depoliticized* and, in their efforts to restore peaceful interaction between people, fail to link issues of justice, human rights and equity that often drive the conflict. They may also fail to address the very real dynamics of political power that sustain conflicts as a tug-of-war for dominance.
- CSOs start *initiatives that are beyond their skills and capacities*. They may make the situation worse by escalating danger, exacerbating divisions and tensions, and/or through reinforcing prejudice. They may not be able to sustain initiatives that have been started, leading to missed opportunities and/or disempowering cynicism because raised expectations are dashed.
- Too often, *CSO initiatives are too small and too isolated* to make the kind of difference that is needed in these urgent

<sup>1</sup> This text contains selections of the chapter on Civil society roles in working with conflict and building peace in People Building Peace II.

life-or-death conditions. They may also divert attention away from the most urgent or strategically important concerns. There is a need to be more strategic, with better coordination for long-term change through processes that are aimed at outcomes, as well as on the integrity of the process itself.

- Sometimes the *legitimacy of CSO initiatives* are questioned, especially when it is unclear to whom they are accountable and what they are trying to achieve. Sometimes they are criticized for being insufficiently linked to real constituencies and responding to their concerns. In other times, suspicions are aroused by insufficiently transparent communication about what they are doing and why. Even though this may be more due to misunderstanding than malfeasance, it can undermine confidence and generate suspicion in fragile political environments.

There are also challenges concerning how CSOs work among themselves.

- While effective partnerships can be a powerful resource for peace, too often there are *destructive dynamics in ‘insider’ and ‘outsider’ relationships*. Local civil society peacebuilders rooted within conflict-affected communities can find their efforts displaced or undermined by outsiders (whether NGOs, inter-governmental organizations, or donor agencies) who implicitly or explicitly impose their own agendas and values, introduce inappropriate initiatives and potentially further entrench conflict through an insufficiently nuanced understanding of the situation and opportunities to make change.
- Too often, CSOs fail to communicate amongst themselves and may even compete for the scarce resources available to undertake their initiatives. This can lead to a *lack of coordination and coherence* so that, instead of building momentum for peace, efforts are dispersed and potentially less effective.

### **Towards partnerships for peace**

While it is rare for grassroots efforts to transform wider systems of conflict and war, it is also not possible for these wider systems to be transformed without stimulating changes at the community level. Therefore, there is a need to build peace from the bottom-up, the top-down and the middle-out. Yet the methodologies for crossing the scale barrier, simultaneously and in a coordinated manner, are not well developed. Therefore the key seems to be in negotiating dynamic and strategic partnerships.

Primary responsibility for conflict prevention rests with national governments and other local actors. Greater ownership is likely to result in a more legitimate process and sustainable outcomes. The primary role of outsiders is to create spaces and support inclusive processes that enable those directly involved to make decisions about the specific arrangements for addressing the causes of conflict. Outsiders

should help to build on the capacities that exist and avoid actions that displace and undermine homegrown initiatives or that promote short-term objectives at the expense of long-term prevention. Based on a collaborative understanding of the sources of conflict and the factors that continue to generate it, people based elsewhere can seek to address some of the causes that located elsewhere in the conflict system (such as arms suppliers in third countries or policies promoted by foreign governments that further escalate war).

Partnerships for peace may be the antidote to systems and networks sustaining war. Yet to achieve this potential, we need to acknowledge the legitimacy of CSOs in peace and security matters and to strengthen official recognition of their roles in the conflict prevention partnership. This can then be operationalised through stronger mechanisms and resources



### **Peacelinks**

During the civil war of the 1990s that devastated Sierra Leone, Peacelinks was born as a direct response to the terrible effects of the war on children. Comprised largely of ex-child combatants, displaced children, amputees and street children, the group uses visual and perform arts such as painting, music, dance and drama to deglamorize war and to help traumatized children. The future of Sierra Leone is linked to the future of its children.

for interaction between IGOs, CSOs and governments in order to institutionalize the capacity for prevention.

It is likely, however, that efforts to shift to a culture of peace and to prioritise prevention over crisis management will be sustained only when there is widespread awareness amongst the general publics around the world that common security cannot be obtained through the barrel of a gun; instead, we can best work towards sustainable peace through collective efforts at meeting basic human needs and strengthening systems for managing differences peacefully.

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# Learning to change by learning from change

**The involvement of CSOs in the field of conflict prevention and transformation is no longer a matter for principled discussion, as it was in the 1990s. Now the attention is on how to assess and improve the quality of the work, how to enhance the internal networking as well as the cooperation with other actors.<sup>1</sup>**

By Cordula Reimann and Norbert Ropers\*



Yet there are also some issues which have accompanied and will continue to accompany the field—especially on social change and justice—because they are part of the complex political agenda

of dealing with contradictory and dynamic violent conflicts. These issues are more extensively dealt with in the People Building Peace II-chapter. This article will focus on the present discourses on cooperation and networking, and on professionalisation.

## Cooperation and networking

In light of tough competition over limited funding and despite all rhetoric about the need for burden-sharing, many CSOs still prioritize self-preservation over true and meaningful cooperation and coordination. This is even more paramount in light of the ever-increasing number of *outsider* actors getting involved in *other people's conflicts* and engaged with *insider* parties. External organizations often dominate the relationships with internal partners—in terms of financial and organizational resources as well as with respect to setting the agenda.

In fact, strategic, co-owned and joined up conflict transformation initiatives among external and internal CSOs and governments still are more the exception than the norm. Some argue that they are first and foremost accountable to the donors and their interests and to a lesser degree to their beneficiaries and their needs. As a matter of fact, most actors in conflict prevention and transformation continue to be dependent on funding from national or international donor agencies or government ministries. Which room therefore have CSOs to develop and implement an independent political agenda?

