

control in conflict prevention, management and resolution, and provided evidence in favour of a "security first" strategy, which recognized that arms control measures could succeed only after security conditions had been improved.¹⁸

One of the recommendations of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms calls for the United Nations to extend the proportional and integrated approach to security and development initiated with respect to Mali and other West African states to other regions suffering from the aftermath of conflict and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The Panel further recommends that the United Nations support, with the assistance of the donor community, all appropriate post-conflict initiatives related to disarmament and demobilization. The recommendations of the Panel also place considerable emphasis on the importance of the disarmament aspects of peacekeeping operations and include a suggestion to develop guidelines for both the negotiation and implementation phases of the disarmament part of a peace process.

The Importance of a Coordinated and Integrated Approach to DDRPs

DDRPs clearly involve arms control and disarmament considerations -- such as collecting and destroying arms, and verification -- that should be addressed by bodies with disarmament expertise. In addition, they involve humanitarian, economic and societal considerations that require attention from other international or regional fora, including donor countries and institutions, humanitarian and development agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The fact that other bodies may also be trying to deal with aspects of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is not a reason for disarmament fora to ignore the issue. Rather, it reinforces the need for a deliberative body like the UNDC to deal *effectively* with the issue, taking due account of the work of other UN bodies, such as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (Committee of 34), in order that findings can be shared, duplication of effort avoided and best practices identified and promoted.

The importance of taking a coordinated and integrated approach to overlapping and interrelated issues has been recognized in recent changes at the Secretariat level of the United Nations. New initiatives, including the establishment of the Senior Management Group and Executive Committees, the provisions for Task Forces on UN Operations, the Framework for Coordination, the principle of "One UN House" and the broad authority of Special Representatives heading UN peace support operations, are designed to facilitate a more coherent approach by the United Nations system to the diverse array of issues involved in peacebuilding and thus to help ensure the sustainability of such efforts in a post-conflict situation. Deliberative bodies like the Disarmament Commission must also find practical ways and means to address issues like disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in a

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See Joseph P. Smaldone, "Mali's Proposed Small Arms Moratorium: A West African Regional Arms Control Initiative," Paper presented at the Policy Workshop on Controlling the Global Trade in Light Weapons: Policy Options for National Governments and the International Community, Washington, D.C., December 11-12, 1997.