

mechanisms of subregional, regional and international organizations--to create a greater "voice" for all peoples and a fairer distribution of resources within and between regions.

Following the lead of the Brundtland Commission, which blended environmental responsibility and development into the new and more dynamic concept of "sustainable development", it will be argued here that the pairing of good governance and early conflict prevention offers the best path to what will be called "sustainable peace". Together the twin concepts of "sustainable development" and "sustainable peace" could offer a full and more focused and acceptable agenda for conflict prevention in the twenty-first century.

Promoting Agreed-Upon Standards and Norms for Good Governance

It can be argued that the international community has already agreed upon the standards and norms for good governance in the more than 70 human rights instruments that the United Nations has endorsed over the past 50 years, as well as through the development of a number of regional instruments. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the many other international and regional declarations which have followed in their wake, actually provide a *blueprint for good governance*, specifying in detail exactly *how* "human security" can be ensured. The key demands of individuals and communal groups--the desire for political access to decision-making; for access to economic opportunity; and for cultural rights--are all prescribed as the *duty* of states in these documents. The connection between human needs and conflict prevention, as set out in the preamble to the Universal Declaration, reminds governments as to *why* it is in their interest to guarantee human rights: "*Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.*"

But if "human security" and good governance are to be developed, the establishment of widely agreed-upon norms is merely the first step. What will be crucial in translating these norms into reality is the provision of *assistance* and the development of *positive incentives* to help governance structures at all levels move in this direction. Thus, a major focal point for prevention by international and regional organizations is their ability to provide socialization, assistance and problem solving to strengthen the capacity of states to enhance human security. The current meeting will examine how the UN and regional organizations have approached this goal and what methodologies they have developed in this regard. A few examples will be outlined briefly below to help set the stage for this discussion.

Providing Assistance for Good Governance

In the last few years, a new preventive methodology has been evolving, both within the United Nations and regional organizations, and provides the seeds for a potentially useful and more integrative approach to conflict prevention. While it has not attracted much attention as such, it has, nonetheless, been received with enthusiasm by the consumers.