This raises an issue which has found growing attention in the most recent past: how can meaningful partnerships be established between external and internal actors, including the donor community? Many CSOs are interested in facilitating long-term processes of social change. Yet, most donors are thinking in terms of concrete and representable results in order to satisfy their respective constituencies, to serve their strategic national interests and to be visible and influential among the donor community.

Despite this, there are also encouraging signs. The Peacebuilding Forum 2004 of the International Peace Academy and WSP International has generated a set of

sound proposals for improving the coordination and interaction among the internal and external actors separately as well as the dialogue with each other. How far these recommendations will have chances to be implemented depends very much from the determination of CSOs to spell out their vision, their assumptions of social change and justice more explicitly and pro-actively. Furthermore, on the side of the donors, it calls for a more flexible, long-term oriented and risk-taking approach.

Apart from the issue of cooperation between different actors the other crucial topic is the development of a joint framework which allows the actors to organize their cooperation according to a common understanding of the conflict, its implications and the sharing of strategic goals.

According to all experiences in the field, the network idea is indeed the key for establishing a sound and sustainable infrastructure of CSOs working for peace. In our assessment one of the key preconditions for establishing effective networks is the availability of actors with facilitation capacities and skills who are willing to serve and are accepted in that function and can also mobilize resources for the institutional capacity building of other members in the network. These functions can be provided by one member (but who should then because of conflicting interests not be a competitor for funding provided for other members in the network) or through sharing among several members.

## Professionalisation

As a clear sign of a steady professionalisation and standardization, the field has increasingly engaged in questions of lessons learned and best practices, and here particularly with respect to:

- self-understanding and guiding principles, and
- planning and assessment.

While most guiding principles of CSOs active in this field first and foremost focus on the outreach work with partner organizations, beneficiaries and donors, the key challenge remains on how to apply and implement the guiding principles within the organization and its respective team. What does it mean being truly impartial/multipartial in a highly asymmetric and continuously changing conflict setting in terms of the organizational and team development? How can CSOs implement internally what they preach externally?

Not only do most organizations struggle with 'other people's conflicts', they also have to address their own internal team and organizational conflicts. In fact, in many local CSOs the dynamics of the conflict on the conflict is well reflected in the dynamics of the team and organizational development.

The review of the institutional structures of CSOs suggests that many actors of conflict prevention and transformation struggle to understand and act upon both the conflict-related and organization-related dynamics and changes. The 'web of outside- and inside inter-personal conflicts' raises crucial

<sup>1</sup> This text contains selections of the chapter on Discourses on Peace Practises in People Building Peace II.

questions of organizational and team development, which so far have been largely sidelined in the field. As a first step, CSOs have to understand themselves as ‘learning organizations’ making organizational capacity building and team development one of its priorities. This requires not only conflict and communication skills development, but regular mentoring and coaching of staff who operate in a highly stressful, dynamic and contradictory conflict setting. Struggling to address both the organization-related and conflict-related changes could mean for many organizations nothing less than a painstaking and time-consuming exercise being open to regularly revising working priorities and reforming organizational structures. The biggest challenge here is how to improve and mainstream organizational and team development in the conflict prevention and conflict transformation work.

Much of the critical self-introspection went hand in hand with the development of ‘new’ conflict-sensitive approaches and frameworks in the last couple years. The two most well-known and widely implemented approaches to date are *Do no Harm* and *Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment*, with the Do no Harm approach leading to the most radical re-thinking of Western development and humanitarian aid in conflict settings in the mid- and end 1990s. This approach mainly targeted at development and humanitarian aid aimed at preventing the negative, conflict-escalating effects of conflict interventions and strengthening the conflict-deescalating effects and factors. In the last couple of years, pressures of accountability on CSOs and donors provoked a stronger emphasis on impact assessment like *Peace and Conflict Impact Assessments*.

What the debates on Do no Harm, Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment and the more recent Reflecting on Peace Practice project have in common is the realization that even well-intended and planned conflict interventions have not been effective or relevant to the conflict context, while some interventions had a negative that is conflict-aggravating impact.

While Do no Harm puts vital questions of effectiveness on the agenda, the discussion on the Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment and Reflecting on Peace Practice projects took the debate further by also focusing on questions of relevance and impact of peacebuilding work. Much of this discourse is still in the ‘test phase’. Fundamental challenges and open questions remain. The following ones seem the most pressing and paramount ones:

- How to measure impact?
- How to identify accurate and meaningful indicators of impacts?
- What kinds of tools are best usable for measuring impact?
- How to identify success?

The over-arching challenge is how the field of conflict prevention and transformation while becoming a

‘professional peace industry’ can remain its critical edge: how can we continue to work on long-term social change without being co-opted by short-term donor work priorities? Again, this dilemma is not easily reconciled, but stresses the real imperative to be more explicit about the heavily value-loaded work and to self-critically challenge one’s own ‘open and hidden agenda’ of conflict prevention and transformation.

### Conclusions

The field of conflict prevention and transformation is shaped by an unchanged high level of frozen stalemates, violent struggles, fragile ceasefires and precarious peace processes. It is furthermore characterized by a changing multiplicity of



### The Otpor Movement in Serbia

In 1998, Serbian students responded to new restriction on academic and media freedom with a highly unconventional movement called Otpor (‘Resistance’ in Serbian). The movement was leaderless and its tactics innovative. Otpor helped to mobilize the Serb population for and break through a barrier of fear. In October 2000 in part of Otpor’s nonviolent activism, President Slobodan Milosevic was driven from power. Otpor helped in the past years youth groups to mobilize for nonviolent resistance in Kiev and Tbilisi.

discourses: they aim to address the changing challenges, unchanged high expectations from donors and partners on the one hand and the changing limitations of the work on the other hand.

