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Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building in the Regional Context
UNU-CRIS/DPA Seminar Report

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UNU-CRIS/DPA SEMINAR

CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE-BUILDING IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

Bruges, Belgium
28 – 29 April 2006

On 28 and 29 April 2006, the United Nations University Programme on comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) and the United Nations Department for Political Affairs (UN-DPA) convened a seminar to consider the evolving relationship between the UN and regional organizations in conflict prevention and peace-building. Entitled “Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building in the Regional Context”, the seminar took place in Bruges, Belgium in the aftermath of a Working Group meeting pertaining to the process of the High-Level Meetings between the UN Secretary-General and the Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations. It brought together participants from a diverse range of regional organizations, UN Secretariat, UNDP, academia, research institutes and select non-governmental organizations.

The seminar was introduced by the director of UNU-CRIS, Luk Van Langenhove, who mentioned the interlinkages between regionalism, global governance and security in the developing cooperation between the UN and regional organizations in this context and the Head of the Unit for Regional Cooperation in UN-DPA, Tapio Kanninen, who provided the context for this event – the interagency UN mission to ECOWAS earlier that month and the Working Group meeting of the previous two days; now opening to other participants and academia to discuss the role of regional organizations and cooperation between regional and global organizations in the prevention of conflicts and peace building in the regional context.

The introductory session was followed by two key-note speeches, by two organizations – the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP Group) and the League of Arab States. Andrew Bradley, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Human Development of ACP Group presented the organization and its developing role in conflict prevention, committed to develop its peace and security instruments to work on conflict prevention, under the knowledge that there is no development without peace. The ACP is now developing a Peace Facility in

cooperation with the European Union. The ACP fully supports the notion that in order to foster peace and security regional response must be enhanced, and is ready to promote its role in this sense.

Hesham Youssef, Chief of Cabinet of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States presented the context of the Middle East considering that no seminar on conflict prevention could be complete without addressing issues of the Middle East. The examples given on LAS developments in conflict prevention and cooperation with the UN were the recent cases of Iraq and Sudan. LAS did not support the democratization and reconstruction efforts based on a sectarian and ethnic approach in Iraq and is instead trying to promote an approach based on reconciliation and a more effective role of the UN, with gradual withdrawal of foreign troops and the focus on addressing the needs of the Iraqi people. In Sudan LAS is working together with the African Union in order to reach an agreement to find harmony.

Session I

“Evolution of the doctrine and practice of conflict prevention: recent UN experience and its application to regional and sub-regional organizations”

The first session of the seminar focused on the problems of reconstruction and recovery after conflict, looking at different cases, in different world regions, with a focus on Africa, considering the difficulties in cases such as Sierra Leone (where funds for reconstruction are insufficient) and Togo (the problems of transition and the inability to move on after the cease-fire), and looking at the common problem of the lack of inclusion of civil society. Theory says that there is a period of 6 to 10 years in which the underlying causes of conflict must be addressed in order for the conflict not to resume. Experience says however that this sensitive period can last much longer, and peace-builders need therefore to have a field-based approach, as opposed to a headquarters-based one, focusing on working together with the civil society, involving social groups such as women and youth, namely in the strengthening of institutions.

The UN looks for ways to bring sustainability to the peace building efforts, cooperating with broad mandate organizations such as Commonwealth and CARICOM in the Caribbean. In cases such as Ghana, the approach is to build up trust and dialogue with the nationals – not only at government level but also at the community level, so that the UN can work with the various governmental institutions and with the communities – in order to be able to analyse the causes of the conflicts before they actually arise. Also important is to include gender and youth issues in peace building – working with different parts of society in a bottom-up approach. The local populations are the only ones having the real knowledge on how to overcome the problems. Also mentioned was the need to provide ownership and identifying local partners for peace building.

Participants mentioned the problem of finding human resources among the local populations to undertake the peace building and reconstruction activities. The populations tend to rely on the international community and fail to build their own capacities. The countries need to be given the right instruments to start on their own, reconstruction therefore becoming a shared task and allowing for local ownership. One example given was the approach taken with ECOWAS - working side by side, and giving ECOWAS the ownership for its achievements, strengthening the actor's abilities to respond to conflict challenges. Participants reminded however that even if the objective is to engage the decision maker in the process, in many cases it is the decision-maker who is resistant to engage, fearing failure. One example is the case of Nigeria, where the government does not seem interested in engaging with the international community in efforts for peace building.

