

ACTIVITY

Disarmament Insight: thinking differently about human security

Multilateral disarmament practitioners are busy people. Because of myriad demands on their time and attention it can sometimes be difficult to convey to them the implications of new policy research that could make their work more productive.

In late 2006, UNIDIR's project on Disarmament as Humanitarian Action: Making Multilateral Negotiations Work (DHA) began collaborating on the Disarmament Insight initiative with the Geneva Forum. The Geneva Forum is a joint initiative of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva, UNIDIR and the Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies (PSIS) of the Graduate Institute of International Studies.

The DHA project's work has revolved around two related themes: showing how humanitarian perspectives can assist disarmament and arms control work, as well as looking more broadly at new tools and perspectives to help multilateral negotiators reframe and respond effectively to disarmament challenges.

Under the rubric of "thinking differently about human security", the Disarmament Insight initiative aims at engaging with multilateral practitioners and others on the findings of the DHA project's research and related themes, for instance drawing from its three volumes of research published by UNIDIR in 2005 and 2006.

As well as symposia with multilateral practitioners and other activities, a number of Disarmament Insight web resources have been developed. These are accessible online at <www.disarmamentinsight.blogspot.com>.

Disarmament Insight web resources include links to the content of DHA's published volumes and information about the project, a topical research blog updated every few days (on which visitors can post their comments) and podcasts of speakers from Disarmament Insight events. Recent podcasts include:

- Professor Frans de Waal, one of the world's foremost primatologists, explaining to disarmament diplomats what they can learn from "War and Peace and Primates"; and

In each issue of *Disarmament Forum*, UNIDIR Focus highlights one activity of the Institute, outlining the project's methodology, recent research developments or its outcomes. UNIDIR Focus also describes a new UNIDIR publication. You can find summaries and contact information for all of the Institute's present and past activities, as well as sample chapters of publications and ordering information, online at <www.unidir.org>.

- Professor Paul Seabright, economist and author of *The Company of Strangers: A Natural History of Economic Life*, exploring with multilateral practitioners what we know about levels of armed violence, and what we might learn from behavioural economics and neuroscience that would help them in their work.

For more information, visit <www.disarmamentinsight.blogspot.com>.

NEW PUBLICATION

International Assistance for Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Case Study of East Africa

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) are a serious threat to the security and development of East Africa. However, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are tackling the illicit trade in SALW, developing new legislation, defining national objectives, and in some cases implementing action plans and coordinating with the Regional Center on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the East African Community. Yet due to the lack of capacity and the extent of the SALW problem in the subregion, international assistance in implementing SALW programmes is necessary. Most SALW assistance received between 2001 and 2005 went toward disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes; only 5% of assistance was used to implement other SALW projects, primarily in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Each of the five states presented in this case study are at different levels of implementation and have different capacities available to implement the UN Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

By early 2008, the states will have passed revised policies and legislation on SALW, and thus assistance in awareness-raising on, training in and enforcement of the policies and legislation will be key. Strengthening the capacity of the National Focal Points is a particular priority for Burundi and Rwanda, and improving the capacity and resources available along borders and at border entry points, record-keeping, stockpile security and management, and marking of arms are among the top needs consistently identified by states in the subregion. In addition to presenting the results of the case study on international assistance in East Africa, this report includes some general policy recommendations for improving resource mobilization. Individual profiles of each state, outlining SALW action and needs for assistance, are presented at the end of the report.

This case study was conducted as part of UNIDIR's work on "International Assistance for Implementing the Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons", which aims to develop a mechanism that will help states identify the types of assistance they require to implement the PoA, and make that information available to potential assistance providers.

International Assistance for Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Case Study of East Africa

Kerry Maze and Hyunjoo Rhee

Electronic publication available at <www.unidir.org>

40 pages

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