

loss of sovereignty, concerns about a further weakening of the political legitimacy and authority of those in power, and the potential escalation of stakes as a result of intervention by an external actor.

- Once entry has been gained, there may be additional problems such as how to deal with spoilers or potential spoilers in the peace process. Additionally, the presence of many different factions may create difficulties in deciding who should be involved in the negotiation process.
- Lack of proper coordinating mechanisms and designation of institutional and individual responsibilities, once entry into a conflict has been gained (i.e., too many mediators and special representatives in some conflict situations who end up sending mixed and confusing signals to the parties in the dispute).

### Creating Conditions for Conflict Prevention

Much of the discussion about the how third parties can create conditions for conflict prevention focused on the need to address longer term conflict prevention measures within different organizational and institutional settings. The following points came up repeatedly in the discussion:

- The need to distinguish between operational and structural prevention and to focus on problems such as the protection of minorities, human rights, electoral assistance, democratic development, and socio-economic development, all of which should be part of an integrated or "holistic" conflict prevention strategy.
- The need to complement global conflict prevention strategies and approaches with regional and locally-based strategies.
- The need to more carefully calibrate the comparative advantage of different organizations and institutions to different phases or stages in the conflict cycle as well as to different kinds of conflict (e.g., intrastate versus interstate conflict). Depending upon the level and intensity of violence, the potential for further escalation, and whether the parties have or have not committed themselves to political negotiated solutions, some third parties may have better access and influence/leverage over the disputants than others.
- The importance of developing cooperative solutions along with normative deterrent frameworks.
- The need to foster a "culture of dialogue" within a state itself by strengthening the institutions of civil society, particularly those with memberships and affiliations that cut across factional or ethnic lines.
- The importance of cultivating and supporting moderate local leaders as a central component of conflict prevention.

International conventions, courts, commissions, and tribunals that promote norms of democracy, human rights and the rule of law are critical components of a broad-based strategy of conflict prevention. Considerable attention was paid to how a culture of conflict prevention can be fostered through the creation, amplification, deepening, and widening of