The speakers also stressed the need to develop incentives for a unified long-term approach where the interests of the different parts of society and the different actors can converge. Mainstreaming the involvement of women in post-conflict reconstruction and peace building is a good example – women need to be a stronger force in peace building. Also the inclusion of different parts of society in decision-making, through a national advisory board of eminent people representing the spectrum of society was a recommendation put forward – this being a good way to keep different parts of society and the government involved.

One fundamental challenge is finding the right entry points in order to engage with the local communities and governments and to be able to discuss the real underlying causes of conflict and ways to overcome them. In this sense some recommendations were put forward, such as the need to leave some space for engagement before referring to the conflict – the need to build trust before addressing the more sensitive issues; to keep all parties engaged without taking sides; and to allow for ownership. Important also is the collaboration in a long term approach – the international community needs to address the whole conflict cycle and remain engaged.

Main recommendations

Along the years, both UN and regional organisations experience in conflict prevention and peace building made clear that these two concepts are interlinked in a cycle that cannot be overlooked. The key for peace building and conflict prevention in conflict torn countries seems to be involving Civil Society in peace-building and reconstruction, including gender and youth in a bottom-up approach that focuses on the rebuilding of institutions and provides the right instruments for sustained reconstruction, allowing for local ownership and a gradual independence from the international community.

Session II

“Civil society's cooperation with regional organizations in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building: the case of ECOWAS”

Richard Konteh, from the West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOF), presented the Forum and its work. WACSOF is an umbrella organization of civil society organizations, streamlining civil society engagement with ECOWAS, reflecting the commitment of civil society to work together with the ECOWAS Secretariat to promote peace, regional security, integration and economic development. Its objectives are, among others, to promote permanent dialogue between Civil Society, ECOWAS and member states; support the political, economic and regional integration processes; and promote democratic principles and institutions.

In what concerns its role in conflict prevention and peace building in West Africa, Civil Society organizations' grassroots, orientation and spread, place them in a strategic position to complement ECOWAS. Their engagement in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea-Bissau have proven fruitful, helping build broken relations in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation and resisting military dictatorship in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo. WACSOFF has also been engaged in deepening democracy and good governance through elections monitoring or observation and civic education.

But even if having already some successes, WACSOFF and Civil Society Organizations struggle with some shortcomings and obstacles, like the skewed perceptions of civil society, the lack of coordination (with unhealthy competition, rivalry and duplication), the communications problems in West Africa (the 'nightmare' of traveling), the lack of financial and human resources, or the lack of support from governments. To overcome these obstacles further communication and coordination are needed between civil society and the intergovernmental organizations, between them and the governments and even among themselves. Further information, dialogue and coordination will avoid duplication and assure a more effective role for these organizations.

Abdel-Fatau Musah, from ECOWAS, developed on the role of civil society and its relationship with ECOWAS. ECOWAS is involving more and more civil society organizations in the operationalization of its conflict prevention and peace building mechanisms, a good example being the council of elders. The youth centres are also part of these developments, as one of the strategies to deal with the key issue of the youth crisis in Africa – identified as one of the main roots of conflict. Efforts are being made to create spaces for collaboration between the regional organizations and the UN and civil society. Important also is the role of the region's research institutions in developing informed policies.

Participants stressed the need to build a resilience within civil society, considering how far the regional civil society has a particular role as compared for instance to facilitators from international / global NGOs. One of the challenges for the role of civil society is the lack of centralization and the weak interlinkages between the organizations – WACSOFF tries to bring

some harmony to these linkages, searching for common voices and directions to see how the different organizations can complement each other, and avoid duplication and ineffective policies.

The question of the polarization of civil society organizations was also raised, the participants stressing the need for them to be as neutral as possible. This leads to the question of funding and the neutrality constraints related to the organization's dependence from outside funding. Civil Society organisations should try to make their action sustainable and independent. In this sense, WACSOF is trying to generate its own financial input, in order to be financially independent. The objective is for civil society organization's human resources to be virtually self-employed and not dependent from the government.

In this endeavour, the objective is not to look only at the elitist NGOs based in the capitals - the ones usually able to attract foreign support and therefore increase over and over their visibility. WACSOF tries to support the traditional community based organizations – considering these to be the most important for the handling of the roots and causes of the conflicts.