The field has learned to change and achieved substantive progress with respect to its professionalism and the elaboration of networks and multi-track structures and processes. The main challenge is to learn from change and to link its impressive record of learned experiences with the need to reflect more systematically on the theoretical and highly political underpinning of its own work.

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# The religious dimension

**Religious warfare is a theme running through all of human history, despite the fact that the core of almost all religious traditions is built around a quest for peace. Accepting the fact that religion is both powerful and persuasive, it becomes important to look beyond the secular approaches to conflict prevention or resolution and examine the potential of faith-based interventions.<sup>1</sup>**

By Douglas Johnston\*



In the world of diplomacy, particularly in the West, secularism and the rational-actor model of decision-making reign supreme. The purposeful exclusion of religious imperatives and other ‘irrational’ considerations that are playing such a significant role in today’s disputes has left foreign policy practitioners with an inadequate frame of reference for dealing with problems of communal identity that typically take the form of ethnic conflict, tribal warfare, and religious hostilities. Clearly, a broader perspective is needed, one that acknowledges that matters of faith can play a central role in conflict, that identity is not determined by lines on a map but by emotional bonds of culture and blood, and that passions of the heart and soul are every bit as important as traditional considerations of political power, resources, and diplomatic protocols when dealing with identity-based conflicts. And here, it becomes useful to examine the positive role that religious or spiritual factors can play in actually preventing or resolving conflict

There are several situations that particularly lend themselves to faith-based intervention:

- Conflicts in which religion is a significant factor in the identity of one or both parties to the conflict.
- Third party mediation in conflicts where there is no particular religious dimension present.
- Conflict situations in which religious leaders on both sides of the dispute can be mobilized to facilitate peace.
- Protracted struggles between two major religious traditions that transcend national borders.
- Situations in which the forces of Realpolitik have led to an extended paralysis of action.

Included among the attributes that religious leaders and institutions bring to bear in promoting peace and reconciling differences between opposing parties are (1) credibility as a trusted institution; (2) a respected set of values; (3) moral warrants for opposing injustice on the part of governments; (4) unique leverage for promoting reconciliation among

conflicting parties, including an ability to re-humanize situations that have become dehumanized over the course of protracted conflict; (5) a capability to mobilize community, national, and international support for a peace process; and (6) an ability to follow through locally in the wake of a political settlement. Finally, because religious peacemakers often operate out of a sense of calling, there is an inspired ability to persevere in the face of major, otherwise debilitating obstacles.

## Faith-based NGOs

The range of religious actors spans a continuum, with the temporal power of religious institutions defining one end of the spectrum and the personal initiatives of spiritually-motivated laypersons defining the other. Between these extremes lie the initiatives of faith-based NGOs. As contrasted with governments and secular NGOs, faith-based



## Hello Shalom / Hello Salaam

The Families Forum is a collective of Israelis and Palestinians, family members of people killed in the conflict, working for reconciliation. They set up Hello Peace telephone line that allows ordinary people from both sides of the conflict to talk to each other. In a conflict where leaders refuse to talk they hope that ordinary people, who face the most crippling consequences of conflict, will try to understand each other, and hopefully bridge the divide.

NGOs offer many of the attributes mentioned above for religious leaders and institutions, and often operate with two distinct advantages. First, when working through religious institutions as they often do, faith-based NGOs tend to maintain closer linkages with those whom they serve. These institutions provide penetrating access to the local community and are well-positioned to reinforce accountability for any agreements that may be reached. The second advantage relates to the moral authority that faith-based NGOs bring to policy debates, which often elicits a greater receptivity to their agendas from the principals to the conflict.

Thus, to the extent that faith-based NGOs can

<sup>1</sup> This text contains selections of the chapter on Faith-based organisations in People Building Peace II.

constructively exploit their faith-based identities, relationships of trust and far-reaching networks, they offer a vital (and too often overlooked) tool for conflict avoidance, mitigation and post-conflict peace building.

### Points for consideration

*Credibility* is essential for successful mediation. While this is obvious, and as applicable to non-religious peacemakers as it is to religious peacemakers, the fact that outside religious organisations often have a long-term presence in an area affected by conflict means that their mediators may begin an intervention with credibility that others do not possess at the outset. For example, in northern Mali, Norwegian Church Aid was able to play a constructive role in conflict resolution because of the credibility it had already established in its development work.

*Integrity of practice* is equally essential. Using faith-based mediation as an entrée for religious proselytization would quickly undermine the intervener's credibility. On the other hand, people will respond to an organization that pursues its work in a manner that is consistent with the task at hand. For example, the Program Pendidikan Damai in Aceh, Indonesia has focused youth education efforts on traditional Islam and its inherent peacefulness in its efforts to address violence in that region.

In third-party mediation/intervention, religious peacemakers should *capitalize on religious beliefs and symbols* in finding a common religious language of conciliation that can foster a genuine spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation. When sensitively applied, such language and symbolism can aid in getting to the deeper issues, as the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy has experienced in its faith-based work in Kashmir where enduring reconciliation has been achieved between several Hindu and Muslim communities.

Religious leaders are also uniquely positioned to use their *moral authority* and influence to encourage mutual understanding within their communities. In Sri Lanka, both the Congress of Religions and the Inter-religious Peace Foundation, which are composed of religious leaders from the four main religious groups, have made strides in bringing leaders from the Buddhist and Tamil communities into negotiations with the government.

Religious communities can also provide *social cohesion* in the aftermath of violent conflict and *spiritual support* to help people face the agonizing pain and suffering, with some prospect for the kind of forgiveness that can break the normal cycle of revenge. Illustrative of this dimension is Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu's leadership of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which facilitated a peaceful transition to multiracial democracy.

