

conflicts are avoided.¹⁰⁰

Providing Funds or Expertise in Uncovering and Destroying Weapons and Weapons Caches.

One of the most unsettling aspects of disarmament and demobilization processes is that, unless weapons can be destroyed *in situ*, they can lead to increased circulation of armaments among the general population. While progress was made in demobilizing troops and guerrillas in Mozambique, for example, enormous quantities of weapons remained unaccounted for because there were insufficient resources to locate and destroy these caches. Providing means which allow excess or unaccounted weapons to be located and destroyed is an essential "stabilizing" element in reducing insecurity and building confidence and one to which Canada could also make a contribution.

Encourage Generalized Development

If a failure to promote equitable development is what ultimately is at the root of Africa's violent conflicts, then prospects for peace are not good in the short term. Working through NGOs, Canada needs to vigorously promote development to ensure that there are alternative means of gaining a livelihood other than through guns. Continued assistance in the development of basic infrastructure and health and education — "human security" — are important avenues to avoiding conflicts and generating confidence in post-conflict situations. More generally, genuine and direct action needs to be taken to address the sources of state weakness in Africa. Efforts need to be focused on alleviating Africa's foreign debt crisis and establishing equal trading relations between Africa and the industrialized West.

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Implicit in the literature on confidence building is the belief that CBMs alone do not resolve or end conflicts. This makes their success harder to gauge. On the one hand, since CBMs are often the smallest steps in a large and lengthy process of conflict resolution, it is frequently difficult to establish what contribution specific CBMs make. On the other hand, the inability to resolve conflicts does not necessarily mean that the effort to build confidence was a failure. Indeed, the effective use of CBMs can still mitigate the worst effects of an otherwise unsuccessful peace process. What is clear from the experiences of Zimbabwe, Mozambique and even regions of Somalia is that confidence can help pull adversaries out from seemingly hopeless situations. Confidence building is an essential element in peace processes in Africa and continuous efforts must be made towards finding new and innovative ways to make CBMs more effective.

¹⁰⁰ Of course, as always, there are risks that these resources might be abused. The UN came under fire in 1994 when it was reported that the Somali peace process involved nothing more than endless talk by Somali leaders who were being put up in Nairobi's luxury hotels at UN expense. An agreement between the warlords came only when the UN refused to continue paying the hotel bills of the clan leaders and their entourages, but its effects were fleeting.