The question of the 'entry-point' was also addressed – how to engage with the population and governments in order to get as many of the representative groups together around specific issues. Elections (being a common denominator for membership of these meetings) – can be the entry-points for these networks. It is also important to broaden the inclusion of groups such as women and elders groups, not forgetting to include the media.

Main findings and recommendations

WACSOF tries to bring together a network of civil society organizations, aiming at further coordination, information and dialogue, to avoid duplication and assure a more efficient role of civil society organizations. The focus should be to enhance its important role as compared to international and regional NGOs. At the same time, and to assure neutrality and efficiency, civil society organizations must focus on self-sustainability of funding. Again, the inclusion of social groups such as women, young and the elder is given great importance.

Session III

“Youth unemployment, regional instability, conflict prevention and peace-building: ECOWAS and the West Africa experience”

This third session brought together different experiences on youth unemployment and ways of tackling it, doing a comparative analysis of different African experiences (West Africa, and particularly Nigeria and Côte d’Ivoire) and the case of Afghanistan.

Ngozi Amu, from the UN Office in West Africa (UNOWA) – presented UNOWA’s study on youth unemployment and regional insecurity in West Africa (December 2005), stressing the demographic situation in West Africa (almost 75% of the population is under 30) that leads to serious problems of youth unemployment and consequent issues of illegal immigration and human and drug trafficking – therefore becoming a strong root for conflict.

One given example was the case of ex-combatants from Liberia who are being recruited to fight in Côte d’Ivoire, showing the strong link between development, security and unemployment. These findings, first by a UNOWA mission and then by a joint ECOWAS-EU-UNOWA study to look at the roots of conflict, led to the establishment of a task force aimed at job-creation. The joint ECOWAS-EU-UNOWA study came out with several recommendations, including the creation of a Youth Employment Unit for West Africa; the improving of the business environment (transparency, awareness about the ECOWAS protocol on free circulation and government procedures); the investment in infrastructure and public works; the promotion of other areas of action (such as national youth employment networks); activities involving the private sector and vocational training and apprenticeships; encouragement of youth entrepreneurship and microfinance; and collaboration with development partners in post-crisis situations.

In this sense, ECOWAS also has many activities in the pipeline, including giving the governments the main responsibility to keep the private sector engaged; a proposal by the

UN/ECOWAS Mission report to establish national peace and development youth centres; and an international conference on youth in the Mano River Union countries and Côte d'Ivoire.

Judith Asuni, from the Academic Associates Peace Works and Niger Delta Peace and Security Secretariat – brought in a proposal to establish youth unemployment centres in Nigeria, looking at the linkages and opportunities of youth unemployment and the oil and gas industry in Niger Delta.

The Oil and Gas Industry is the bulk of Nigeria's income but gives little opportunity for employment to the nationals for its highly specialized nature. This disconnection between expectations and reality brings frustration and aggressive behaviour among the youth. It also leads to the disruption of the environment, social structure and the traditional livelihoods. There is a lack of linkage between the social structures, the government and the industry that leads to a loss of faith in the government, corruption, and lack of development. There is also a competition for the resources – adding one more factor of conflict. And the lack of security leads ultimately to lack of investment and development drive.

From this analysis, four clusters of conflict drivers were found in the region – governance issues (the past failure of the Nigerian state to build a social contract with the people and reliance on oil majors to fulfil the normal obligations of the government plus the apathy of the government and corruption); lack of participation in the oil and gas industry (specially for the young); lack of social and economic development; and militarization of the Niger Delta region.

In order to overcome the present situation, recommendations were put forward in each of the four mentioned clusters, from the further participation of the government and the people in the gas and oil industry, the combat to corruption and pressure for fair elections, international assistance to curb illegal arms importation, and organized crime; to transparent management of resources and infrastructural development; and specific measures to enable the demilitarization of the region.

A ‘two-way forward’ recommendation was put forward: that the Nigerian State authorities and the international diplomatic and business community send a strong message to the population of the Niger Delta that their plight will no longer go unnoticed, and in return, that the people of the Niger Delta take responsibility for rebuilding their community governance and providing a conducive environment for their own development, in which they pay an important role.

