

reform as emphasizing: "smaller military forces; the elimination of wasteful military expenditure; the promotion of transparency and accountability in the military budget process; reductions in the defence-industrial sectors; conventional arms transfer control; commitment to non-proliferation, non-intervention, and non-aggression; depoliticization of armed forces; conflict resolution; and regional security guarantees."<sup>2</sup>

Demilitarization is now on the international political agenda. Northern Governments have undertaken military spending reductions within their own jurisdictions and, as donors and lenders, they are looking for similar cutbacks in aid recipient countries. Indeed, it is worth noting that it has been major changes in the political/security environment in the North that have led Northern Governments to press increasingly for military reform in the South. The pressure to reduce military spending in the South is related less to changes in objective security conditions in the South than it is to changed levels of political tolerance in the North for high levels of military spending in the South. The Cold War both promoted and tolerated high levels of military spending, but with the end of the Cold War Northern states, to greater and lesser degrees, are engaged in reducing their military budgets and are thus less inclined to continue to support through aid programs levels of military spending in the South that are considered excessive in comparison to spending on social and economic development.

At the same time, Northern interest in reducing Southern military spending runs up against two prominent realities. The first is that, worldwide by far the greatest diversion of human and material resources away from social purposes in favour of military forces occurs in the North. While Northern military spending is in significant decline, the sharpest declines have been in the states of the former Soviet Union, not among the industrial donor countries. Indeed, the latter's *share* of global military spending, while still in absolute overall decline, actually increased in the period 1987-1992, from about 50 to 60% of the world total. During the same

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<sup>2</sup> Nicole Ball, *Pressing for Peace: Can Aid Induce Reform?* (Washington: Overseas Development Council, 1992), p. 9.