

reintegration of ex-combatants, they were able to provide for further economic and social development.<sup>25</sup>

Just as peacebuilding processes that have not taken adequate account of the disarmament dimension have fallen well short of expectations, disarmament efforts that do not take into account the wider context of development and conflict prevention could result in technically proficient, but misguided, endeavours out of touch with important socio-political realities.<sup>26</sup> In Mali, aid commitments to the region were blocked because of local insecurity. In this case personal security concerns had to be addressed before either development or arms control could proceed.<sup>27</sup>

Related to this is the point that DDRPs are important for the security not only of nations but of individuals. The post-Cold War focus on "human security" represents a logical widening of "security" to include not only "territorial" or "national" security, but also the security of individuals, and this latter understanding is much more in accord with the Charter's injunction to deal with disarmament within the context of international peace and security, as was noted in *An Agenda for Peace*. It was the "old," Cold War approach that was unduly narrow rather than the new, post-Cold War approach being unduly wide.

## 5. DDRP as a Regional Issue with Global Implications

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is a regional issue with global implications. As the April 1997 Canadian background paper noted, the proliferation of small

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<sup>25</sup> "The States in Central America have a particular challenge in demobilizing and reintegrating a large number of former combatants into useful and productive roles in society, since much of the crime and armed violence is perpetrated by ex-combatants with the weapons they retained after the conflicts were concluded. As a result of post-conflict peace-building processes, the subregion is marked by demilitarization and the development of democratic Governments which are increasingly able to build the basic institutions that can provide security for citizens of the State and its further economic and social development." Report of the United Nations Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, A/52/298, 27 August 1997, para. 69. See also Appendix I of the report (joint appeal on small arms issued at the conclusion of the first regional workshop of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, held at Pretoria from 23-25 Sept. 1996), which notes the threats to new democracies posed by the challenge of reintegrating former military personnel into civil society.

<sup>26</sup> This is one of the premises of UNIDIR's current project on Disarmament, Development and Conflict Prevention in West Africa. UNIDIR posits that development concerns and priorities must be reflected from the very beginning of arms control efforts, thereby influencing strategic choices regarding the collection, disposal and destruction of arms, and taking into consideration the geographical and specific weapon problems in the region.

<sup>27</sup> See Joseph P. Smaldone, "Mali's Proposed Small Arms Moratorium: A West African Regional Arms Control Initiative," Paper presented at the Policy Workshop on Controlling the Global Trade in Light Weapons: Policy Options for National Governments and the International Community, Washington, D.C., December 11-12, 1997.