*Religious networks* are the largest and best-organized civil institutions in the world today. From the smallest village to the largest city, religious communities often provide the largest social infrastructure for human care. Taken collectively,

religious social structures represent significant channels for communication and action that, when engaged and transformed, enable religious believers to function as powerful agents of change in the transformation of conflict. Secular institutions are increasingly acknowledging the potential of religious communities to serve as partners in addressing common concerns such as armed conflict, human rights violations, and poverty. International development organizations like UNICEF, for example, are beginning to seek out religious networks for their ability to reach large numbers of people and their formidable capacity to effect change.

It is important to *keep all of the stakeholders closely informed* of the proceedings and to effectively coordinate the involvement of Track 1 and/or Track 2 diplomats. Failure to facilitate interreligious dialogue or to work with religious leaders can sometimes lead to communal schisms and undermine economic development efforts. Equally important,



### Christian Council of Mozambique

'Transforming arms into ploughshares' is a successful programme in Mozambique to combat the illegal flow of small arms in the society as a result of more than two decades of civil war. After collecting arms local artists made pieces of art and monuments of it to demonstrate the end of war and that the society of Mozambique can transform instruments of death and destruction into instruments of peace and of production of cooperation with others.

it is always preferable to *develop indigenous ownership* of conflict prevention and peace building initiatives as early in the process as possible.

By contrast, when faith-based organizations work within communities to encourage participatory processes on matters not directly related to conflict prevention—community development activities, for example—those activities can help build trust within the community by bringing together community leaders from different religious and ethnic groups. Where World Vision, the ecumenical Christian relief and development organization, has been engaged with communities in collaborative activities across ethnic and religious divides, it has seen reduced tensions, greater respect for the dignity and

rights of other groups, and enhanced capabilities within communities to deal with conflict when it arises.

Some faith-based NGOs have gravitated to peacebuilding as a natural extension of their work in relief and development. A holistic view of development work encompasses peace, justice, and security as integral components, and *peacebuilding thus becomes an extension of the traditional emphasis.*

### Conclusion

The challenge of harnessing religion's transcendent qualities in the cause of peace is formidable and not for the faint of heart. Not only is this work of faith-based diplomacy

intellectually, psychologically, and emotionally draining, but it involves significant risks as well. There are almost always vested interests in every conflict that want to see that conflict continue, and a number of spiritually inspired peacemakers have paid the ultimate price for their efforts. The need for this kind of spiritual engagement, however, is only growing more urgent with the passage of time.



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# Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum – Nigeria

## The pastor and the imam: from rivals to partners

In recent years, Nigeria has been plagued with alarming frequency by violence between its Muslim and Christian communities. One of the worst hit regions has been Kaduna State. The co-founders and national coordinators of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum of Kaduna in 1995 are two men with deep roots in the opposing communities, both of whom have turned away from violence and militancy and instead embraced non-violence, reconciliation, and the advocacy of peaceful relations between their communities.<sup>1</sup>



Once they were bitter rivals, but now they consider themselves brothers. In fact, at one time, they each tried to have the other killed. James Wuye and Muhammad Ashafa are living proof though that people can change, and that the urge for revenge can be replaced by an urge to foster reconciliation and peaceful co-existence. Pastor James Wuye readily acknowledges that he was a militant in his youth. For that, he paid a price—he lost his arm during this struggle of communal violence in 1992. Imam Muhammad Nurayn Ashafa was a militant as well. During that same eruption of unrestrained violence in 1992, he lost his teacher and two sons. For both men, coming to terms with terrible loss forced reflection, and reflection brought transformation.

*'Both began to question the cost of violence and turned to the Bible and the Koran, where they found passages showing commonalities between Islam and Christianity and calling on believers to be peacemakers,'* writes Christian Science Monitor reporter Mike Crawley. Yet, *'when the pair first met face to face in 1995, distrust lingered. At the urging of a civil society leader, they agreed to try to work out some sort of understanding, and they say the resulting dialogue helped them to overcome stereotypes and misconceptions and gain respect for each other.'* They staged a public debate—no easy task in such a charged atmosphere—and this early effort at dialogue has since

become an ongoing exchange through the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum.

Each of them has made a quantum leap—from violent youth leader to successful non-violent mediator of Muslim-Christian conflicts. Now, they listen to the each other's sermons. In fact, together they have published a book, *The Pastor and the Imam: Responding to Conflict*, which examines the perceptions of Muslim and Christian about each other, explores the commonalities at the root of the two faiths—and the differences—and then describes the efforts, at first tenuous and later more confident, to forge a common effort to promote understanding between the communities.

### Intercommunal violence

Kaduna State is the seat of Nigeria's northern elite, including senior military, religious and traditional figures. Its population of approximately 3.5 million is divided more or less equally between Muslims and Christians. Kaduna has also, unfortunately, been at the epicentre of inter-communal conflict—conflict that has only been worsened since the Kaduna State government's declaration of its intent to introduce shariah law. This declaration sparked an outbreak of violence in late February 1999, and subsequent anti-Muslim reprisals in various southern towns, which left an estimated 2,000 people dead, 80,000 displaced and many private homes and business premises looted and destroyed.

With its mix of ethnic and religious groups, Kaduna continues to be one of the most conflict-prone states in the country. The various communities compete for a greater share of the limited socio-economic resources and for political power, each feeling itself politically and economically marginalized. In that environment, religion is, in a sense 'perverted' as it is invoked in the political arena, and youth

<sup>1</sup> This text is based on the case-study presented in the People Building Peace II publication

are exploited by those who seek to gain personally from the conflict.

### **Multi-track approach**

Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye share a view that civil society organisations—such as the Interfaith Mediation Centre, which the two men have set up—can do a better job of defusing potentially violent situations in Nigeria than security forces. According to Pastor Wuye, the Centre uses a multi-track approach to address issues of intercommunal violence. ‘We “deprogram” people by making them aware of what the other side is thinking.’

