

are a number of steps which might be taken to enhance the demilitarization process. I will examine what I consider to be the most important or potentially effective measures.

### **Promoting democratization and good government**

Given the importance of domestic factors in the Southern African security environment, this is clearly a priority. Many of the countries are emerging from periods of conflict in which the armed forces played an inordinately important role in decision-making, government was characterized by secrecy, and security concerns predominated over those of development.

SADC has adopted an integrated approach to security and development, modelled in part on the OSCE process, in which security is seen as resting on good government, respect for human rights, economic and social development, confidence and security-building measures and the peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution.<sup>13</sup> This vision of common security will not be realized without transparency and democratic accountability in relation to defence in each of the SADC states.

A vital aspect of encouraging democratization and good government is thus the improvement of civil-military relations and the democratic management of defence in each of the SADC states. In South Africa, considerable progress has been made in this regard with the establishment of powerful parliamentary committees on defence and security which operate as far as possible in a transparent way, and of a Secretariat for Defence which is largely responsible for the implementation of policy. The Ministry of Defence in Zimbabwe, now a joint civil-military institution modelled on the British MOD, has also been enhanced and now functions in a more accountable and transparent way.

The Defence Management Programme at the School of Public and Development Management, Wits University, has initiated a SADC-sponsored program (funded by the Danish

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<sup>13</sup>See, for example, the statement on "The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security," Meeting of the SADC Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Defence and SADC Affairs, Gaborone, 18 January 1996.