

In their quest for security, nations must strive for objectives more ambitious than stability, the goal of the present system in which security is based on armaments. For stability based on armaments cannot be sustained indefinitely. There is always the danger that the fragile stability of an international system based on armaments will suddenly crumble, and that nuclear confrontation will take its place. A more effective way to ensure security is to create positive processes that can lead to peace and disarmament.¹

The idea of common security gained legitimacy with the significant success of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which "represented the operationalisation of the core principles of common security."² The significant strides of the CSCE (now OSCE) in reducing tensions and armament levels in Europe has led to calls for similar approaches in other regions.

Concepts similar to common security have been embraced by other international commissions, by peace researchers and security policy analysts and by many non-governmental organizations. Project Ploughshares, a disarmament NGO that is a project of the Canadian Council of Churches, defined "the different threads of common security...as 'mutual,' 'collective,' and 'holistic'" and proposed government measures to advance a common security regime.³ Concepts of *collective security* that argue that the security of individual states is the business of all states and should be pursued through international institutions and the rule of law have also been revitalized.⁴ The 1992 report of the "Citizen's Inquiry into Peace and Security" demonstrated that a similar understanding of security had become widely accepted throughout the Canadian development, environmental and disarmament NGO community.⁵ More recently, the 1994 "Canada 21" report, *Canada and Common Security in the Twenty-First Century*, stated that "it is urgent that we reorder our priorities and reallocate our resources so that we can better defend our sovereignty and contribute to common security."⁶ The report of the "Canada 21 Council," a group of prominent Canadian academics, journalists, former politicians, public servants and business people, proposed more than 30 foreign policy recommendations based on four principles of common security.

Other similar security concepts have also received wide attention. *Cooperative security* was at the heart of the Pacific regional initiative launched by former External Affairs Minister Joe Clark at the September 1990 meeting of the UN General Assembly.⁷ Cooperative security shares much with common security, differing only perhaps in its greater flexibility and pragmatism. The Commission on Global Governance notes that

¹ The Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, *Common Security: A Blueprint for Survival*, (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982), 7.

² David Dewitt, "Common, Comprehensive, and Cooperative Security in Asia-Pacific," *CANCAPS Paper Number 3* (March 1994), 9.

³ *Common Security: New Light for the Planet* (study manual), Project Ploughshares, 1990, III-1.

⁴ Andrew Hurrell, "Collective Security and International Order Revisited," *International Relations*, 11:1 (1992), 37-55.

⁵ See *Transformation Moment: A Canadian Vision of Common Security* (Citizen's Inquiry into Peace and Security, 1992).

⁶ Canada 21 Council, *Canada 21: Canada and Common Security in the Twenty-First Century*, (Toronto: Centre for International Studies, 1994), 12.

⁷ Dewitt, 14.