

# Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project

## Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Haiti

The combination of internal conflicts with the proliferation of light weapons has marked peace operations since 1990. This combination poses new challenges to the international community and highlights the fact that a lack of consistent strategies for the control of arms during peace processes (CAPP) reduces the effectiveness of ongoing missions and diminishes the chances of long-term national and regional stability once peace is agreed upon.

In November 1994, UNIDIR launched a project, entitled *Disarmament and Conflict Resolution: The Disarming of Warring Parties as an Integral Part of the Settlement of Conflicts* (the DCR Project), aimed at looking into the seldom-researched field of disarmament during multinational peace-keeping operations and the links among disarmament, conflict resolution and regional stability.

The DCR Project explored the predicament posed by United Nations peace operations which have focused on short-term needs rather than long-term stability. The project is based on the premise that the control and reduction of weapons during peace operations can be a tool for ensuring stability. Perhaps more than ever before, the effective control of weapons has the capacity to influence far-reaching events in national and international activities. In this light, the management and control of arms could become an important component of the settlement of conflicts, a fundamental aid to diplomacy in the prevention and deflation of conflict, and a critical element of the reconstruction process in post-conflict societies.

This volume details the evolution of the Haitian crisis (1990-1994), outlines the response of the UN to this crisis in the guise of the Multinational Force (MNF) and the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), and addresses the role of the disarmament and demobilization process as part of the UN intervention in Haiti. The volume also contains the results of the DCR project's *Practitioners' Questionnaire on Weapons Control, Disarmament and Demobilization during Peacekeeping Operations*, completed by military personnel deployed in Haiti between 1994 and 1995.

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