(3) A more diffuse sense of concern about the primarily domestic costs of maintaining the *status quo* in security policy;

(4) The existence of a epistemic community (i.e., a transnational group of security experts) cutting across government and academic lines, able and willing to explore and promote confidence building ideas;

(5) The existence of flexible and sophisticated mid-level policy makers in key ministries willing to embrace more cooperative security ideas and with adequate influence to advance these ideas;

(6) The existence of forums for discussion to act as focuses for further explorations and constructive interaction; and

(7) Perhaps, a "leap of faith" initiative by one or more key senior decision makers that is capable of crossing a key emotional and conceptual threshold.

(5) Encourage Development of Expert Groups and Discussion Forums

Encouraging epistemic community development is one area where potential participants and interested third parties can influence the supporting conditions necessary for successful confidence building. The process of encouraging national and regional experts groups itself can also help policy makers to recognize emerging dissatisfaction with *status quo* security policy approaches. Thus, encouraging epistemic community development can indirectly affect the emergence of some other supporting conditions.

Experts groups (epistemic communities) appear to be very important for the successful development of confidence building processes. The transformation view certainly accords them a central role. They represent an effective way to ensure that policy makers, dissatisfied with *status quo* security policies, have access to new ideas about

how to restructure unsatisfactory security relations. They also represent an extremely effective way to ensure that potential participants in different states have access to common understandings of security problems and proposed solutions such as confidence building. The development of governmental links to these experts groups is critical. Involving military officers and defence officials in discussions would seem to be particularly advantageous. In addition, regional experts groups should be encouraged because measures, to be relevant, must be designed so that they have meaning in the context of the particular characteristics of the region's security environment.

Expert communities as well as government officials require forums — both formal and informal — where they can interact and develop new ideas. The development of such forums is another supporting condition for the confidence building process that seems likely to be amenable to deliberate influence, either by potential participants or interested third parties.

(6) A Role for Interested Third Parties

Policy makers may sometimes not realize that their country is approaching a stage in its security relations with other states where successful confidence building may be possible and beneficial. This means that there may be a special role for interested third parties to help encourage the development of genuine epistemic communities or discussion forums. The United Nations is already embarked on this course. Research organizations and interested governments with some competence in this area might also make a deliberate effort to promote the further development of confidence building thinking and its promotion across borders. There is great potential in this idea. Modest investments now may make a vast difference in promoting the opportunities for improved security relations in many parts of the world.

International organizations, interested states, and research entities might actively promote workshops and seminars where experts and government officials can develop a keener understanding of