

demobilization were attempted²⁷; demilitarization approaches and techniques were examined and the role that disarmament of belligerents can play in the resolution of internal conflicts was discussed. In the final volume of this project, entitled *Managing Arms in Peace Processes: The Issues*²⁸, six policy papers are presented on substantive issues related to the linkages between the management of arms during peace processes and the settlement of conflict. Many of the findings from this UNIDIR project are incorporated into Section III of this paper.

While phase one of the project focused on the relationship between demobilization and disarmament on the one hand and conflict *resolution* on the other, the next stage will address the role of demobilization and disarmament in conflict prevention strategies. Thus the UNIDIR project on Disarmament, Development and Conflict Prevention in West Africa is an enquiry into concrete, practical ways of improving the security situation in the area, thereby facilitating the conduct of development projects, starting with the case of Mali.²⁹

Selected Complementary Regional Efforts

The General Assembly resolution, mandating the establishment of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, drew particular attention not only to the role of the United Nations in this field but also to the "complementary role" of regional organizations.³⁰ It is therefore useful to briefly examine certain relevant developments in four regional contexts: the Organization of American States (OAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).³¹ Mention will also be made of relevant statements at the 1997 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi in April 1997.

²⁷ Twelve case studies were carried out: UNTAC (Cambodia), UNTAG (Namibia), UNPROFOR, (Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina), UNOSOM and UNITAF (Somalia), UNAVEM (Angola), ONUSAL (El Salvador), ONUCA (Nicaragua), ONUMOZ (Mozambique), UNOMIL (Liberia), UNMIH (Haiti), the 1979 Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and peacekeeping in the region of Southern Africa. A thirteenth volume studied "Psychological Operations and Intelligence" in relation to the management of arms in peace processes.

²⁸ UNIDIR/96/46, 1996.

²⁹ As of early 1997, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany and the United States have provided funding for phase two of the project.

³⁰ See paragraph 1.(c) of Resolution 50/70 B (1995).

³¹ The OECD is not a regional organization as such; its membership spans many regions and continents and its focus, while originally European, has now expanded to include industrialized and developing countries. Nonetheless, it is included here because, as yet, it is not a global body.