

4. The Need for an Integrated and Coordinated Approach to Overlapping Issues

Given that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are interrelated and overlapping issues requiring urgent attention, the question becomes: how should they best be addressed? The trend in United Nations consideration of peace and security issues is towards an integrated and coordinated approach.¹¹

The Importance of the Disarmament Dimension of DDRPs

The Secretary-General's report of 16 July 1997, entitled "Renewing the UN, a Programme for Reform," points out that "present-day conflicts have many dimensions that must be addressed comprehensively and require more integrated and coordinated action."¹² In particular, the practical disarmament dimension of the "concurrent and integrated actions undertaken at the end of a conflict to consolidate peace and prevent a recurrence of armed confrontation"¹³ requires greater and more systematic attention.

To date DDRPs have been considered in the planning and implementation of many peacekeeping operations, but they have generally not been dealt with effectively, in part because the disarmament dimension has been ignored or misunderstood, and in part because the integrated nature of the three components -- disarmament, demobilization and reintegration -- has only recently begun to be fully comprehended. Empirical evidence for the view that effective disarmament measures are an integral and essential part of a successful DDRP can be found in the conclusions of the UNIDIR project on Disarmament and Conflict Resolution, launched in November 1994 and completed in 1996.¹⁴

¹¹ Coordination here refers to the effort to bring all necessary components of a solution into their proper relation. Integration, the combining of all necessary parts into one whole, is thus a specific example of the proper relation. As a result in particular of the experience that the Organization has gained in responding to a series of complex post-Cold War emergencies requiring a multidisciplinary response, the United Nations has concluded that a system of individual units with little strategic focus or coherence must be replaced by a more coherent structure, suffused with a unity of purpose which reflects the holistic nature of the many challenges facing it.

¹² A/51/950, para. 117 (1997).

¹³ A/51/950, para. 120 (1997).

¹⁴ See *Managing Arms in Peace Processes: The Issues*, UNIDIR/96/46, 1996. The project looked at the seldom-researched field of disarmament during multinational peacekeeping operations and the links among disarmament, conflict resolution and regional stability. An important component of the project was consideration of weapons control, disarmament and demobilization during peacekeeping operations, with a focus on the field experiences of United Nations peacekeeping and other peace missions in Cambodia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Liberia, Mozambique, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and Somalia. The project concluded that the effective control and reduction of weapons during peace operations can be an important component of the settlement of conflicts, a fundamental aid to diplomacy in the prevention and deflation of conflict, and a critical element of the reconstruction