

Building the international verification community

One of the critical lessons that can be drawn from the experience of multilateral verification and compliance regimes over recent years has been the need to sustain political support and relevance. Political support can, naturally, wax and wane after a verification system has been put in place. While this might seem to be an unavoidable fact of international political life, there are steps that verification bodies can take to cushion themselves. They could start by cultivating stakeholders elsewhere, including in civil society and among NGOs, the general public, the media and the philanthropic foundation world, and even in business. The multilateral organizations need to do better at promoting an appreciation of the contribution they make to international peace and security.