

demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) process has involved several international actors including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The peace agreement outlined the DDR process and made a strong national commitment to it. While the demobilisation and disarmament phases are nearly complete, the reintegration process is encountering several difficulties, primarily because the country has little infrastructure left and little opportunities for the former combatants. Monies received for reintegration are being spent on diamond mining equipment. Gender issues have been ignored and little has been done to foster the reintegration of female ex-combatants.

As civilian police liaison within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, John White of the RCMP, has been involved in the missions to Sierra Leone and Guinea. In Sierra Leone, civilian police were sent to advise and assist the government in the restructuring of the police force. It is crucial that the judicial, penal and policing institutions be able to operate at the same level of efficiency or there will be difficulties. Within Sierra Leone, corruption was present in all institutions and laws need to be reformed to help eliminate it. British civilian police officers have been effective in procuring equipment for the police forces and plan to be on the ground in Sierra Leone for the next 15 years. In general, police require sufficient funding to carry out their missions and the participation of skilled officers. NGOs on the ground in post-conflict areas need secure and safe environments with the rule of law applied to carry out their activities. Officers need to be able to investigate complicated crimes. However, it is important that Western techniques are not imposed on those we are working with. Finally, it is important that economic reconstruction provide employment opportunities for civilians, thereby contributing to the prevention of crime.

Yvan Conoir, of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, described the activities of the Centre within a project in francophone Africa: capacity-building related to military and police institutions. He noted that significant reform of the security sector in that part of Africa is difficult because institutional changes have not yet occurred, for example, there is no female recruitment in the Senegal military, and the institutions are still built on the colonial model (for example the French gendarmerie.) What has changed? Objectives and mandates of security institutions: better democracy process and principles of good governance, better support of the rule of law by the military, etc. Similarly, at the international level, there is a reinterpretation of objectives and mandates and more varied participation in peacekeeping operations, for example the participation of countries such as Libya, Mozambique. More peacekeeping is necessary to ensure there are more African leaders and African troops and so that Africans can take care of security on their territory. A few different programs were created to meet these needs, including the African Crisis Response Initiative, led by the United States. Its goal was to reduce the US burden for security in Africa and capacity-building was needed to give them the tools to do the job themselves. Unfortunately President Bush decided not to continue the program. France also has a program where every two years, a regional military exercise is organized with the political objective of obtaining a continental perspective. France has also created a school for the sharing of knowledge between the North and the South, with instructors from Europe going to Africa to teach. Previously, Africans would have to go to Europe for training. Finally, Canada initiated a program with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre to foster capacity-building and carry out demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration programs. Previously there was no DDR project in francophone Africa.