The project that the two men launched, which consists of both the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum and the Inter-Faith Mediation Centre, aims to prevent the recurrence of violent conflict and to contribute to an increase in the level of trust and tolerance between Christians and Muslims in Kaduna State. With trust, tolerance and an absence of violence, reconciliation can begin, through the development over time of collaborative relationships and cohesive peace constituencies in both communities. At the same time, as such reconciliation takes root, the communities’ capacity to resolve conflicts will also be enhanced.

The Centre organizes a range of activities to bring together religious leaders, policy makers, technocrats, small business owners and traders, grassroots participants including women, youth and religious leaders, and other stakeholders. The inclusion of women is especially important because of the role women play in educating children at home. Engaging youth is vital because it is youth who are often the perpetrators of violence. Because operators of businesses and traders have a vested interest in peace and stability in the community, they are viewed as valuable potential partners in the peace and reconciliation process.

One of the most significant achievements of the centre has been the drafting of the *Kaduna Peace Declaration*, which is an articulation of a common vision to put in place effective machinery appropriate for building and sustaining long-term peaceful co-existence between the Christian and Muslim communities. In August 2002, some twenty senior religious leaders signed the Declaration and declared that each year, August 22 would be observed as *Peace Day* in Kaduna State.

### **Impact**

Since the signing of the Kaduna Peace Declaration grassroots efforts to maintain peace have continued, but the challenges have remained as well. Any incident runs the risk of turning into a crisis. In November 2002, for example, protests over a newspaper article connecting the prophet Mohammed to the Miss World beauty pageant caused much tension. Both Pastor James and Imam Ashafa in union with transformed religious leaders drove around affected neighbourhoods on a bus and arranged to have them appear on television to appeal for calm. The intervention only, was made possible because of the commitments made in the Kaduna Peace Declaration,

which was an important factor in containing a volatile situation.

Religious leaders who have signed the declaration are also credited with helping to control violence and vote rigging during elections at both the state and federal levels. In addition, they have, on numerous occasions, intervened in conflicts in the schools, when minor arguments threatened to turn into major incidents. Indeed, some instigators are intent on using schools as a breeding ground for religious conflict. To stem this tide, a program was initiated to provide conflict resolution training to religious instructors and secondary school officials.

### **Other approaches**

The consultative approach of the Centre stands in stark contrast to the approach of the federal Nigerian government, which has attempted to achieve peace by viewing conflict, especially in Kaduna, as a question of law and order. This has systematically failed and attracted international criticism. On the other hand, at the state level, it can be said that the Kaduna state government has played a somewhat more constructive role. It has tried to transform the conflict in the region through rudimentary arbitration and mediation methods utilizing governmental agencies and government sponsored dialogue. Such efforts have changed the conflict’s dynamics but not contributed to resolving it.

One other important result of the cooperation between Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye has been a successful initiative to bring together two warring communities of Plateau State, the nomadic Fulani cattle rearers and the native Beroms. To settle longstanding disputes, Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye arranged to hold talks and actively facilitated a mediation process. In 2003, the two parties made a start on engaging in a healing process and exploring pragmatic solutions to the conflict.

Overall, Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye have successfully facilitated dozens of conflict resolution activities. Whereas their efforts were once confined to their hometown of Kaduna, they are increasingly working in other regions as well. Through its perseverance, the Interfaith Mediation Centre has gathered the strength to break free from one-time interventions and extend its reach and influence across Nigeria.

### **Lessons learned**

For Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye, it has been a long and difficult journey, from outright animosity, to cautious steps to get to know each other—still holding to much suspicion and mistrust—to trust and acceptance, and finally to cooperation. Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye have come to see, by engaging in dialogue, that they, as believers in their faith, are more similar than dissimilar. The greatest threat to peaceful co-existence, they see, comes not as a result of cultural or religious difference, but from ignorance of the humanity that binds people together. ◀

## Key messages

**People Building Peace II is an optimistic book. It is full of stories of courage, ingenuity, faith, commitment, persistence, and stubbornness of the best sort. The title has not been gratuitously chosen. These stories are in deed about people who are making a difference. That is one of the most important messages to emerge from this book. It may be true that governments, multinational corporations, and financial institutions wield enormous power and take decisions profoundly effecting the lives of ordinary people—including decisions about war and peace—but it is nonetheless true that individuals have much to offer to peacebuilding, and individuals working together can often be a powerful force for positive change.**

The 65 stories of successful peacebuilding that are told in the book, taken as a whole, communicate several key messages, which are summarised below.

*Peacebuilding from below works.* It is not only governments and international organisations that can effectively engage in peacebuilding. This book is testimony to the fact that ‘peacebuilding from below’ can be effective, but this fact is not yet fully recognised or adequately appreciated. It is, therefore, incumbent upon those committed to peacebuilding to convey this message to a wider audience.

*Peacebuilding is a learning process.* Although, because every conflict situation is different, there is no blueprint to follow, there is much to learn from the broad range of experiences accumulated in conflict prevention and peacebuilding work. Evaluation and documentation of peacebuilding experiences, and communication among peacebuilders, are, accordingly, essential to make certain that the lessons learned are widely available.

*Peace is everyone’s responsibility.* Everyone is capable of building peace. Preventing armed conflict requires a multitrack, inclusive, participatory approach that includes contributions from all sectors of society. Educators, artists, the business community, the religious community, public figures who serve as role models, and private individuals with deep-felt concerns all have both the possibility and the responsibility to act.

