

- There is a difficulty to commit long-term resources for Conflict Prevention

At the UN, nevertheless, the focus is slowly shifting from preoccupation with such issues as prevention of wars from reoccurring, responding to immediate crises, or post-conflict peace-building, to addressing pre-conflict situations. Preventive Diplomacy is also emphasised by the Secretary General. However, successful examples are few. Getting the UN system to move on Conflict Prevention will be very difficult. However, there exists some momentum.

- Another instrument of conflict prevention could be the **World Bank and other International Financial Institutions** through conditionality. A debate developed on this issue surrounding the ability and willingness to use conditionality by banks for which lending in developing countries is a key business. Bankers argue that they are in the business of lending, while others stress the power of the banks (IFIs) to press conditions (i.e., Indonesia-Timor)
- The discussion then turned to a possible role for the **G-8** in Conflict Prevention. Those in favour of the concept argued that the role of the G-8 as an important political and diplomatic forum has been increasing. The G-8 could become key in global peace and security issues. There are several factors in favour of the G-8 including:
  - the active participation of the US,
  - the overlap with the P-5,
  - international political and economic weight,
  - an already evolving international security agenda (supported by policy work on issues, such as nuclear safety, anti-terrorism, and small arms),
  - potential to galvanise political support for issues.

The objection to the G-8 becoming a lead instrument for Conflict Prevention is that it could usurp the UN Security Council -- an unacceptable situation to some due to the exclusionary nature of what can be called the "G-7 action club."

Nevertheless, the G-8 could strategically act as a catalyst. Discussions in the G-8 could jump-start action in the Security Council. In this way the G-8 could be seen as supporting the UN rather than attempting to duplicate and interfere. While the Germans proposed the creation of a formal G-8 Conflict Prevention "Secretariat" for that purpose, Canada is favouring a more informal G-8 Conflict Prevention "Expert Group." Linking of the G-8 with the proposed G-20 parallel meeting in Berlin could alleviate fears of the G-8 becoming an executive committee and usurping the UN. Moreover, such a connection would ensure that economic stability issues are linked to global peace and security issues.

There are structures already in place in the international system with a capacity and mandate to address Conflict Prevention. The comparative advantage of the G-8 rests in agenda setting and in galvanising political support for issues.