

control and disarmament agenda pursued by the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission. These bodies have historically recognized:

- a) that disarmament is not an end in itself, but rather a means to international peace and security;
- b) that the multilateral disarmament agenda necessarily includes both nuclear and conventional issues, to facilitate progress where possible and necessary;
- c) that disarmament entails demobilization;
- d) that disarmament has important socio-economic implications which must, to the extent possible, be concurrently addressed; and
- e) that -- in the case of regional issues with global implications -- the wishes of the regional Member States should have due priority.

The need for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in post-conflict situations is one of the most pressing issues facing the United Nations and Member States today and one on which UNDC action can have immediate and direct practical effect. It is appropriate and timely for this unique deliberative body to turn its attention to developing general guidelines, principles and recommendations for DDRPs, in coordination and consultation with other relevant fora. The UNDC has already addressed related issues and has a wealth of material and the experience of Member States on which to draw. It is well-placed to ensure that disarmament expertise is appropriately brought to bear in a multidisciplinary and holistic approach to the complex issue of designing and implementing effective and sustainable disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.