As for youth unemployment and ways of tackling this problem more directly, there have been several projects in job training, which have dealt with problems such as lack of medium / long-term funding; lack of partnering and sustainability; lack of career counselling and trainers, plus the overall problem of little job placement. The proposal is now to establish three multi-purpose Community centres, in order to mainstream youth in the development of the region, provide highly specialized market-driven skills training, create new commercial opportunities, build capacity of community stakeholders and contribute to peace, harmony and development in the region. These centres are to be established in conflict-prone areas – militant youth being the prime target, and expect to have as key partners the local communities and government (ownership oriented), UN agencies, and oil and gas companies (to allow for technical input and training and therefore create greater job opportunity in this industry).

One of the participants, from UNDP in Cote d’Ivoire, brought in the experience of this country, looking at the roadmap on demilitarization and reintegration, which is prepared to start but still waiting for one sensitive issue to be solved – the identification process for the elections – which brings to the forefront the cultural and ethnic divisions of the country. Côte d’Ivoire is treated as a post-conflict country when in fact is mostly living in conflict. There are often cases of women prostitution for survival (prostitution for food) and female circumcision has also grown as a form of employment. These trends show that gender perspective cannot be neglected in any project for this region. Projects for reconstruction and peace building must therefore assure that this new role of women in unemployment is conveniently addressed – the underlying principle being that there is no peace without women’s inclusion.

The issue of ‘unsustainable DDR’ was also mentioned – the danger of demobilization without immediate employment. The lack of reintegration of the ex-combatants in a healthy social

environment will ostracize them and lead to re-incidence of conflict. Indeed, in Nigeria the greatest failure has been reintegration. In countries like Nigeria this is a difficult process – with the political groups receiving all kinds of influences and sometimes the wrong information.

Youth employment development is the most important tool at this point in these countries and is an instrument that can be more and more embedded in development and post conflict peace building policies. Another link that can be explored is the one between military service and community service. The UNOWA project gives recommendations based on experiences and programmes that have worked and can be reinvented in other countries. In the countries visited in 2003, UNOWA found that the unemployed youth is very vulnerable to crime cycles, not only in the conflict countries but also in their neighbours.

A different perspective, this time from West Asia, was brought by Paul George, from UNDP, Dakar – who looked at the case of Afghanistan, comparing the different approaches to youth unemployment in Afghanistan and West Africa where even the concepts of youth differ. Indeed, the average age of the demobilized ex-combatants in Afghanistan is actually 27 and the context of ‘child soldiers’, so common in Africa, is inexistent in this country.

The security impact of unemployment is different in Afghanistan, the individuals being dependent on the religious system. The challenge therefore is to break this relationship and allow the individuals to have a choice. The UNDP approach in Afghanistan was therefore to offer subsistence for the first months and professional council and training for the future– allowing the young ex-combatants to seek sustainable employment for the future.

More than operating as an employment agency, UNDP focuses on developing professional skills – an absolute necessity, considering that most young ex-combatants are illiterate. The recognized problem is the selection of the training – most individuals choosing the same training (50% of the individuals choose tailoring, the market not being able to absorb these potential new tailors) and the recommendation put forward is the need for vocational training to be focused at the local level. Another challenge this program is facing is the lack of linkage with long-term employment programs. After 1 year of training the individuals have no

guarantee of finding a job. This is one of the challenges to address, through major job-creation activities. The question seems to be how to balance supply and demand - how to bridge these gaps and create employment generation.

In developing these projects UNDP is focused on the local communities, working very close to the individuals and investing in micro-finance. However, and considering the present insecurity situation in the country, investment schemes have shown to be very difficult to put in place.

Another major challenge for UNDP is how to deal with families with no male in charge of the house – considering women are not allowed to leave the house for work and are therefore unable to support their families. It was first of all very difficult to see the extent of the problem, considering even the difficulty of recruiting women with the right skills to perform this analysis. The overarching problem remaining is how to engage women in peace building and reconstruction. One possibility now being explored is to work with women’s traditional gatherings – where these issues can be discussed.

Main findings and recommendations

Understanding the important links between security, development and unemployment, the UN has been focusing on job-creation in its projects in post-conflict countries. These projects must however understand the different contexts and adapt to them – focusing on targeted training and development of links with the local and national industries, in order to provide for sustainable employment and development, and to avoid the dangerous consequences of youth unemployment for the countries security and stability.

