

demobilization and re-integration of former Tuareg rebels.<sup>105</sup> This cooperation had very good results in Mali, including the launching of reintegration programmes for those Tuaregs being absorbed into the armed forces, the civil service and civil society. In March 1996 there was a major ceremony in Timbuctu, 'La Flame de la Paix', when 2642 rifles, machine guns, grenade launchers, and pistols -- all sevicable -- were destroyed by fire.

In July 1996 a follow-on meeting of all the participating countries was held in Bamako on the topic of civil-military relations. The seminar had as its aim the improvement of relations between the civil and military sectors through a better understanding of the responsibilities of each sector and their responsibilities to each other. Topics included the relations between the various elements of the security forces; the duties of the armed forces and other security elements to the state; the relationship between the armed forces and civil society; the development of defence policy in a democratic society; and international and national defence strategies in a democratic society. The conference was another positive step in confidence-building in the sub-region.

Taking advantage of the presence of delegations from the countries of the sub-region, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) sponsored a one-day workshop as part of their Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Programme. The purpose was to plan for a major seminar on Disarmament, Development and Conflict Resolution in West Africa in November 1996.

Meanwhile, in October 1996, a ministerial level meeting of donor and recipient states was held in New York to consider, *inter alia*, the 'proportional and integrated approach to development and security' approach. The meeting endorsed the concept, albeit not without reservations by some and sufficient funds were pledged to continue with the process of sub-regional dialogue<sup>106</sup>.

The UNIDIR meeting was held in Bamako as scheduled and twelve West-African states considered the issues of 'Prevention of Conflict, Disarmament and Development' and elaborated a common approach for future regional cooperation. At that meeting the concept of a **moratorium on the importation, exportation and production of light weapons** was discussed and delegations agreed

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<sup>105</sup> For these activities, some funds -- sufficient to undertake, but not complete, these activities -- were obtained from bilateral donors and certain international development agencies which had become persuaded of the need for security-related funding in appropriate circumstances.

<sup>106</sup> The funds pledged fell short, however, of those necessary to fully implement the 'security first' approach.