

2. *Peaceful resolution of conflict*: Current security policies and levels of military spending are obviously linked to conditions of conflict, but such conflicts are prone to escalate to violence due in no small part to the paucity of alternative means of pursuing the resolution of conflict. Hence, the promotion of peace dialogues in existing armed conflicts, or threatened armed conflicts, must become a priority. Some ODA could be constructively channelled in support of such initiatives and away from explicit support for military measures.

3. *Effective development strategies*: Any move toward conditionality or other measures to promote reductions in military expenditures must proceed from the objective of making development assistance and capital investment more effective and people friendly. While some, of course, fear that efforts to link aid to military spending cuts are actually a cover to cut aid, but the papers express support for measures that focus on making aid more effective, and donor efforts to encourage reductions in military spending in aid recipient countries must be seen as just one means toward that end.

4. *Carrots over sticks*: The use of “sticks” to press for reductions in military spending may have a place, but there is clear agreement that “carrots” will be much more effective. As Prof. Cawthra put it, “‘Carrots’ in the form of funding and technical assistance to facilitate demobilization, enhance civil-military relations, support institution building for the management of common security, promote arms control and disarmament and enhance transparency and accountability in the security field are essential to ensure sustainable demilitarization which is rooted in a renaissance of civil society.”

I commend the attached materials to you and your colleagues and look forward to a continuing exchange of views on future policy options for promoting sustainable development in the context of planning for the sustainable demilitarization of conflict.

Sincerely,

Ernie Regehr
Policy and Public Affairs Director
Project Ploughshares