*Civil-society organisations are creating safe spaces where people from all sectors of society can come together and work in meaningful ways towards a better future.* The potential for positive change is enormous, but the opportunities are, to



Official launch of the book in at the Global Conference *From reaction to prevention, civil society forging partnerships*, in the General Assembly in the United Nations Headquarters in New York in July 2005. Paul van Tongeren, executive director of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention and Secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, presents the book to Thelma Ekiyor, one of the leading women’s peace activists in West Africa and founder of WIPNET, an organization featured in the book.

date, underexploited. Civil-society organisations, then, should work to continuously expand this space even further and to mobilise individuals and organisations at all levels of society to engage in the effort to build a global culture of peace.

*Those who are engaged in peacebuilding and conflict prevention work should be empowered, encouraged, and supported in their work.* Peacebuilding requires resources; those engaged in the work need to master a range of skills, and both policymakers and the general public need to be informed about the range of initiatives and activities focusing on conflict prevention. The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict is providing such support at all levels, with initiatives at the local and regional levels to share knowledge, collect lessons learned, and develop regional action agendas; at the international level, the development and promotion of a global action agenda is focusing on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

# Moving forward on conflict resolution education

**As a direct result of the Global Conference, a network on conflict resolution education and peace education has been established.**

The GPPAC regional action plan process that led to the Global Action Agenda identified peace education and conflict resolution education as critical to the furtherance of the role of civil society involvement armed conflict prevention. At the Global Conference in July, the Peace Education and Conflict Resolution working group held three sessions in which representatives from 25 nations in all regions-including twelve representatives from Ministries of Education-reviewed current government-CSO collaborations, highlighted challenges to further work and collaboration and developed recommendations and action strategies for the further institutionalization of our work.

In the follow-up to the conference, a small network has emerged to take the lead in moving the conflict prevention education agenda forward. Established in September, the International Network for Conflict Resolution Education and Peace Education (INCREPE)-a partnership between Temple University, the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management and the Consortium on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at Georgia State University

(all US)-is composed of NGO and representatives of ministries of Education from all regions. INCREPE will track and disseminate information about CRE and peace education (PE) efforts globally; initiate research and action agendas for CRE and PE, and support the advancement in global CRE and PR at international meetings.

INCREPE has already moved the conflict prevention education agenda forward by holding two meetings in the last two months. Ghana and Colombia may initiate regional meetings in the near future, and Thailand will hold an Asia regional meeting in January 2007.

*If your country has legislation, policies, standards or mandates in Conflict Resolution Education and Peace Education, and you wish to participate in INCREPE, please e-mail Jennifer.Batton@cdr.state.oh.us.*

## International Day of Peace/ Peace One Day

**Starting this year, GPPAC will be becoming more involved with an international public awareness effort that is gaining momentum-the UN International Day of Peace / Peace One Day, which occurs every year on 21 September.**

The annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence was the brainchild of English filmmaker Jeremy Gilley, who led a campaign of NGOs, religious organizations, schools, governments, and others to get official UN recognition for his Peace One Day effort, which was adopted as the UN International Day of Peace by the General Assembly in September 2001. The struggle towards this goal is documented in Gilley's film *Peace One Day*.

Since then, 21 September has been a growing rallying point for civil society public awareness efforts on peace, non-violence and conflict prevention, and is thus a logical opportunity for GPPAC. We will be encouraging our participants to use the day to hold local marches, vigils, meetings, seminars, film screenings, lobbying days and other events as part of an international awareness-raising effort that builds a sense of global solidarity and increases the public's exposure to the ideas and approaches of conflict prevention.

*So mark your calendars and watch the GPPAC website ([www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net)) soon for more information. In the mean time, you can learn about Peace One Day at [www.peaceoneday.org](http://www.peaceoneday.org).*

## Towards Departments of Peace

**In the Global Action Agenda adopted at the Global Conference in July, participants called for the development of national capacities for peaceful conflict management. First steps have been taken stimulate this idea.**

While not specifically defining the kind of institutional infrastructure governments should adopt for this purpose, the point in the Action Agenda reflects civil society's concern that there be central administrative bodies or positions within national government administrations for promoting peace-building and conflict prevention work.

One model being promoted is the establishment of national governmental

Departments (or Ministries) of Peace, launched in the US but gaining interest internationally. To push this idea into action, the US-based Peace Alliance — in cooperation with representatives of four governments-organized an International Summit for Departments of Peace in London in October, with attendance from representatives of twelve countries. This led to the People's Initiative for Departments of Peace. The campaign is not limited to establishing an infrastructure for peacebuilding activities, but highlights the need for state support for peace education and a culture of non-violent conflict resolution. GPPAC will continue to highlight this initiative to its participants.

There are as yet no known

Departments of Peace. Nevertheless, some governments have taken the need for high-level representation for peacebuilding seriously. The Philippines has a Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process (a Cabinet position) and Germany has a Commissioner for Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding. Documenting what kinds of positions already exist, and what their functions are related to conflict prevention, is a short-term goal of the project.

A second summit to discuss the global Departments of Peace campaign will take place in June 2006 in Canada, immediately prior to the annual World Peace Forum.

*See [www.thepeacealliance.org](http://www.thepeacealliance.org) for more information.*

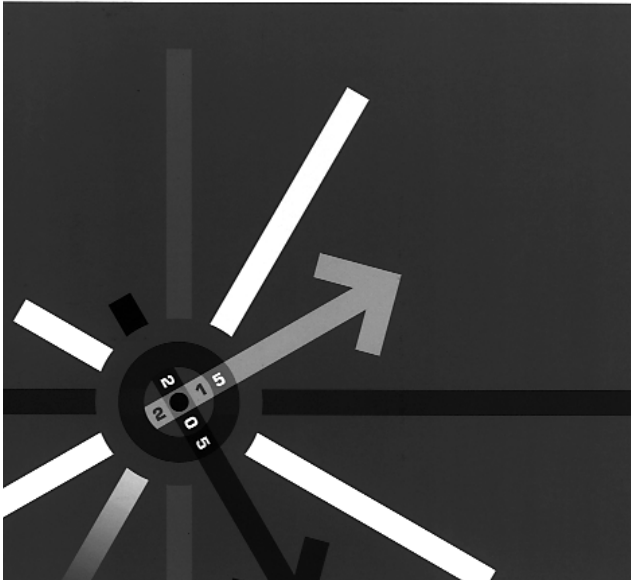
# New Literature on Preventing, Managing and Resolving Conflicts

compiled by Pieter Schultz (European Centre for Conflict Prevention)

