

deliberations in 1996 and 1997. The Conference on Disarmament has not considered DDRPs, but this is not surprising given its role as the sole multilateral negotiating body and the inappropriateness of seeking to negotiate generic DDRPs. It is therefore falls primarily to the deliberative bodies to develop the general principles upon which negotiators can draw in the context of specific negotiations. The UNDC, a deliberative body including all Member States and with a three-year work programme on a limited number of agenda items, would therefore appear to be the logical place to develop general guidelines, principles and recommendations for DDRPs, while not ignoring that other multilateral fora are simultaneously looking at the issue from other, non-disarmament perspectives. In so doing, the UNDC can also build upon the guidelines, principles and recommendations it has already developed on related issues.

7. Conclusion

The experience of the United Nations and Member States presents an overwhelming case for an integrated and coordinated approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the design and implementation of disarmament measures within a peacebuilding process. Experience shows that a successful DDRP is fundamental to the longer-term stability of the country or region in question. Where provisions for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants are explicitly spelled out in peace and disarmament agreements, and where the parties' commitment to the peace process is matched by funding support from the international community, the agreements are much more likely to succeed.

Because disarmament, demobilization and reintegration have to be seen in the wider political and socio-economic framework of conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding, there is need for a coherent and comprehensive approach to DDRPs, in which the experience and expertise of many international, regional and local actors are brought to bear. There must be adequate coordination in areas of legitimate overlap, in order that findings can be shared, duplication of effort avoided and best practices identified and promoted. Full consideration of the wider context does not mean that DDRPs lose their disarmament dimension but, rather, that disarmament expertise is appropriately applied so that the considerable potential benefits of a well-designed DDRP are not lost. The UNDC can make an important contribution to this work by ensuring that the disarmament perspective is brought adequately to bear on all stages of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, from conceptualization to implementation, so that the overall results are complementary, synergistic and mutually reinforcing. An integrated approach to DDRP's is thus not only necessary to minimize duplication of effort; it is necessary because the complexity and interrelated nature of the problems being addressed require such sophisticated and comprehensive solutions.

An integrated and coordinated approach to DDRPs is consistent with the post-Cold War trend in United Nations consideration of peace and security issues and with recent organizational changes at senior UN levels. It also carries forward the traditional arms