

outbreak of hostilities. Inflation rates were reduced from 2000% in 1995 to less than 10% in 1997, while the Tajik rouble has stabilized and government revenues have increased.

More substantial peacebuilding initiatives in the areas of **social reconstruction, human rights, physical security, democratic development, and civil capacity building** had all been delayed pending the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord. As set out by the series of Protocols signed by the government, strategies in these areas have already been developed and now, with the Peace Accord in hand, the implementation phase must begin.

In retrospect the ability of the UN to play an impartial mediating and supervisory role in the negotiations, particularly in a conflict with such profound regional implications, meant that the political might of Russia could be brought together with the relatively small political force of the UTO in the same negotiating forum. This of course was predicated on the fact that both Russia and Iran placed sufficient pressure on the Tajik government and the UTO to ensure their commitment to peace. This was crucial to the success of the negotiations. The initial establishment of the cease-fire provided the first building bloc from which negotiations could proceed. Without it progress would not have been possible since the cease-fire demonstrated the commitment of both parties to reconciliation. The degree to which the cease-fire was violated at any one time provided an accurate indication of the current state of the peace process. Thus the ability of the UN to provide a timely observer mission was important because it reinforced this initial concession by the parties and held them to their commitment to political dialogue.