ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to survey selected relevant international experience and to outline a generic model for the effective planning and implementation of the practical disarmament, demobilization and reintegration aspects of the consolidation of peace process. The paper takes as its reference point the call by then Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his 1995 Supplement to an Agenda for Peace to begin immediately the search for effective solutions, particularly on a regional basis, to the urgent and pressing need for practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts with which the United Nations is actually faced and the weapons -- particularly small arms and light weapons -- that are causing much of the carnage in these conflicts.

The paper, in Section II, briefly examines various multilateral initiatives relevant to the small arms and light weapons issue, including the UN Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, the United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation, efforts toward a total ban on anti-personnel mines, and a major UNIDIR project on Disarmament and Conflict Resolution. Selected complementary regional efforts at confidence building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution are also briefly reviewed in relation to the OAS, the ARF and the OAU. In addition, efforts within the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD to develop guidelines on Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation are considered for their impact on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration aspects of peacebuilding efforts.

In the third Section of the paper, specific disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts in the context of four United Nations peacekeeping operations and one United Nations advisory mission are examined with a view to identifying lessons learned.

On the basis of the foregoing survey and analysis, the guiding principles for, the basic elements of, and the possible obstacles to, an effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme are elaborated and a continuum of appropriate activities described in Section IV. The result is a generic model for the effective planning and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration aspects of peacebuilding operations.

The report provides a summary of its Principal Findings in Section V and a listing of its recommendations in Section VI.