

Another OAS programme in a post-conflict situation is its International Support and Verification Commission in Nicaragua (CIAV).<sup>37</sup> Over the past six years, this Commission has been actively involved in assisting the country with the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants from the Nicaraguan conflict, an initiative which has grown to include all those directly affected by the conflict.<sup>38</sup> This has been achieved with a multi-faceted programme, including human rights monitoring and verification, institutional development in former areas of conflict and social and economic development programmes. The OAS has also had a mission in Suriname, since 1992, to assist in the peace process and has been deeply involved with Haiti since 1991. The International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH), in cooperation with the United Nations peacekeeping mission (UNMIH, then UNSMIH), has been working to rebuild the democratic institutions of Haiti since March of 1993.

#### **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF):**

Since its inaugural meeting in Bangkok in July of 1994, the ASEAN Regional Forum<sup>39</sup> has identified a range of potential issues for "further study" including confidence and security-building, exchanges of unclassified military information, maritime security and preventive diplomacy. A "Concept Paper" prepared by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)<sup>40</sup> in 1995 elaborated confidence-building measures that could be pursued in the short term, including making use of existing global mechanisms such as the UN Register of Conventional Arms. It also called for the exploration of a regional version of the Register.

Following its 1995 Ministerial meeting, the ARF provided for the convening of an intersessional group (ISG) on confidence-building.<sup>41</sup> In the meetings of the ISG an incremental approach to confidence-building continues to be followed, with

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<sup>37</sup> This mission is also discussed in the case study, *infra*, in relation to the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in 1989-90.

<sup>38</sup> Initially, the CIAV mission - in the context of assisting ONUCA - involved only the National Resistance fighters.

<sup>39</sup> The ARF is a region-wide security dialogue mechanism. However, as yet, the DPRK is not a member nor are the countries of South Asia.

<sup>40</sup> ASEAN was instrumental in the creation of the ARF and functions as its *de facto* Secretariat.

<sup>41</sup> Note that there are also ISG's dealing with cooperation in peacekeeping training and search and rescue, respectively.