Session IV

“Legal personality of regional, sub-regional and other intergovernmental organizations in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building”

Kennedy Graham and Rodrigo Tavares presented a study conducted by UNU-CRIS on the legal personality of UN-partner organizations, part of the Regional Capacity Survey the institute had been developing for the process of cooperation between the UN and regional and other intergovernmental organizations. In order to classify the regional and intergovernmental organizations – one of the goals of the Regional Capacity Survey - there was a need to understand better the legal personality of these organizations, considering the willingness of materializing the request of the UN Secretary-General to formalize agreements with the regional and other intergovernmental organizations for conflict prevention and peace building.

The basis for this study is the UN Charter’s Chapter VIII on regional agencies and arrangements. From this basis and the consultation of the basic documents on international law, the study concluded that four organizations do not have the constitutional basis giving them juridical personality – this bringing implications and constraints in their ability to sign formal agreements with others or the UN. This fact has led some of these organizations to take the necessary steps to overcome these constraints (PIF and ASEAN).

The presentation of this study was followed by comments of Ana Peyro (Université de Cergy-Pontoise), who choose a functional approach instead of the organic approach used by UNU-CRIS, considering more useful to look at a theological interpretation of the Charter, not so close to Chapter VIII. Some other participants agreed with the functional approach, based on pragmatism and flexibility, and avoiding the complexity of the legal approach.

However, the presenters maintained their view in a need for greater legal clarity. Considering that the High-level Panel itself concluded that the Charter needs no amendment, the approach to use must be one that follows this as the basic document to work on, especially in peace and security issues. What came out of the High-level Meetings’ process was the will to operationalize the partnership with the regional and other intergovernmental organizations and

the straight way to bring clarity to this operationalization is through the UN Charter. Both NATO and the EU have declared not to be regional organizations under Chapter VIII – these cannot be considered solely as meaningless comments. One of the reasons for the EU Constitution was to give the EU juridical personality - because the EU also wants to overcome this fragility in international law. The organizations themselves feel the need to overcome these grey areas in order to deepen cooperation.

In what concerns the partner organizations – what is important to have in mind is that this clarification is not intended to limit the organizations' role or action in the cooperation framework with the UN. Each organization has a role to play.

Main findings and recommendations

Although organizations still tend to favour pragmatism and flexibility, greater clarity on their legal personality and roles seems to be needed in order to operationalize their partnership with the UN for peace and security in accordance to the UN Charter. This need has already been acknowledge by some organizations.

Session V

Evolution of the doctrine and practice of early warning and response: the experience of ECOWAS Zonal Bureaus

Col. Kone presented the plans for the operationalization of the ECOWAS Early Warning System, looking at the legitimacy of this project, its overall objectives and conceptual framework, vision and strategy.

The Early Warning System is the main pillar for ECOWAS on prevention. It does not refer to the concept of traditional intelligence and state security – but to the concept of Human Security – using open sources and transparency methods which require for cooperation - at international, regional, sub-regional and national level, not forgetting the sharing of information and the role

of the media. The objective is to work with the civil society to establish a functional conflict early warning and response system for the West African sub-region.

This early warning system is based on indicators of root causes of conflict, immediate causes and unanticipated and short term events, which have to be timely and accurate so that they can be reliable. The development of this system will allow ECOWAS to obtain more up to date, accurate information that will improve policy and facilitate rapid and appropriate response to the hotspots and problematic situations.

The aim is to have on place over the next few years, a fully integrated and functional Early Warning System providing to the Office of the Executive Secretary the potential to generate timely and effective response options in the event of violent conflict in the sub-region, in order to attain the objectives for sustainable socio-economic development. In 2007-2008 ECOWAS hopes to have this system in place and to link with the Continental Early Warning System.

The main challenges faced at this point include funding limitations and insufficient staffing. The different perceptions also raise obstacles for the efficiency of the system. To overcome them, ECOWAS plans to continue the modernization of the Situation Room, the integration of WANEP desk officers into the zonal bureaus, the sensitivization of civil society and States, the translation of the system into French to make it accessible to a larger area / population, the development of specific indicators and further training.

Jacob Eben-Enoh, from the West African Network for Peace-building (WANEP) developed on the experience of the ECOWAS zonal bureaus and plans for the future. In this context the role of the WANEP is to build relationships for peace – operationalizing the Early Warning System. WANEP has 429 organizations in 12 countries committed to enable and facilitate the development of mechanisms for cooperation among civil society and organizations in West Africa by promoting cooperative responses to conflicts: providing the structure through which these practitioners and institutions will regularly exchange experience and information on issues of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, social, religious and political transformation; and promoting West Africa's social cultural values in this context.

