

VI. Recommendations:

The following is a synthesis of the recommendations made by seminar participants:

The role of military forces in refugee camp security:

- The deployment of military forces in refugee camp environments should be in support of humanitarian objectives and should be aimed at creating a secure environment for refugees and humanitarian personnel. Emphasis would be placed on supporting the efforts of the host nation to carry out its responsibilities.
- The deployment of military forces is subject to political and military considerations, and must be accompanied by the necessary political and diplomatic efforts aimed at addressing the root causes of displacement.
- The nature of deployments will depend on many factors, including the geography, capacity of host governments, and types of threats present.
- Once deployed, military actors should seek a positive engagement with the refugee and local population, so as not to be negatively perceived (ie. as an occupying force)
- A clear distinction between the roles of international military forces and police must be established. A distinction with the work of humanitarian organizations must also be made, particularly where militaries are first on the ground.
- Military actors should focus on addressing external security threats to refugee camp environments, and can carry out a range of tasks in this respect including: monitoring, surveillance, intelligence gathering and reconnaissance; liaison with national military forces, training and capacity building; and assessment, analysis and advice for humanitarian organizations; separation, disarmament and demobilization of combatants; capture/escort of war criminals; stabilization (border and arms control) and perimeter security.
- International doctrine is required with respect to the deployment of military forces into insecure refugee camp environments (see below DPKO). The need for practical role playing or exercising to validate some of the strategies identified was highlighted.
- A better understanding of how to separate combatants and armed elements from refugee populations is urgently required, particularly in the context of mass movements. This is a role which could be played by national and/or international military forces. This includes, inter alia, an elaboration of relevant international principles and the development of doctrine or standard operating procedures, the clarification of appropriate mandates and rules of engagement. It should be recognized that separation, internment and exclusion are multi-stage processes - military roles may be related to disarmament and collection of weapons prior to separation; creation of a secure environment for separation to take place.