

funds can be helpful in alleviating ethnic tension, it might be useful to establish a central fund which could be tapped for this purpose.

Of course, regular and routine visits throughout the region would also allow assistance staff to become more familiar with inter-state disputes and to offer more timely assistance. They could encourage parties to de-escalate tensions through confidence-building measures; facilitate track II diplomacy efforts; encourage and support negotiation; offer to provide good offices or mediation; help parties seek conciliation, arbitration or adjudication; monitor compliance with agreements; or act as a "trip wire" which would bring a situation to the attention of the international or regional community when it was escalating in a dangerous manner.

Making Use of All Available Resources

Using Small Assistance Missions: In some situations, it can be advantageous to deploy small, expert assistance missions. In the governance area, such missions could provide a greater degree of ongoing support for good governance reforms. Small assistance missions may also be helpful in dispute settlement by providing an "on-the-ground" presence, which can serve as a calming influence, by showing that the international community is aware of the problems and interested in helping to resolve them.

Using the Expertise of Regional and International Scholars: To tailor solutions to local conditions, regional research institutes, universities and thinktanks could support assistance in both good governance and dispute settlement. A network of scholars and other experts from these institutions could act as consultants to help professional assistance staff sharpen their analysis of specific problems and broaden their consideration of potential solutions. They would also be able to assist in the development of a deeper understanding of the root causes of conflict and a more effective long-term agenda for conflict prevention.

Using the Expertise of NGOs and Civil Society: NGOs working in the area of conflict resolution, democracy, human rights and development could extend the work of both types of assistance. NGOs with expertise in human rights and democracy could work with civil society to highlight the advantages of widespread participation in decision-making and to establish effective local governance. NGOs with appropriate expertise in conflict resolution could provide training to local actors in problem-solving methods, offer track II diplomacy and propose the creation of mechanisms for dialogue and problem solving at the local level.

Using the Experience of Regional Leaders: Groups of eminent persons (former prime ministers, presidents, judges, Nobel Laureates, prominent intellectuals and other high-profile persons) could be formed to work alongside assistance staff in order to extend this work upward into the highest levels of government. Eminent persons with expertise in good governance could work quietly with government leaders to urge them to move in the