WANEP set itself a number of objectives, such as to harmonize peacebuilding activities in West Africa through networking and coordination of WANEP activities; strengthen the capacity of peacebuilding organizations and practitioners in West Africa; increase awareness on the use of non-violent strategies in responding to conflicts in West Africa; develop a conflict prevention network in West Africa to monitor, report and offer indigenous perspectives and understanding of conflicts in West Africa; develop the justice lens of peacebuilding to create understanding of the impact of truth, justice, and reconciliation on peacebuilding in West Africa; and build the capacity of West African Women to actively and visibly participate in peacebuilding processes at all levels. These have already been reflected in several programmes such as ‘Active Non-Violence and Peace Education’ or ‘Women in Peace-Building Network’.

The major conflict factors that have been analysed are the large presence of mercenaries; the youth unemployment and militarization; small arms proliferation; endemic corruption; social disintegration and brake down of family; and dysfunctional state institutions. The basic elements of this system are Information / Analysis / Action. First of all being able to identify reliable indicators; secondly the analysis and interpretation; and finally the Action: alerting those with a capacity to act, to prevent or reduce the impact in case of escalation, or influence a rapid response.

The challenges to the operationalization of the system are still many, including the sustainability of the National Network secretariats; the small capacity of member organizations and other civil society organizations, the ability to attract and retain necessary human resource capacity, the misperceptions of early warning information gathering as ‘intelligence’, or the communication and traveling limitations in West Africa.

Participants stressed the fact that both the infrastructure and the good will are there to put it in place, but the financial resources and the human resources are still lacking, as is the ability to make this system work fast enough, this leading to a need to link the operational capacities to

the political will and decision to act. WANEP can give a lot of policy options but it does not have the political dynamics to determine action, this role pertaining to the government level.

Asked to develop more on the functioning of the indicators, Mr. Eben-Enoh gave the example of the payments of the government to its workers – if they stop they show state collapse. Another example is the number of militaries on the street, showing the level of tension. The clusters of structural indicators (military, state collapse, arms, etc.) are still to be fine-tuned, and the operational stage may add changes. In practice the indicators for Nigeria may not be the same in Gambia and need to be contextualized. WANEP has already some level of intervention, Liberia being one example, where there has been some response at the local level through women movements.

Considering the AU continental Early Warning System – ECOWAS’s system is part of the continental framework. The AU will not erase ECOWAS’s system to implement his own – it will take it in. IGAD already has its own early warning system but SADC has been more sceptical about it. The AU needs therefore to begin the strategy to find the global concept and bring all the sub-regions in.

Main findings and recommendations

The main objective of ECOWAS’ developing Early Warning System is to provide the Executive Secretary the potential to generate timely and effective response options to violent conflict in the sub-region. This system aims to link with the African Union’s Continental Early Warning System. The WANEP aims to strengthen this ability of ECOWAS for conflict prevention, building a network of organizations committed to facilitate cooperation in this field. The challenge still is financial but also political – even if ECOWAS and WANEP succeed in attaining the needed information and policy options, the dynamics for action still belongs to the governments.

Session VI:
Evolving methodology for early warning and conflict information management
for regional and sub-regional organizations and the UN:
- Experience of IGAD, AU, ECOWAS and the UN

Dr. Doug Bond, from the Harvard University and Virtual Research Associates introduced the database for Early Warning indicators for IGAD, explaining the difficulties of putting such a system at work, including even the language constraints (compulsory language of protocol) and the bureaucratic obstacles.

For the case of CEWARN/IGAD the mandate was to work with the pastoral zones at the local and regional context. This is an ‘always evolving’ dynamic between regional, sub-regional organisations and Member States that has to be met. Every time a new incident happens a questionnaire format is filled in as standard procedure, making the system more efficient, because no time is lost with reporting. The CEWARN indicators go from agriculture to security, arms and armed conflict, society, culture, ethnicity and religion, in a total of 68 indicators, reached after 9 months of revisions – cutting down from about 400 to 68 final indicators. The importance of the indicators is to act as an accountant – having a currency that can be read very fast and analysed every week. Until now, 90% of the users of this system are actually from out of Africa and mostly academics, but the end user is the actually the governments – to which we have to get the information in paper – short and easy to read – so that they actually use it.

