

being frequently downplayed as unviable, premature and unworthy of concerted effort. A common vision of complementary and mutually reinforcing initiatives has not been sufficiently articulated or endorsed by representatives of supportive member states. As a result, the earlier sense of opportunity and hope has faded, replaced by heightened cynicism and the perception that there are no options. Few recognise the potential to transform the wider security environment through an expansion of these capabilities. If we hope to inspire a broader base of support, there will be a need to demonstrate the benefits.⁹⁴ In the near-term, this capability should help to prevent and limit some violent conflicts, not all. That is progress, as well as an indication of potential.

Yet the larger task is far from finished. If rapid deployment is a demanding concept, it is an even more difficult reality to achieve. The Organization must be sure of each critical element in the process. As the Secretary-General confirmed, missing components and conditional agreements lead to delays. Increasingly, it is understood that delays not only risk lives, they incur the additional expense of later, larger efforts.

The development of a reliable and effective UN rapid deployment capability will continue to challenge both the Organisation and its member states. Neither will be able to escape the need for a common vision, innovative practices and new mechanisms.⁹⁵ There are options.

Recommendation 19

Supportive parties must work to restore a compelling, long-term vision of an empowered UN -- one that guides and inspires the further development of UN rapid deployment capabilities as an integral component of the human security agenda.