

inter-state security backdrop, in order to help explain the factors that give rise to particularly high (or low) levels of security expenditures.<sup>38</sup>

The goal, however, is not to "target" particular states or regions through a purely quantitative analysis, but to present a picture that can be used to start a productive dialogue either within a region, or between regional and external parties, concerning ways and means to reduce the burden of security expenditures while maintaining or enhancing the security of states and citizens. Shedding greater light on the amount of resources devoted to the armed forces, or catalyzing regional confidence-building and information-sharing dialogues on this issue, might in themselves represent an important contribution to security building that could lead to eventual reductions in the resources devoted to the armed forces.

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<sup>38</sup> In principle, states could also be grouped along other than regional lines, to compare states at similar levels of wealth and poverty, militarization, threat environment, and so forth. This would, however, not enable the findings to be used in regional security-building contexts, but only at a global or bilateral level. For an example of such an approach that categorizes states according to their level of military spending, see James Moore, *Military Spending in the Developing World*, Project Report 9616 (Ottawa: Department of National Defence, 1996).