

comprehensive manner if they are to remain relevant to the practical challenges facing the United Nations.

In addition to efforts at the Secretariat level, Member States are also developing more informal mechanisms for the application of practical disarmament measures in specific circumstances. For example, the Group of Interested Member States established in accordance with resolution 52/38G (Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures) met in early March 1998 and identified as its first objective the examination and support of concrete projects of practical disarmament.¹⁹ At the level of Main Committees and related bodies, in addition to work by the Committee of 34 noted above, the DPKO is working on the development of comprehensive guidelines and doctrine for the implementation of DDRPs. The UNDC can make an important contribution to this work by ensuring that the disarmament perspective is brought adequately to bear on all stages of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, from conceptualization to implementation, so that the overall results are complementary, synergistic and mutually reinforcing.

Disarmament in the Context of International Peace and Security

Historically, Member States have always recognized that disarmament is never an end in itself, but a means to international peace and security. The reference to disarmament in the UN Charter is clear on this point; the General Assembly is empowered to formulate "general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments." Similarly, in its 1990 consensus agreement on the *Review of the role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament*, the General Assembly observed that "[d]isarmament should be pursued in the context of strengthening international peace and security, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations."²⁰ In this same document, Member States affirmed the importance of an integrated approach to peace and security:

"Disarmament, development, relaxation of international tension, respect for the right to self-determination and national independence, non-interference in internal affairs of

¹⁹ See the report of the Meeting of the Group of interested states established in accordance with GA Resolution 52/38G "Consolidation of Peace Through Practical Disarmament Measures", dated 18 March 1998, by Mrs. Swadesh Rana, Senior Political Affairs Officer, UN Department of Disarmament Affairs, circulated to the 56 attendees at the Meeting held at UN Headquarters, Conference Room 6 on March 3, 1998.

²⁰ A/45/42, para. 7 (1990). Note also UNDC agreement that "Disarmament, relaxation of international tension, respect for the right to self-determination and national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter and the strengthening of international peace and security are directly related to each other. Progress in any of these spheres has a beneficial effect on all of them; in turn, failure in one sphere has negative effects on others." Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade (A/35/42, 3 December 1980, para. 18.)