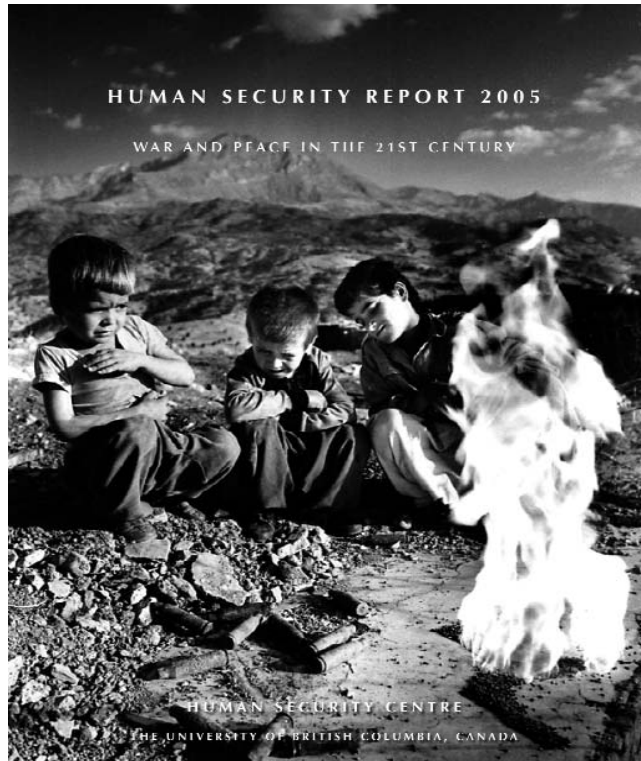
## Human Development Report 2005



**International cooperation at a crossroads:**  
Aid, trade and security in an unequal world



**Human Development Report 2005**  
UN Development Programme  
<http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2005>



**Human Security Report 2005**  
Human Security Centre  
[www.humansecurityreport.info](http://www.humansecurityreport.info)

Two important new books have major implications for the future of conflict prevention work, yet they take significantly different approaches, with far-reaching consequences for their conclusions.

By Emile LeBrun

The first is the 2005 edition of **Human Development Report (HDR)**, published by the UN Development Programme. The annual HDR tracks state progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) according to a range of indicators. In addition, each HDR provides thematic focuses on issues that impact the ability of states to meet the MDGs. The 2005 edition is significant for its inclusion, for the first time, of a thematic chapter on violent conflict. In just over 25 pages, the chapter provides a comprehensive view of the human costs of armed conflict—not just the direct deaths, but the impacts on disease incidence, malnutrition, education, and poverty.

The thematic chapter reviews the current understanding of the interrelationships between underdevelopment and armed conflict, presenting it as a forceful case for why the development community must engage with conflict prevention work. It provocatively states, 'Few things in the future are certain. But one certainty is that preventing and resolving conflict and seizing opportunities for post-conflict reconstruction would demonstrably accelerate progress towards the MDGs. Conversely, failure in these areas will make it difficult for the world to achieve the targets it has set.'

The chapter on violent conflict thus provides an articulate update of the view, voiced in 1945 at the meeting that established the UN, that lasting peace can only occur when there is both security (freedom from fear) and prosperity (freedom from want). The chapter concludes by calling for 'Putting prevention of violent conflict at the center of planning for poverty reduction.'

The agenda proposed by the HDR to improve development prospects by addressing violent conflict is four-fold: aid for conflict-prone countries, market interventions to deprive conflict areas of finance and arms, the development of regional capacity, and reconstruction. Among the key contributions proposed for regional organizations is an early warning and response function. This agenda should be a potent discussion-starter for strengthening collaboration between development and conflict prevention actors.

### **Fewer conflicts, more difficult to resolve**

It is possible to cast recent trends in violent conflict in both a positive and a negative light. There are fewer conflicts, but those that rage are extremely costly in deaths and displacement, and are notoriously difficult to decisively resolve. Parts of Africa, where 40 percent of the world's conflict occur, are seemingly trapped in a repetitive cycle of violence. Analyzing and interpreting trends in armed conflict since World War II is the subject of the inaugural edition of the **Human Security Report**, entitled **War and Peace in the 21st Century**.

Published by the Human Security Centre at the University

of British Columbia (Canada), the Report provides a long-awaited analysis of how and why conflicts have changed over the last fifty years. Presented to global policymakers at the UN World Summit in September, the Report was greeted with high expectations and widespread media attention for its challenging claims.

Those claims can be summarized briefly as follows. The incidence of violent conflicts has dropped significantly in recent years, as has the number of deaths per conflict and in total. Wars are increasingly internal and fought by irregular forces rather than by the uniformed militaries of super-

powers, and are carried out with small-scale conventional weapons. The primary reasons for these dramatic shifts are nuclear deterrence, the spread of democracy, and the growing success of UN peacekeeping and intervention efforts with the last factor being most noteworthy.

The Report takes a 'myth-busting' approach, attempting to counter what it takes to be misperceptions that violent conflicts are escalating and that the world is a more dangerous place than it was during the Cold War.