Although there are different systems according to the sub-region, the AU has the mandate to harmonize and take the lead. The objective is to have a division of labour - relying on the sub-regions to provide information and then dealing that information.

Participants asked on inter-regional cooperation and also coordination among donors. One example is the European Union, a main donor and a regional level partner. There has been a gathering recognition in the High-level Meetings’ process on the need for inter-regional cooperation in the context of the UN-RO cooperation. As for the UN, it set up a monitoring

system in 1998 – but it is very difficult to monitor the whole world. The proposal for an integrated monitoring system was never taken – so the UN is working department by department.

Main findings and recommendations

The challenge to overcome is the one of bureaucracy – of people not talking in the same language to each other – this limiting the regional coordination and the collaboration among institutions and organizations of different regions. The development of sub-regional early warning monitoring systems will enable the regional organization – the African Union, to put in place a continental warning system.

UNU-CRIS Director closed the seminar with a SWOT analysis of what is happening in conflict prevention and peace building. A lot had been heard on Strengths and Opportunities, which is a very positive outcome. The path seems to be directed to a multilayered and multi-active system of global governance in peace and security and the interesting outcome of this discussion is that more and more there is a growing recognition that neither the States nor the UN can replace the regional level of governance and all have to work hand in hand. Regional organisations and regional governance have the potential of becoming much more important for realization of the locus of multilateralism.

Note: For more information on this seminar and full presentations, please contact Tânia Felício (tfelicio@cris.unu.edu).



UNU-CRIS/DPA SEMINAR
CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE-BUILDING IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

College of Europe, Room E
Bruges, Belgium

28 – 29 April 2006

Programme

Friday, 28 April 2006

9.30h ***Opening of the meeting***

- Luk van Langenhove, Director, United Nations University, Comparative Regional Integration Studies programme (UNU-CRIS)
- Tapio Kanninen, Head of Unit for Cooperation with Regional Organizations, UN-DPA

- Andrew Bradley, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Group
- Hesham Youssef, Chief of Cabinet of the Secretary General, League of Arab States

10.00h ***Evolution of the doctrine and practice of conflict prevention: recent UN experience and its application to regional and subregional organizations***

- Chetan Kumar, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Gay Rosenblum-Kumar, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

11.30h *Coffee break*

11.45h ***Civil society's cooperation with regional organizations in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building: the case of ECOWAS***

- Richard Konteh, West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOF)

- Abdel-Fatau Musah, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

13.00h *Lunch hosted by UNU-CRIS*

14.30h ***Youth unemployment, regional instability, conflict prevention and peace-building: ECOWAS and the West Africa experience***

- Ngozi Amu, UN Office in West Africa (UNOWA) - UNOWA study on youth unemployment and regional insecurity in West Africa
- Paul George, West Africa Peace and Security Adviser, UNDP, Dakar - Comparing measures to deal with youth unemployment in Afghanistan and West Africa
- Judith Asuni, Academic Associates Peace Works and Niger Delta Peace and Security Secretariat - Proposal to establish youth unemployment centres in Nigeria

16.00h *Coffee break*

16.15h ***Discussion continues on youth unemployment and related issues***

17.00h ***Legal personality of regional, sub-regional and other intergovernmental organizations in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building***

- Presentation by Kennedy Graham, UNU-CRIS and Rodrigo Tavares, UNU-CRIS
- Comment by Ana Peyro, Maître de conférences, Université de Cergy-Pontoise

18.00h ***Closing***

Saturday, 29 April 2006

9.30h ***Evolution of the doctrine and practice of early warning and response: the experience of ECOWAS Zonal Bureaus and plans for the future***

- Colonel Yoro Kone, ECOWAS
- Jacob Eben-Enoh, West African Network for Peace-building (WANEP)

11.00h *Coffee break*

11.15h ***Evolving methodology for early warning and conflict information management for regional and subregional organizations and the UN: experience of IGAD, AU, ECOWAS and the UN***

- Dr. Doug Bond, Harvard University and Virtual Research Associates

12.30h ***Closing***

13.00h *Lunch hosted by UNU-CRIS*



**UNU-CRIS/DPA SEMINAR
CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE-BUILDING IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT**

28 – 29 April 2006, 9:30 am – 6:00 pm

College of Europe, Room E
Bruges, Belgium

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