

- the political/diplomatic dimension,
- military peace (stability) operations,
- humanitarian relief,
- economic reconstruction including, for example, expertise in agriculture, education and training (including the very difficult problem of reintegrating former child soldiers), and
- international financial institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and regional development banks.

The assessment by the technical mission must include identification of the necessary and sufficient conditions -- political, military, socioeconomic -- for the process to proceed, with particular attention to the responsibilities to be assumed by the existing government or "authorities" as well as the other parties to the conflict. International donor fatigue and dwindling resources against a backdrop of increasing demand require that a detailed, budgeted plan with measurable goals be agreed by all relevant parties before a decision is made by the international community to proceed further.

The Continuum

The diagram attached as Annex A, entitled "Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Aspects of the Peace Process Continuum", sets out how implementation of the DDRP might take place along a continuum of interrelated and often overlapping activities from the emergency stabilization phase to the long term development phase.

A strong programme of public information, including both sensitization and reconciliation aspects, must support the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration continuum from the outset. This is essential to ensure cooperation of all parties, including local authorities and military leaders and to keep expectations regarding reintegration assistance under reasonable control.

The process of assembling and demobilizing former combatants and preparing them for a return to civilian life offers usually the first, and arguably the best, opportunity for weapons collection and destruction. The process will start slowly with the quality of the weapons initially surrendered being very low, and only improving as confidence in the process grows. While such "front end" disarmament may be seen as the optimum approach, it must be stressed that, where appropriate, disarming will be an ongoing process and mechanisms must