Controversially, the data sets used to measure the deadliness of violent conflict are based on media reports,

which cannot capture all deaths and do not include the mortality due to conflict-related illness, malnutrition and displacement that in some conflicts vastly outnumbers direct deaths. The Report is intended to be an annual publication, and the 2006 edition will address the crucial issue of non-battlefield, or so-called 'indirect' deaths. This is unfortunate (??), since delaying consideration of those wide-ranging impacts provides only a partial-and incomplete-view of the devastation that follows armed conflicts.

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Hilton, S.M. ; Begleiter, R. ; Sen, A.... [et al.]. **Health, development, and conflict: lessons learned : humanitarian conference proceedings, October 28, 2004.** – Los Angeles : Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, 2005. – 84 pp.

Jacobs, Michèle. **Endogenous conflict handling mechanisms.** – Leuven : Centrum voor Vredesonderzoek en Strategische Studies, 2005. – 58 pp.

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Lafontaine-Schwarz, Marie. **Peace education in South Eastern Europe: the enhanced graz process.** – Geneva : The Program for the Study of International Organisation(s) (PSIO), 2005. – 93 pp.

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Molenaar, Arthur. **Gacaca: grassroots justice after genocide : the key to**

**reconciliation in Rwanda?** – Leiden : African Studies Centre, 2005. – 170 pp.

Peace Direct. **Unarmed heroes: The courage to go beyond violence.** – London : Peace Direct, 2004. 272 pp.

Saferworld ; International Alert. **Developing an EU strategy to address fragile states: priorities for the UK presidency of the EU in 2005.** – London : International Alert ; Saferworld, 2005. – 59 pp.

Scheper, Elisabeth E. **Preventing deadly conflict in divided societies in Asia : the role of local NGOs.** – Amsterdam : Scheper, 2005. – 219 pp.

Schirch, L. **Ritual and symbol in peacebuilding.** – Bloomfield : Kumarian Press, 2004. – 224 pp.

Spees, Pam. **Gender justice and accountability in peace support operations : closing the gaps.** – London : International Alert, 2004. – 32 pp.

United Nations Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO). **Millennium development goals: civil society takes action : 57th Annual DPI/NGO conference : final report : United Nations, New York 8-10 September 2004.** – New York : United Nations, 2004. – 57 pp.

United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA). **Assessing the role of civil society in the prevention of armed conflict in Africa.** – New York : United Nations Department of Public Information, 2004. – 114 pp.

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## Calendar of Events and Conferences

- PEACEKEEPING, RECONSTRUCTION AND STABILITY OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

March 27, 2006, Johannesburg, South Africa

Brings together parliaments from European, African and North American countries, representatives of governments, and the military from all three continents and international and non-governmental organisations. The conference will provide an opportunity for detailed discussion of past and present peacekeeping operations in Africa.

Contact: Noxi Mshupela  
Tel: +27 (11) 669 5106  
E-mail: noxi.mshupela@iqpc.co.za  
Website: <http://www.iqpc.co.za>

- PEACE-BASED DEVELOPMENT  
March 29-31, 2006, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

A seminar for members of governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in the UN Millennium Development Goals to get an overview of the reciprocal relationship between peace and sustainable development; the principles and skills of peace-based leadership and peace-based development.

Contact: Seminar Administrator  
E-mail: [academic@efpinternational.org](mailto:academic@efpinternational.org)  
Website: [www.efpinternational.org](http://www.efpinternational.org)

- DESIGNING PEACEBUILDING INTERVENTIONS AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMMES  
May 8-12, 2006, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

A five-days international training programme for Practitioners, Policy Agency Staff and NGOs working in

peacebuilding, conflict transformation, violence prevention and post-war recovery, and violence and war-affected communities. The programme has been specifically designed to assist organizations developing/implementing programmes in peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Contact: Andra Tanase  
Tel: +40 264 420298  
E-mail: [dpi@transcend.org](mailto:dpi@transcend.org)  
Website: [www.transcend.org](http://www.transcend.org)

- THE GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST SMALL ARMS  
May 22-28, 2006, worldwide

Sponsored by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the Global Week of Action Against Small Arms is a coordinated week of events highlighting the human costs of armed violence and action to reduce the toll. Participants around the world use the Week of Action to hold marches, rallies, lobbying days, film screenings, education days, and other awareness raising efforts. In 2005, events were held in 54 countries.

For more information, visit [www.iansa.org](http://www.iansa.org).

- THE WORLD PEACE FORUM 2006  
June 23-28, 2006, Vancouver, Canada

The World Peace Forum is an international gathering on the issues of peace and sustainability, that will provide an umbrella for organizations, movements and individuals to network and share experiences. Planned activities are plenary sessions, cultural performances, thematic and regional seminars, and workshops and discussions on themes like Women, Africa, Peace Education, Asia, and Latin America/ Caribbean. The World Peace Forum 2006 is held in cooperation with

the UN World Urban Forum, 19-23 June in Vancouver.

Contact: Tania Aguila  
Tel: +1 604 687 3223  
E-mail: [admin@worldpeaceforum.ca](mailto:admin@worldpeaceforum.ca)  
Website: [www.worldpeaceforum.ca](http://www.worldpeaceforum.ca)

- UN SMALL ARMS REVIEW CONFERENCE  
June 26- July 7, 2006, New York, United States

Conference aiming to review progress and implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) negotiated in 2001, and set guidelines on small arms control efforts for the next period.

E-mail: [salw@un.org](mailto:salw@un.org)  
Website: [www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/index.html](http://www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/index.html)  
See also: [www.iansa.org/un/](http://www.iansa.org/un/)

- UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE / PEACE ONE DAY  
September 21, 2006, worldwide

The annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence, the International Day of Peace is a rallying point for NGOs, religious organizations, schools, governments, and others to raise awareness for peacebuilding, non-violence and conflict prevention efforts.

See: [www.peaceday.org](http://www.peaceday.org),  
[www.internationaldayofpeace.org](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org)