

In contrast, socialization, assistance and mutual problem solving are more likely to provide powerful incentives for gradual and constructive change. What is needed appears to be a set of strategies that address human security issues but which states can also accept because they see it as in their own best interest to do so.

Timing

There has been a growing recognition that timing is important for the success of conflict prevention and that early assistance is likely to be more cost-effective than efforts to contain conflict once it has begun or to rebuild war-torn societies. In the past, the slowness of the multilateral decision-making process too often resulted in multilateral organizations becoming involved in trying to prevent or resolve conflict at the very time when their efforts were *least* likely to be effective, due to the self-perpetuating dynamics of conflict escalation. In response, there is an increasing acceptance that multilateral efforts need to focus more attention "upstream" on conflict prevention rather than "downstream" on conflict management.

There is also a gradual realization that both short-term and long-term approaches to early conflict prevention are required. Not only is more effective preventive diplomacy needed to keep disputes from turning into violent conflict, by offering assistance in dispute resolution at an *early* stage, but if peace is to be sustained, it is clear that this will need to be backed up by a longer-term approach, aimed at addressing the structural causes of conflict and fostering institutions which will promote the kinds of distributive and procedural justice that have been shown to make violent conflict less likely.

The Evolving Agenda for Prevention

The linkage between development, democracy, human rights and peace is now being more widely articulated than ever before.⁸ This synthesis argues that peace cannot exist without development and development cannot proceed without peace, shortcircuiting the old North-South "development versus security" debate. Equally important, the addition of democracy and human rights to the equation provides a prescription for how these goals can be achieved. It suggests that what is needed to create the opportunity for both peace and development is a *fairer process*--a process which is capable of reducing grievances before they grow into major problems; which allows the people to have a say in decision-making; which safeguards and promotes their civil, political, economic and cultural rights; and provides a pluralist environment, in which they can live together in peace, with the freedom and opportunity to develop in all ways. That fairer process is *good governance*.

Thus, prevention can be defined (at least in part) as an effort to assist in building human security through the promotion of good governance at all levels of society--locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. This would mean providing assistance to local and national governments in good governance, with special assistance for weak states and those in transition to democracy. It would also mean strengthening the governance structures and