

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that UNIDIR publishes this volume on *Sensors for Peace: Applications, Systems and Legal Requirements for Monitoring in Peace Operations*.

The role of sensor technology in peace operations is an under-reported topic in the general literature and this volume goes a long way in attempting to redress that imbalance. The key role of technologies in the various operations executed by the United Nations and others in order to keep the peace is often only well appreciated by those peace-keepers who use the equipment. The importance of reliable and robust equipment that can be easily moved and is user-friendly cannot be underestimated.

This is a vastly underdeveloped field of study. There are many openings for the thoughtful use of sensors in monitoring wide areas for a number of differing peace operations. This volume looks at the future possibilities in addition to the past experiences of the use of sensors in maintaining the peace in a wide range of difficult situations. In addition to the technical hardware the legality of sensors in such operations is also considered.

In addition, the publication of this volume by UNIDIR gives me great personal pleasure. Several years ago, long before my appointment at UNIDIR, I took part in the early stages of the Bochum Verification Project. The Project has gone from strength to strength and the quality of the work, building on the early days of inquiry into the various available technologies and their characteristics, speaks for itself.

The Bochum Verification Project has demonstrated the capabilities and potential applications of sensor technologies that are already in existence for disarmament agreements and now for peace operations. It is now up to the international community to respond to this research and look to see how peace

operations could be made more efficient and cost-effective by increasing the judicious and interoperable employment of off-the-shelf sensor technology in conjunction with peace-keeping personnel.

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