

NEW ACTIVITY

The Security Needs Assessment Protocol

The Security Needs Assessment Protocol now being developed at UNIDIR is a system for the timely provision of culturally specific security-building knowledge. The system will assist field managers in the design and planning of security-related development and humanitarian activities. It is intended to complement the work of Joint Assessment Missions conducted by the United Nations and World Bank, and may potentially be of use to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. The project is undertaken as both a security and development project in line with the March 2005 Official Development Assistance guidelines of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

Following a 24-month period of conceptual development, inter-agency cooperation and field testing, the final protocol will be employed to generate community-level knowledge about security needs as they are understood by community members themselves; to create a transparent means of interpreting that knowledge for the benefit of project design and planning; and to negotiate the knowledge with standing agency practices and programmes and provide vital information on which to build security-related projects. The information it creates will be publicly available, and will be used—over time—to create a body of culturally specific knowledge about community-level security practices around the world.

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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>.

NEW PUBLICATION***European Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Explosive Remnants of War:
Final Report***

The illicit trade, accumulation and use of small arms and light weapons, and the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW), exacerbate conflict, threaten human life, undermine development and hamper the recovery of war-torn societies. The spread of small arms and their misuse are often related to the vicious circle of poverty, insecurity and underdevelopment. This, in turn, threatens the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals—a major European Union priority. By consolidating its action against small arms and explosive remnants of war, the EU could make an even greater contribution to the attainment of these goals.

This report aims to provide the European Union with an overview of small arms and ERW problems and current responses, as well as an analysis of selected European actions in these areas and an assessment of their effectiveness. It provides evidence-based recommendations for future European action, highlighting the added value achievable by the EU. Options are presented for the enhanced integration of small arms and explosive remnants of war into relevant EU policies, improved internal coordination in the EU and enhanced cooperation with external partners.

The project was principally funded by the European Commission at the request of the European Parliament, with additional funding from the Government of the United Kingdom.

***European Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Explosive Remnants of War:
Final Report***

UNIDIR, 2006

92 pages

Sales number G.V.E.06.0.15

ISBN 92-9045-186-6

US\$ 18 (plus shipping and handling)